

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 23, 2019, 3:00 pm**  
**Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees:

Holly Brown, Committee member and note taker for this meeting,  
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,  
Pam Richardson, Committee member,  
Bob Seaborn, Committee member, and  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person.

2. Draft summary of the Committee's June 18, 2019, meeting (prepared by Mr. Winterringer).

The Committee adopted the summary.

3. Florida A&M University (FAMU) Extension Service assistance with live oak in Lafayette Park.

At the Committee's May 21 meeting, Sam Hand, FAMU Extension Service, offered to contact Duke Energy to see if it would pay for stabilizing the large live oak in Lafayette Park that is leaning due the high winds of Hurricane Michael.

On June 7, Mr. Hand contacted Danny Collins, Duke Energy's Government & Community Relations Manager. Mr. Collins referred the request to the appropriate entity within the company.

Mr. Hand said that he would re-contact Mr. Collins and let Mr. Winterringer know whether or not Duke Energy will fund the project.

The Committee decided the live oak in Lafayette Park appears to be stable, and therefore not to actively pursue Duke Energy for this grant.

4. Recreation Committee's plan for Battery Park.

Mr. Winterringer attended the Recreation Committee's July 19 meeting for the purpose of initiating discussion by the Tree Committee and Recreation Committee on plans for the City's parks.

He discussed, and the Recreation Committee members (Elinor Mount-Simmons, Diane Brewer, Tasia Jones, and Torben Madson) agreed, that the Recreation and Tree Committees need to coordinate and collaborate on plans for tree plantings in the City's parks. The need for

collaboration is apparent in that failure of the two committees to communicate could result in incompatible plans.

At the July 2 City Commission meeting, the Recreation Committee proposed a plan for Battery Park. Among other things the Recreation Committee proposed:

"3. Beautify the border of Battery Park where it abuts Leavin's Seafood and its busy commercial activities and large trucks with landscaping such as a row of Italian Cypress trees (*see photo attached*). These trees are very tall, fast growing, low maintenance, evergreen and wind resistant" (highlighting for emphasis added).

A report on the University of Florida Extension Service's website states that "Root rot can be a problem for Italian cypress in poorly-drained soil." Because the area along Water Street is in the floodplain, is likely not well-drained, has a high water table, and is subject to flooding during storm surges, Mr. Winterringer recommended to the Recreation Committee at the July 19 meeting that bald cypress and magnolia are better options for this site.

The Recreation Committee agreed with the recommendation. Subject to the City's Commission's approval of the Battery Park plan, the Recreation Committee talked about planting a row of cypresses or a mixed row of cypresses and magnolias as a 2020 Arbor Day activity.

The Recreation Committee next intends to develop a plan for Riverfront Park.

The Tree Committee agreed with Dennis' recommendation of bald cypress and magnolia.

5. Tree permits issued in May and June 2019 under the revised Tree Ordinance regulations.

Since the revised Tree Ordinance regulations went into effect on May 16, 2019, a document prepared by Mr. Winterringer, showed 7 permits issued, 37 trees removed or altered, and Reforestation Fund monies collected in May and June 2019 of 565 dollars.

The report included 28 trees taken down at 85 Bay Ave for the maximum fee of 250. That permit application was approved by Code Enforcement although no map was included as required by the ordinance. Pam volunteered to talk with Wilbur about this.

6. Discussion of House Bill 1159 signed into law, stating that homeowners can remove trees deemed dangerous by a certified arborist without notice to local government. Decided that we would read the bill and the subsequent info that Dennis emailed us and discuss implications of this law at our August meeting.

Anita, having gone through the permit process for an unhealthy tree on her property suggested she thought the fees would be excessive for a senior citizen on a fixed income. Dennis said he thinks the fees of appropriate. Discussion ensued.

6. Next meeting:.August 20, 2019, 3 p.m., regular monthly meeting of the Tree Committee.