

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
December 18, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.
New Library

Attendees.

Sam Berkheiser, Tree Committee (TC) member,
Scott Davis, TC Chair and agenda preparer,
Anita Grove, City Commissioner,
Donna Ingle, Parks and Recreation Committee member, and
Dennis Winterringer, TC member and preparer of meeting summary.

Action and discussion items:

1. Summary of November 22, 2024, meeting – Approved without revisions.
2. Stabilization of Chapman oak at Chestnut Street Cemetery (Davis).
 - Mr. Davis has not yet received the Florida Forest Service score for the tree, which could qualify it as a Florida champion tree.
 - \$4,200 quote obtained from Paulson’s Tree Service LLC - reduction pruning, a metal shield to deflect water from the rotten trunk, and supportive cabling that would be anchored into the ground.
 - City funding of the work.
 - Either from money obtained by the City Manager Travis Wade in selling City excess property (preferred) or alternatively money from the Reforestation Fund.
 - A meeting of Messrs. Davis, Paulson, and Wade has not been held.
3. Planning for Arbor Day event (all).
 - When: Saturday, January 25, 1 to 3 p.m.
 - Where: Apalachicola Margaret Key Public Library (corner of Avenue E and 12th Street), parking lot.
 - What: Give away trees provided by Florida Forest Service (FFS). Budget increased to \$1,000 this year from \$500 in past years.
 - Requested 101 trees.
 - River birch (Betula nigra) – 5,
 - Southern magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora) – 11,
 - Longleaf pine (Pinus palustris) – 10,
 - Sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) – 10,
 - Sand live oak (Quercus geminata) – 10,
 - Southern live oak (Quercus virginiana) – 10,
 - Pond cypress (Taxodium ascendens) – 10,
 - Bald cypress (Taxodium distichum) – 10,
 - Toothache tree (Zanthoxylum americanum) – 10,
 - Needle palm (Rhapidophyllum hystrix) – 5, and
 - Cabbage palm (Sabal palmetto) – 10.

- All in 3-gallon containers except one southern magnolia in 1-gallon container.
- Participants other than TC members.
 - Emily Lanpher, FFS, or an alternate FFS employee if she is unable to attend and
 - Possibly Florida A&M University Extension Service agents Sam Hand, Ed Duke and Angle Forde (Mr. Davis reached out to them, but they have not responded.)
- To do list.
 - Media release.
 - Apalachicola Times.
 - Oyster Radio.
 - Posting on City’s Facebook page.
 - Entry on library’s calendar.
 - Bulletin board flyer.
 - Arbor Day proclamation that needs to be adopted by City Commission at its January 7, 2025, regular monthly meeting.

4. FFS grant application for Lafayette Park tree planting (all).

- Request for \$10,000 to plant 34 trees of 12 native species; \$10,000 City match to be drawn from Reforestation Fund.
- FFS has notified City of grant award, but FFS’s grant agreement won’t be ready for City signature until later this month.
- While waiting for the grant agreement to be finalized and signed, the City Planner will publish in the Apalachicola Times and Tallahassee Democrat notices soliciting contractor bids.
- As proposed by the City Planner, the City Manager has agreed to let TC assist in preparing the attached document onto which contractors would enter and itemize their bids.
 - As agreed at this meeting, sweetbay (Magnolia virginiana) replaced cherry laurel (Prunus caroliniana) on the list of trees to be planted because sweetbay would not do well on this site.

5. City Manager’s and TC’s proposed revisions to the tree protection requirements of the Land Development Code (Winterringer).

- Scheduling of two public workshops to discuss the proposed revisions and to receive comments – one immediately or before a Planning and Zoning Board meeting and another at a TC meeting?
- Don’t know if the scheduling of the workshops needs to be on the January 7, 2025, City Commission meeting agenda (i.e., whether City Commission needs to grant permission for TC to schedule and hold the workshops).

6. Code Enforcement Officer.

- Probably not aware he needs to prepare the City’s annual Tree City application for the Arbor Day Foundation.
- The City Manager has directed the Code Enforcement Officer to procure the injection equipment and antibiotic to be used on City property palms to prevent lethal bronzing disease (LBD).

7. Anything else.

- Standing palm that was killed by LBD on 5th Street by the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge office. On City property? If so, Mr. Davis will cut down if the City doesn't do so in the near future.

8. Next meeting.

5:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at the old library.