

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
July 18, 2023, at 3 p.m.
Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees.

Sam Berkheiser, Committee member,
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,
Scott Davis, Committee member,
Rebecca Stafford, Committee member,
Lynn Wilder (by telephone), and
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Summary of Committee's June 21, 2023, meeting (Winterringer).

The Committee approved without revision the draft summary of the June 21, 2023, meeting.

3. Committee members' election of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Rule 28(d) of the City of Apalachicola's June 4, 2019, Rules of Procedure requires that "Committee Chairs and Committee Vice-Chairs shall be elected by the membership and both shall serve for a term of one (1) year or for a different term as the City Commission may decide."

At this meeting, Committee members reelected Mr. Winterringer as Chairperson. He agreed to serve for another 6 months at which time the election of a Chairperson would be again be undertaken.

4. Lethal bronzing disease (LBD, all).

(a) Tracking.—At the last meeting, Code Enforcement Officer P.J. Erwin agreed to enter locations of infected palms on the Google map that Mr. Davis created. In the near future, Mr. Davis will show Ms. Erwin how to do this.

(b) Infected palms on private property.-- LBD is spreading, and infected trees are showing up on private property. Examples are the dead palm at the nursery plant business at Market Street and Avenue G and several infected palms at 113 8th Street (north of community garden).

Lessees of both properties have refused the Code Enforcement Officer's request to remove infected palms.

There is no provision in the tree protection requirements of the Land Development Code to require a private property owner to remove a diseased tree to stop the spread of disease to other privately- and city-owned properties.

Mr. Winterringer's cursory review of the City's ordinances did not reveal a general nuisance ordinance the City could cite to require a property owner to remove diseased trees.

Land Development Code section 105-25(2) requires a property owner to obtain a tree permit to remove a diseased tree. If LBD-infected trees become a bigger problem on private properties, the Committee should consider proposing to the City Commission that the tree permit administrative and Reforestation Fund fees be waived to encourage property owners to remove LBD-infected trees.

(c) LBD education.—Lynn Wilder and Mr. Davis will coordinate with Erik Lovestrand, University of Florida Extension Service Agent, to hold a public meeting. They'll try to schedule a meeting for August or September.

Meeting announcements will be prepared for the Apalachicola Times, Oyster Radio, and the City's Facebook page.

5. Landscaping plan for Lafayette Park (Berkheiser, Davis, and Stafford).

The Committee discussed the detailed landscaping plan developed by Ms. Stafford and the tree planting plan developed by Mr. Berkheiser. It was agreed to break up the plan in phases with the first phase to focus on tree planting throughout the park, landscaping around the gazebo, the Avenue C entrance to the gazebo, and the south-facing bank slope along the bay.

Ms. Stafford and Messrs. Berkheiser and Davis will meet at the park on or after August 2 to combine the two plans into one and to prepare the first phase plan that the Tree Committee would reveal to the Parks and Recreation Committee (PRC) at PRC's August meeting.

Mr. Winterringer will contact PRC to get on the August meeting agenda.

6. Next meeting.

August 10, 2023, 3 p.m., at the Battery Park Community Center.