

**CITY OF APALACHICOLA Tree Committee  
Summary/Minutes for 17 August 2021  
Battery Park Community Center (old City Hall site)**

1. Attendees

Dennis Winterringer, chair

Anita Grove, City Commissioner

Bob Seaborn, member

Frederic Kahler, member and note-taker

**Not in attendance:**

Pam Richardson, member, summering in New England

Joe Richey, Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Richey explained to Mr. Kahler that he'd not received the emailed invitation because "their email server was down," but would expect to attend the next meeting on 21 Sep.

2. Draft Summary

3. Restoration Fund

City Finance Director Leo Bebeau non-responsive to discrepancies with regard to reforestation fund vs. application fees, saying he had "no time for this." Mr. Bebeau had been called about missing permits – permits that vanished between October 2019 through the end of June 2020. City commissioners won't meet again until 22 Sep 21. Mr. Bebeau does shows only eight permits (\$400.00) vs. the expected 52 permits (approx.). For the first 9 months of the fiscal year 2021 Bebeau's attached budget worksheet shows only \$260.00 instead of the expected \$2,660.00 and this amount very likely should be higher due to at least 20 more permits missing. We some of us conjectured if this might be a typo because of the similarity in the numbers and whether the city has a history of financial typos.

4. Florida Forest Service (FFS) grant opportunity

Who pays for taking down a tree? Where does the money come from? It should not come from the reforestation monies. Things break down when a check is dropped off at city hall, since one application requires two separate tree permits. Commissioner Grove is to follow up on these questions. Grants require a planting category and a plan – a ball-park estimate (e.g., \$120 per tree planted) - a way to

do it without affecting the city's tree infrastructure, as well as the possibility of hiring a landscape designer. Two years ago, professional tree person Stan Rosenthal would have been hired for Battery and Lafayette Parks. However, the FFS grant was rejected for not being in on time. We decided this time not to apply for a grant – due in October – due to lack of preparation time to get everything in order for the request.

#### 5. Free trees for January 2021 [sic] Arbor Day event?

#### 6. Removal of dangerous trees on city street rights of way

Debacle of two slash pines allegedly dangerously leaning toward a building cut down by city hiring a contractor and ignoring tree ordinance procedure as well as possibly not paying the \$1000 Reforestation Fee for cutting down an older growth (“patriarch”) tree. Incident occurred opposite St. Patrick’s Catholic Church at the church’s community center. Chair Winterringer attempted to glean information with Mr. Richey through a series of emails following the meeting.

#### 7. Tree City USA application

#### 8. Anything else

Mr. Kahler suggested planting a tree somewhere in memory of our late Mayor Kevin Begos. It was pointed out that he was not a big supporter of tree legislation, although he was instrumental in arranging for the new, replacement Christmas tree at Riverfront Park. There was some discussion as to who else in city government is or is not particularly tree-friendly as far as legislation. Mr. Kahler used the example of McDonald’s corporation to snag people when they’re young via Happy Meals to try and inspire the children of Apalachicola to grow up with a cultivated fondness for trees – to be a tree lover for life.

#### 9. Next meeting

21 Sep