

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
March 19, 2024, at 3 p.m.
Old Library

1. Attendees.

Sam Berkheiser, Tree Committee (TC) member,
Anita Grove, City Commissioner, and
Dennis Winterringer, TC chairperson and preparer of summary for this meeting.

2. Summary of Committee's January 16, 2024, meeting and January 27, 2024, Arbor Day event (Winterringer) – Approved without revisions.

3. Departure of TC member Rebecca Stafford; recruiting of two new members (all).

Rebecca Stafford submitted her resignation to Commissioner Grove a few days prior to the Arbor Day event.

The TC is two members short of the five persons the Committee is supposed to have (or three members short if we think an alternate member is needed).

We need to recruit at least two new members.

4. January 27, 2024, Arbor Day event (all).

The event was successful in that we interacted with an estimated 125 persons who attended the event and gave away all trees in less than 2 hours.

What should we do the same or differently for the January 2025 event?

- Due to its central location in the City and visibility along U.S. Highway 98 and 12th Street, the library parking lot was a good location to hold the event.
- If a tree giveaway is done next year:
 - Again invite Florida A&M University Extension Service agents.
 - To stretch the Florida Forest Service's \$500 budget and increase the number of trees we give away, consider getting 1-gallon instead of 3-gallon trees or a combination of 1- and 3-gallon trees.
 - Possibly get free seed packets to hand out.
- Alternatives to or in addition to a tree giveaway.
 - Hold a community tree-planting event at Lafayette Park to plant trees bought with the City's Reforestation Fund (and hopefully grant) money. Invite City Commissioners for a photo opportunity.
 - In cooperation with the Apalachicola Area Historical Society, plant a three-tree grove of Chapman oaks in the Chestnut Street Cemetery at the U.S. Highway 98 entrance.
- Arrange a tree planting at ABC School by one of the classes.

5. Committee Chairperson.

At the Committee's July 2023 meeting, TC members reelected Mr. Winterringer as Chairperson. He agreed to serve for another 6 months at which time the election of a Chairperson would be again be undertaken.

At the March 5, 2024, City Commission meeting, the City Manager proposed changes to the June 4, 2019, Rules of Procedure for the City Commission of the City of Apalachicola. Included was a proposal to set the term of a chairperson selected by the committee as 1 year and to limit the tenure of the selected chairperson to two 1-year consecutive terms. The City Commission will hold a workshop to discuss what revisions should be made to the document.

Mr. Winterringer has been on the Committee for 7 years and has been the Chairperson for 6 consecutive years.

Because Mr. Davis did not attend this meeting, this item is tabled for further discussion at the next meeting.

6. Tree Committee role and responsibilities.

Attached is a copy of the revised document that the City Manager prepared and the City Commission adopted at its February 6, 2024, meeting.

7. Landscaping plan for Lafayette Park.

Rebecca Stafford discussed the final plan at the last meeting.

Because Mr. Davis did not attend this meeting, discussion of the following items is deferred until the next meeting.

- Native plant restoration area on southeast slope (Davis).
 - Meeting with City Manager to discuss.
 - Permission will have to be obtained from City Commission to proceed with Duke Energy Foundation grant application.
- Water sprinkler system (Davis).
 - Meeting with City employees on January 5, 2024, to get information on the water supply, including the locations of the lawn sprinkler heads, which he will map.
 - Functionality of system and whether it needs to be modified for the plantings (including the beds around the gazebo and at the Avenue B walkway entrance to the gazebo).

8. Inflation Reduction Act grant application.

Sarah Bourque, the City's grant coordinator, is preparing an application for Inflation Reduction Act money. According to her, the City will be asking for money to remove hazardous trees on City property. It also might ask for money to plant trees. It appears that the City will not be requesting money to implement the TC's tree-planting plan for Lafayette Park. Or it might ask for such money but not ask the TC's assistance in preparing the application.

9. Next TC meeting.

The TC meets the third Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. When the City Commission holds a special meeting outside its regular monthly meeting (which is the first Tuesday after the first

Monday of the month), it often schedules the meeting on the same Tuesday as the TC meeting. There have been scheduling conflicts.

Mr. Winterringer proposed that the TC change its meeting day to the third Wednesday of the month. No action was taken on this proposal because Mr. Davis did not attend the last meeting.

For the April meeting, the TC will meet at the normal day of the month and time – on April 16, 2024, at 3 p.m.