City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
July 17th, 2024, at 5:15 PM
Old Library

Attendees.

Sam Berkheiser, Tree Committee (TC) member,
Scott Davis, TC Chair and agenda preparer, and
Dennis Winterringer, Tree Committee member and preparer of meeting summary.

Action and discussion items:

1. Draft summary of June 26, 2024, meeting – Approved without revisions.

2. Meetings with new Code Enforcement Officer (CEO).

Tomorrow morning Mr. Davis will meet with Scott Boyd, the new CEO, to view two oaks on Chapman Square. The property owner at 50 14th Street would like to have them removed because he believes they pose a threat to fall on his house.

One or both of these trees were trimmed in the last half of 2022 when Glen Jenkins was the CEO. A permit documenting the trimming should have been prepared at that time.

Mr. Davis will take the opportunity to invite Mr. Boyd to the TC's August meeting and to talk about the need for the City to remove eight sabal palms infected with lethal bronzing disease (LBD) on City property (agenda item No. 6 below).

3. Removal and trimming of trees at Chestnut Street Cemetery.

As a member of the Cemetery Committee of the Apalachicola Area Historical Society, Mr. Winterringer continues to be involved in the removal and trimming of trees at Chestnut Street Cemetery under a Florida Division of Historical Resources cemetery preservation grant.

The Division's approval of the AAHS contract with Tree Help! LLC is expected to occur shortly. Then tree removal and trimming can begin.

Mr. Davis hopes to meet next week with the City Manager and arborist Caleb Paulson about Mr. Paulson's proposal to stabilize the large Chapman oak by using high-strength metal cables that would be strung from the upper reaches of the trunk to anchors placed in the ground.

4. Application for Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) grant.

Mr. Winterringer assisted the City Planner in drafting an application that would be submitted for a DACS Urban and Community Forestry Program capacity grant. In the application, the City asks for money to implement the TC's tree planting plan for Lafayette Park the City Commission approved on September 5, 2023.

At a July 16 special meeting attended by Mr. Winterringer, the City Commission approved the submission of the application and by resolution committed $10,000 from the City's budget that would serve as the match for the requested $10,000 grant (i.e., total of $20,000 for the project).

5. <u>Apalachicola Housing Authority tree removal requests</u>.

Mr. Davis previously met with former CEO P.J. Erwin to give his recommendations on which trees should and should not be removed. It is not known whether the City has yet decided and has issued a tree removal permit.

In his meeting with new CEO Scott Boyd on July 18 (above agenda item No. 2), he will ask him about the rationale the City used in determining that specific trees are imminent hazards and are therefore allowed to be removed.

6. <u>Removal of diseased palms on City property</u>.

Mr. Winterringer identified eight sabal palms on City rights of way along the streets and highway that are apparently infected with LBD and need to be removed as soon as possible to stem the spread of the disease.

- Five on Highway 98 between 8th and 10th Streets,
- One at Avenue C and 6th Street (Catholic church),
- One on Avenue C between 10th and 11th Streets, and
- One between Avenues K and L on 8th Street

Mr. Winterringer sent pictures to Mr. Davis, and Mr. Davis will talk to CEO Mr. Boyd about removing the trees as soon as possible.

In addition to these eight trees, there is another LBD-infected palm at Chestnut Street cemetery (tree No. 97) that Mr. Winterringer will arrange to have Tree Help! LLC remove when it does tree work at the cemetery. He will submit an amendment to the application the City already approved for the cemetery tree removals and trimmings.

7. <u>Next meeting</u>.

5:15 p.m., Wednesday, August 21 at the old library.