

**Recreation Committee  
Board Meeting of July 18, 2019  
Minutes approved at meeting of 8-15-19**

**PRESENT:** Elinor Mount-Simmons, Diane Brewer, Torben Madsen, Mark Milliken

**ABSENT:**

**GUEST:** Dennis Winterringer, Tree Committee Chairman

Chairman Mount-Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

The minutes of the prior meeting, June 20, 2019, are not done yet.

Our guest was given the courtesy of speaking first. The purposed of his visit to our meeting was to begin collaboration between the Tree and Recreation Committees.

The City's Tree Committee other members are Holly Brown, Bob Seaborn, with Commissioner Anita Grove as liaison. She resigned from the Tree Committee when elected to the Commission.

Dennis reported the Committee had disbanded but was reinstated in 2017. The 2011 Tree ordinance, revised in 2015, was initially not approved by the Commission but was recently revisited due to problems implementing the replacement tree feature and is now in effect.

Dennis described some features of the current tree ordinance: \$25 fee for small tree removal permits, \$35 for large, and \$1000 for patriarch trees with fees to go now to a "reforestation" fund to be used for all City owned parks instead of planting trees in a haphazard manner throughout the City. The fund now has \$560 in it.

His visit today was due to the fact that in our recent report on Battery Park to the City a tree border was one of our recommendations. Dennis shared with us information on grants available from the State of Florida Forest Service. Dennis has other resources at FAMU, and the Franklin County agent, Eric Lovestrand,

Discussion on the tree border at Battery Park ensued. Dennis had done some research on suitable trees and advised us that Italian Cypress was not a good choice due to its need for drier soil. He suggested other verticle species such as bald cypress spacing them 12-15 feet apart and/or hybrid magnolia (less messy than the Southern type). Among other trees discussed, these appealed most to the Committee members.

It was agreed that the location of the tree border between Battery Park and Leavins Seafood be from "street to street" beginning east of the Gorrie Bridge to Water Street. Committee members asked who could do the planting, and agreed to ask the City to dig the holes. A soil test was recommended. The need for a partial survey of only the border line was needed. Diane will get a quote from Edwin Brown & Assoc. who is surveying the city squares for the Historic Apalachicola Foundation. The need to water newly planted trees for their first year was asked. Perhaps volunteers (Rotary, Philaco?) could do this or a garden club if there is one.

A target completion date of Arbor Day 2020, January in Florida, was recommended. Elinor had called John Solomon of the Seafood Festival but no contact has taken place yet.

Dennis will send the new tree ordinance to Diane for dissemination to all.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05

Diane Brewer, Secretary