

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Agenda
September 19, 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, and
Dennis Winterringer, Committee chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Summary of Committee's August 10, 2023, meeting (Winterringer).

The Committee will approve with or without revision the draft summary of its August 10, 2023, meeting.

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

The Committee attended the Parks and Recreation Committee's (PRC's) August 17 meeting. PRC voted to endorse the Committee's draft landscaping plan for Lafayette Park.

At its September 5 meeting, the City Commission:

- Approved the Committee's proposed tree planting plan for the park (34 proposed trees of 12 species) and
- Delegated to the Tree Committee and the City Manager decisions on the plantings in the beds around the gazebo, at the Avenue B walkway entrance to the gazebo, and in the native plant restoration area.

At this meeting:

- Ms. Stafford will present her draft proposal for:
 - Perennial and annual plantings in the beds around the gazebo and
 - Perennial plantings at the Avenue B entrance.
- Mr. Davis will present his draft proposal for species that would be planted in the native plant restoration area.

The next step is to schedule a meeting with the City Manager to present these plans and to get his signoff. Should Mr. Winterringer ask the City Manager to attend our next monthly meeting on October 17 or try to schedule a meeting before then?

4. Grant opportunities (Winterringer).

a. Duke Energy Foundation.

Go to [Florida Grants - Duke Energy Foundation \(duke-energy.com\)](https://www.duke-energy.com/grants) to read about the Duke Energy Foundation community grant opportunities.

The Foundation issues grants up to \$20,000. The grants may be applied for at any time during the year.

Duke's "climate resiliency" grant category includes "environmental projects supporting land conservation; clean water; and biodiversity of plant and animal species." The native plant restoration area at Lafayette Park, which will serve as habitat for pollinating insects and as a waystation for migrating monarch butterflies, would seem to meet the biodiversity criterion.

If Committee members agree that the city should apply, we'd have to get permission from the City Manager, prepare a project proposal, and coordinate with the Grants Coordinator to prepare an application.

b. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).

(1) Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program.

At the September 5 meeting, the City Commission gave its approval for the city to apply for an Urban and Community Forestry Grant to buy and plant trees at Lafayette Park. The grant will require the city to match the state grant amount. As the city's match, the Commission authorized the use of up to the \$16,000 currently in the city's Reforestation Fund.

The DACS website states the grant opportunity notice for this program will be posted "in the coming months." Despite what this says, the posting could happen soon because last year applications were accepted from September 12 through November 14.

(2) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

There will be a lot of grant money available for tree plantings under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Both target disadvantaged neighborhoods. Using a tool on an IRA webpage at <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov>, Apalachicola is identified as a disadvantaged community.

The Florida Urban and Community Grants page on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service website states that BIL and IRA grant funding opportunities will be announced "in the next several months."

5. January 2024 Arbor Day event (Winterringer).

Florida's Arbor Day is on the third Friday of January, which is January 19 in 2024.

We need to plan for Apalachicola's Arbor Day event.

- Hold at the farmers market at Scipio Creek again?
 - If so, which date? Saturday, January 13 or Saturday, January 27?
- Free trees available from Florida Forest Service.
 - Expected \$500 budget (same as January 2023 event).
 - Agree on trees we'd like FFS to order – preferred species and backups in case preferred are not available (2023 price list attached).

6. Lethal bronzing disease – public meeting (Davis).

Mr. Davis is coordinating with Lynn Wilder and Erik Lovestrand, University of Florida Extension Service Agent, to hold a meeting to educate the public about the disease.

At the last meeting, we talked about holding a meeting during the last 2 weeks of September (but not on the 26th).

We may need to reschedule because meeting announcements will need to be prepared well in advance for the Apalachicola Times, Oyster Radio, and the City's Facebook page.

7. Next Tree Committee meeting.

October 17, 2023, 3 p.m., at the Battery Park Community Center.