

Jacksonville Tree Commission

Minutes, CORRECTED

Wednesday March 19, 2025, - 9:30 AM

Via Zoom Platform & In Person

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

For approval April 16, 2025

Commissioners:

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

Advisors:

Jonathan Colburn - Urban Forestry Manager
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 Chair, Commissioners present:

Curtis Hart, Chair
Susan Fraser
William Burke
Alden Howell
Chris Miller
Nina Sickler

Quorum present (4, in person): yes

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

- a) **Lisa Grubba (Public Speaker) Greenscape** Informed the Tree Commission to "The Great Tree Give Away and Paper Recycle Day" event on January 18th 2025 went well distributing trees faster than any previous year. New community education programs for urban forestry being developed.

- b) **John Nooney - (Public Speaker)** Describes his concerns with trespassing police citation on Jacksonville University property (seeking pardon), and river access. Continues to be troubled regarding use of his 2.5 acre lot by Pottsbury Creek, and adjacent FEMA house still undemolished.

Action Items:

1. Prior Meeting Minutes.

Issue: The minutes from February 19, 2025, APPROVED

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: Susan Fraser

Second: William Burke

Vote: February minutes approved, unanimous.

2. Level 2 Project Proposal(s):

- i. Neptune Beach Phase 1 - Justin Gearhart

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: Chris Miller

Vote: approved as presented, unanimous

[NOTE: Item taken out of order, see below:

"Financial Report: Jose Regueiro: item 3 section a".]

- ii. Pearl Street - Justin Gearhart

Motion: Approve, PENDING CORRECT CHECKLIST.

Moved by: William Burke

Second: Chris Miller

Discussion- Fraser: questions regarding Japanese Blueberries.

Vote: approved (pending corrected check list), unanimous

- iii. Windy Hills - Kathleen McGovern

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: Alden Howell

Second: William Burke

Discussion: Concerns over multiple pricing re 1 vs 2 year pricing along with multiple vender quotes. Pricing is currently based on active contracts.

Justin Gearhart/ Mike Zaffroni: related to overall contracts and contract terms, benefit of unit pricing and umbrella contract to speed up individual projects; warranty contracts 90d, 1yr, 2yr; City has ability to bid out any particular project, example: Gold Star. The best choice for warranty may be site specific.

Hart: Expressed the importance of and desire for competitive pricing.

Marsha Ray Wellington: Has concerns the park did not have trees included in original project plans and would like to have the additional trees expedited for upcoming use and events; time is of essence due to upcoming events at park.

Vote: approved as presented, unanimous

Request for action/follow-up- Add to next agenda discuss pricing options for future projects to make bid/quote competitive.

iv. Oceanway Park - Kathleen McGovern

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: William Burke

Vote: approved as presented, unanimous

v. Terrace Park - Kathleen McGovern

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: William Burke

Second: Nina Sickler

Vote: approved as presented, unanimous

vi. Riverview - Kathleen McGovern

Motion: Approve, without Peach trees until a maintenance plan has been presented funded by Parks.

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: William Burke

Discussion- question regarding maintenance regarding peach-bearing trees; **Fraser/Sickler** issue of Parks department plan for maintenance. **Marsha Ray Wellington-** the community would present a maintenance plan

Vote: approved, as moved- without Peach trees until a maintenance plan has been presented funded by Parks, **unanimous**

vii. District 10 - Kathleen McGovern

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: William Burke

Second: Nina Sickler

Discussion- cost regarding remove & replace; pear trees died; grind stumps.

Vote: approved as presented, **unanimous**

3. Financial Report: Jose Regueiro [taken out of order]:

Noted: Item 3, a discussed in section 2 under action items

a. Combined revenues: Combined Revenues for Fiscal YTD are \$2.78M compared to \$2.28M Feb-24. An increase of \$501.79K year-on-year. Combined Expenses for Fiscal YTD are \$1.70M compared to \$2.77M on Feb-24. A decrease of \$1.073M year-on-year. Combined Revenues for Feb-25 were \$631K compared to \$852.2K for Feb-24, a decrease of \$221.25K. Meanwhile, expenses were \$546.6K and \$305.6K on Feb-25 and Feb-24, respectively. Total unallocated funds were \$23.13M for Feb-25.

