

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
September 17, 2019, 3:00 pm
Battery Park Community Center

1. Attendees:

Holly Brown, Committee member,
Pam Richardson, Committee member, and
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chair person and note taker for this meeting.

2. Draft summary of the Committee's August 20, 2019, meeting (prepared by Ms. Richardson).

The Committee adopted without further revision the draft summary that Ms. Richardson had earlier revised in response to Mr. Winterringer's comments.

3. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) grant opportunity.

DACS's 2019 grant opportunity notice for the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program closes on October 25, 2019.

As agreed at its last meeting and this meeting, the Committee will undertake a multi-year effort to request grants for Lafayette Park starting with an inventory of trees followed in successive years by development of a tree landscaping plan and implementation of the plan (planting).

The Committee needs to get permission of the City Commission to prepare a grant application. Mr. Winterringer will request the City Manager to put the item on the agenda for an upcoming City Commission meeting (either the late September budget meeting or the regular October meeting).

A City grants committee meets on a frequent basis (perhaps as often as weekly). Mr. Winterringer will confirm whether or not the grant committee prepares the majority of the application. If so, Mr. Winterringer will write the Project Narrative and Scope of Work and provide it to the grants committee.

The activity that the City would propose in the grant application is the preparation of a report like the one done for the Apalachicola Area Historical Society for the historic Chestnut Street Cemetery. That \$4,000 report consisted of:

- A written report including a soils map and general tree care plan with specific recommendations for structural remediation and/or removal of high risk trees,
- A map suitable for incorporation into the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) showing locations of cemetery boundaries, graves, and individual trees,
- An Excel spreadsheet listing for each individual tree the:
 - Species,

- Diameter at breast height,
- Health rating on a 5-point scale (very poor to good),
- Likelihood of structural failure on a 4-lettered scale (improbable to imminent danger),
- Entity that would be affected (people, fence, monument, or utility),
- Degree of risk (low to high), and
- Recommendation (prune, soil test and monitor, remove, etc.).

Stan Rosenthal, who prepared the cemetery report, is the most likely candidate to prepare the Lafayette Park report. Mr. Winterringer will contact him as soon as possible to see if he is interested in this work and, if so, to get a proposal including projected hours of work and cost.

There is a grant provision that allows for in-kind match of general volunteer labor. It's possible that Committee members could assist Mr. Rosenthal in the field work and thereby reduce the cost of his report and reduce the amount of the City's match.

4. Duke Energy trimming along electric power lines.

Jeff Varn, regional forester for Duke Energy, notified the City Manager that Duke's contractor, Burford Tree, will within the next month or so begin maintenance trimming along the power lines shown on the attached map (Attachment A).

The City Manager sent to Mr. Varn the attached document containing the revised utility trimming Tree Ordinance regulations that went into effect in May (Attachment B). In particular, the regulations require that a certified arborist be present and direct the trimming work on any patriarch tree.

Mr. Winterringer will meet with Duke and/or Burford on September 19 to drive the streets along the lines and to discuss the trimming that will occur.

5. Next meeting.

October 15, 2019, 3 p.m., regular monthly meeting of the Tree Committee.