

City of Apalachicola Tree Committee
Meeting Summary
October 23, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.
Old Library

Expected attendees.

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

Action and discussion items:

1. Summary of August 28, 2024, meeting – Approved without revisions.

No meeting held on September 25, 2024, due to preparation for Hurricane Helene.

2. Stabilization of Chapman oak at Chestnut Street Cemetery (Davis).

- Awaiting 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.
 - Awaiting meeting of Messrs. Paulson, Davis, and Wade.

3. Reforestation Fund (Winterringer).

- City recently opened separate bank account into which Fund money will be deposited at the end of each month.
- \$16,490 collected through the end of fiscal year 2022/2023 (September 30, 2023) already deposited into the account.
- Fund fees collected in fiscal year 2023/2024 (through September 30, 2024) to shortly be deposited in the account.

4. Florida Forest Service (FFS) free trees for TC’s Arbor Day event (Davis).

- Mr. Davis will coordinate with FFS county forester Emily Martin by the end of this month on:
 - Price list of available trees and the TC’s species preferences.
 - Setting date for Saturday 1 to 3 p.m. event in Apalachicola Margaret Key Library parking lot (Florida Arbor Day is Friday, January 17).
- After setting date, Mr. Davis will contact the following persons.
 - City Manager to confirm that event can be held at the library.
 - Librarian to get the event on the library calendar.

- Ed Duke, Angel Forde, and Sam Hand, Florida A&M University Extension Service, to ask them to participate.
- Alex Skovronsky, FFS, to invite him to participate.

5. Permit application to remove patriarch water oak at 76 7th Street (Davis).

- TC recommendation required by Land Development Code.
- Owing to complaint by neighbor, property owner has put application on hold.

6. FFS grant application for Lafayette Park tree planting (Winterringer).

- Request for \$10,000 to plant 34 trees of 12 native species; \$10,000 City match to be drawn from Reforestation Fund.
- No FFS decision yet; supposedly will occur this month.
- If granted, City Planner will request that TC identify three vendors for proposals.
- Will have to hustle to get vendor selected and trees planted this coming winter.

7. Proposed revisions to the tree protection requirements of the Land Development Code (LDC, Winterringer).

- Attached document containing the City Manager's proposed revisions and additional revisions TC members agreed on at last meeting.
- City Policy No. 2 requires that three workshops be held on proposed revisions to Land Development Code requirements.
 - Two public workshops – TC's initial thinking is to hold:
 - One immediately before or after a regular monthly Planning and Zoning Board meeting.
 - One at a regular monthly TC meeting.
 - A joint TC/City Commission workshop.
- Mr. Winterringer will e-mail to Mr. Davis:
 - The updated document containing the LDC requirements and TC's proposed revisions.
 - Copy of City Policy No. 2.
 - A draft agenda item for the City Commission's November 5 meeting asking the City Commission's permission to schedule the initial two workshops.

8. Anything else (all).

- Any applications received by City for TC membership? No applicants as far as the TC knows.

9. Next meeting.

5:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 20 at the old library.