

**City of Apalachicola Tree Committee  
Meeting Summary  
August 21, 2018, 3:00 pm  
Battery Park Community Center**

1. Attendees:

Wilbur Bellew, Code Enforcement Officer,  
Holly Brown, Committee member and note taker for this meeting,  
Danny Collins, Government & Community Relations Manager, Duke Energy  
Jeff Varn, Duke Energy Forester  
Russell Funderburk, Contract Forester/FCI  
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,  
Ron Nalley, City Manager,  
Pam Richardson, Committee member,  
Robert Seaborn, Committee member, and  
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person.

2. Draft summary of the Committee's July 17, 2018, meeting (prepared by Mr. Winterringer).

Adoption of the draft summary.

3. Discussions with Duke Energy representative.

a. Franchise agreement between the City and Duke Energy.

The 30-year franchise agreement between Florida Power Corporation and the City expires on January 13, 2018 (less than 5 months from now).

Dennis asks, Is work underway by Duke Energy and the City to enter into a new franchise agreement?

Danny says Yes, now that the new City Manager is in place, Duke is looking forward to talks to form new agreement.

Dennis says Vegetation Management should be included either in agreement or in Land Development Code. Danny says the Franchise agreement will last ten to thirty years so we might want to come up with a separate plan that is more flexible. Danny wants to make clear that Duke is worried about outages, we are worried about our vegetation, we need to talk and find a balance. He says let us know what you want and we will try to make it work.

b. Development of City and Duke Energy agreement on tree trimming along electric power line rights of way.

The State law at F.S. 163.3209 concerns electric transmission and distribution line right-of-way maintenance. It provides for "written plans" that can be developed by a local government, with

input from the utility, for vegetation maintenance, tree pruning, tree removal, and tree trimming by the utility within the local government's established rights-of-way.

Jeff Varner, the Duke Forester says Duke follows the ANSI Standards...

We are due to be cut next year, they will just cut new growth.

Residents will be notified first in person by way of doorhangers and personal visits.

Patriarch trees don't require much trimming because they don't have much new growth. Jeff explained he's with Distribution Trimming which is more flexible, whereas the Transmission Trimming has standards they must meet, and it is not flexible. Jeff assured us that their trimming is tree specific. He says Duke is going to try to remove everything that's under 6 inches tall.

Jeff shared a map that shows the Feeders where trees will be trimmed or removed next year. There will be a pre-inspection process before they start. After trimming Russ will inspect. Duke does Backbone Feeder trimming every three years. The secondary feeders that feed our homes are on a 4 or 5-year cycle.

Duke will present a plan for trimming to Wilbur, who says he will bring it to the Tree Committee. Anita suggests we communicate to the community by putting an article in the newspaper.

Jeff says they choose areas for trimming by computer model crunching the number of outages, eagle nests, etc. He says there is always a certified arborist present. Dennis informed him we will write it into our ordinance. Jeff is a certified arborist. Duke is not licensed with city to trim, subcontractors carry the license.

Danny says Duke will need to take down the mature palms on Avenue E. Duke has offered to pitch in for to put the lines there underground to save the trees, but it would also mean a cost to the city. He didn't know how much.

If Duke Energy has agreements with other cities, Mr. Collins will explain how those agreements work and what they address. Danny says there is one agreement that he knows of with Miccosukee Florida.

Danny says Duke would like to participate in tree celebrations. We talked about Duke possibly paying for seedlings and having an exhibit. Anita suggested we sued a Duke grant to pay for the reception at the HCA.

4. We discussed August 13, 2018, public workshop on proposed Tree Ordinance ... and the

5. Next step in Tree Ordinance amendment process.

Prior to this joint workshop, does the Committee want to reach out to individual City Commissioners to explain the proposals? Holly says she will talk to the Mayor, Dennis will talk to Brenda.

6. Next meeting. is September 18, 3 p.m., regular monthly meeting.