Discussion: How money is accounted for and/or transferred between accounts specifically for the year 2022 financials. Details on how funds are collected and applied and set asides for affordable housing, additional arborist and landscape architect among other programs in relation to tree funds and new legislation.

[NOTED: Parks update out of order; Item 5, below.]

b. Fund Status: Justin Gearhart: Total funds not appropriated \$32.02M. Remaining in the three pools in public works \$1.28M. For 630-City \$2.11M. For level 2 \$3.36M and Level 3 \$2.36M.

Total obligated funds \$3.58M as of March, 2025

(See Details on PGs 25-47 of January Agenda)

4. Status of Level 2: Justin Gerhart, Kathleen McGovern:

- Northwest Parks-Complete/off warranty
- Hollywood-Fletcher- Complete/off warranty
- Jarboe Park- Complete/off warranty
- Touchton Park- on warranty
- Backridge Park- on warranty
- Black Island Hammock- on warranty
- Maxville Park- on warranty
- Atlantic Blvd- on warranty

No Motion/ No Vote.

5. Parks Department Project Update:

[NOTE: Parks update provided out of order after Item 3,a]

- Glynlea Park is 80% Complete
- Greenland Park is 80% Complete
- McGirts Restoration is 10% In Progress with consultant portion of work
- Scheduling: Julington Durbin, Genovar, Walter Anderson

No Motion/ No Vote.

(See Details on PGs 48-51 of February Agenda)

6. UFMP Update: Valerie Feinberg: UFMP has provided the Davie Consulting contract and scope of services to the General Council for distribution to Commission Members. Outreach has begun, starting good conversations at CPAC meetings. Northwest showed great interest in new trees and UFMP observed the need for trees in the northwest CPAC. States Tree Commission has an opportunity to expand tree planting through community engagement and education as resources allow. Materials and details of

presentations are being made available to be added to the taskforce resource library.

DISCUSSION:

Sickler: asked when will the next and final deliverables or dates expected be available?

Feinberg/ Fraser/ discussion regarding deliverables; expressed importance for a logical place where relevant information can be easily found and accessible.

Nancy Powell: would like larger participation, including larger invitation for participation; concerned there is no *strategic* plan other than to spend tree fund money.

Sickler: has questions regarding UFMP process and timing.

Motion- Fraser: Have Davie Consultants return and present dates, and details of project to provide scope and timeframe for tree commission and set expectations. As last meeting did not provide coherent insight.

Feinberg [point of information] the number of meetings are set by contract and consultants are not local or on site; but will try to work something out.

Vote: approved as moved, unanimous

7. New Business

A. Money For Appropriations: Gearhart: Overview of past projects and allocations regarding appropriations. Discussion of funds. As of 2022 two-year appropriations had been requested by at the time council member Salem for "larger appropriations and lower legislation." Details and timeline on how funds were allocated and distributed over time through the Tree Commission. Funding requests with explanations put forward to Commission.

Request for action/follow-up- Gearhart to produce specific documentation and workable condensed numbers to discuss for next meeting. Along with breakdown of Level 1 (Remove and Replace) expenditures to correlate with produced documents.

No motion; no vote.

B. Taskforce Update- Fraser: next meeting will be an open forum discussion, with contributing invested parties in attendance. Open invite. Date: March 20

C. Mike Zaffroni (Liberty Landscape Supply): 630-City tree planting programs; commending the program to plant trees in the right-of-ways; should be better promoted. Tampa as comparison, only 4 types of trees offered.

Justin Gearhart: explained that the volume of request for tree plantings on 630-City ebb & flow.

Hart: asked about how to better promote the program.

Powell: asked about 100-tree challenge [Justin Gearhart provided background and plan for 100-tree challenge]

(See Details on PGs 52-60 of January Agenda)

END OF MEETING 11:43AM

ATTACHMENT 1