

Jacksonville Tree Commission

Minutes

Wednesday July 16, 2025, 9:40 AM- 11:21 AM

Via Zoom Platform & In Person

*Recording of Meeting can be obtained by sending requests to
Joe Rainey [jrainey@coj.net]

For approval August 20th, 2025

Commissioners:

Curtis L. Hart, Chair (Council Appointee; 2021-0033-A)
William Burke Vice Chair (Mayor Appointee; 2023-0695-A)
Susan Fraser (Council Appointee; 2022-0063-A)
Vacant (Mayor Appointee; 2023-0696-A)
Alden Howell (Council Appointee; 2024-0388-A)
Raul Arias, Council Liaison
Nina Sickler, Director of Public Works

Advisors:

Justin Gearhart - City Arborist
Shannon MacGillis - Office of General Counsel
Jose Regueiro - Accounting

Staff: Joe Rainey

1. Call to Order

Conducted by Chair

2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

Conducted by Vice Chair, Commissioners present:

William Burke
Susan Fraser
Raul Arias (delayed)
Nina Sickler

Quorum present (4, in person): No (meeting paused from
10:06 until Council Member Arias Arrived 10:19am)

3. Call for Public Speakers (online & card):

a) John Nooney - (Public Speaker) Expressed his concerns regarding his trespass citation on Jacksonville University property (seeking pardon), and river access. Introduced minute details from Northeast Florida Regional Council 7. Continues to lobby for the purchase of his property by Potsburg Creek.

Action Items:

*Tabled until the arrival of Commissioner Arias 10:19am
(quorum).

4. Prior Meeting Minutes.

Issue: Minutes from June 28 Meeting to be approved.

Motion: Approve, as modified by Fraser.

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: Susan Fraser

Vote: approved as modified, unanimous.

5. Financial Report for Ordinance Tree Fund (15304), Charter Tree Fund (15305) and BJP (Attachment D) - Jose Regueiro

Combined revenues: Combined Revenues for Fiscal YTD are \$6.06M compared to \$4.35M June -24. An increase of \$1.71M year-on-year. Combined Expenses for Fiscal YTD are \$2.65M compared to \$4.82M on June -24. A decrease of \$2.14M year-on-year.

Combined Revenues for June -25 were \$525.7K compared to \$339.1K for June -24, an increase of \$186.6K.

Meanwhile, expenses were \$254.9K and \$821.4K on June -25 and June -24, respectively. Total unallocated funds were \$24.4M for June -25.

6. Fund Status of 630-CITY, Remove & Replace and Level 2 Programs (Attachment E) - Justin Gearhart

Total funds not appropriated at \$33.94M. Remaining in the three pools in public works \$984K (630-City \$2.11M; Level 2 \$2.52M; and Level 3 \$2.36M).

Total obligated funds \$3.36M as of May, 2025.

7. Level 3 Project Proposals: NONE

8. Out of Order Discussion: Alexandria Park Centennial Tree:

Daryl Joseph clarifies questions of cost and parks addons included in originally proposed that increase pricing from vender estimate. "This is a unique request, so that is why the dollar amount is so high" Discusses and answers questions regarding details of estimate and concerns. Commission members question process, addon breakdown, was bid put out, and what issues are holding this up. **Grandin:** has concerns this large dollar amount for an individual tree may open the city up to litigation. New bid should be amended to encompass all current items with in the \$75,000.

Vote tabled until Council Member Arias arrives.

Council Member Arias Arrived 10:28

Motion: Approve, as amended \$75,000

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: Raul Arias

Vote: approved as presented, Vote 3-1 (Fraser) for \$75,000

***OUT of ORDER: UFMP Update**

Side discussion: Contingencies/buffer processes on projects.

Meeting paused 10:06am-10:19am.

9. Level 2 Project Proposals:

i. Panda Street and Cougar Rd. - Justin Gearheart

A tree planting project has been requested for planting in the median of Panda Street and

Cougar Road. This project will take place in City Council District 12 and includes the planting of

a variety of trees that will serve as an aesthetic improvement and a heat reduction purpose.

Action item: Correct crepe myrtle to sweet gum.

Motion: Approve, as amended for \$16,775.10

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: Raul Arias

Vote: approved as presented, unanimous for \$16,775.10

ii. Neptune Beach Phase 2 - Justin Gearhart

A tree planting project has been requested for planting in Cleary Park Drive in Neptune Beach. This project will take place in City Council District 13 and includes the planting of a variety of trees that will serve as an aesthetic improvement and a heat reduction purpose. **Arias:** How do we know this is something the citizens want and have asked for? **Moore:** This project was started by a Neptune beach council member a couple of years ago. There has been positive resident and council feedback on the project.

Motion: Approve, as presented for \$35,492.58
Moved by: Nina Sickler
Second: Raul Arias

Vote: approved as presented, unanimous for \$35,492.58

iii. Edgewood avenue - Justin Gearhart

Fraser: Questioned how and what type of tree could be installed.

Gearhart: The trees selected to best fit the unusual specifics of location. **McDaniel:** The unusual limitations are required by DOT specifications for large trucks.

Process Inquiry: Arias: Are these projects being provided to the CPACs? Discussion and clarification of how tree plantings are requested, selected and fulfilled. Notification versus approval is suggested. Timeframe is a significant consideration. **Grandin:** has concerns that the areas to be planted may have limestone hardpan to plant in and would soil mediation be required?

Zaffroni: A soil assessment can be done at \$125 yd for removal as needed. **Burke:** Amend to approve with \$5000 for soil amendment to include photos.

Motion: Approve, as amended for \$ 22,665.25.
Moved by: Susan Fraser
Second: Raul Arias

Vote: approved as presented, unanimous for \$ 22,665.25.

10. Status of Level 2 Projects:

Glorianne Dr- Install Complete

Jacksonville Zoo- Install Complete

Pearl Street- Install Complete

Amelia View Phase 3-Install Complete

Warrington Park- Passed MBRC/Scheduling

Riverfront Park- Passed MBRC/Scheduling

ACPS Dog Park- Passed MBRC/Scheduling

Beachwood Blvd- Passed MBRC/Scheduling

11. Parks Department Project Update:

Breaking ground on Riverfront Park

Upcoming ACPS, North Shore and Richardson Rd.

McGirt's Creek Restoration is in progress, Details to be added to next tree commission update.

Sickler: Inquires regarding the 100-tree challenge progressing?

Gearhart Estimates progress at having at least 100 trees per district, but the trees are still being planted

12. OUT of ORDER: UFMP Update, Valerie Feinberg: Data sets are still being reviewed. Announced that UFMP will moving forward be represented with tree commission by Jenny Hinton. Fraser: Invites UFMP to present progress and findings at the sept. tree commission meeting.

13. Old Business:

14. New Business:

END OF MEETING 11:27 AM

ATTACHMENT 1+

APPROVED