

Jacksonville Tree Commission

Minutes

Wednesday September 17, 2025, 9:32 AM- 11:37 AM

Via Zoom Platform & In Person

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

For approval November 15th, 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  
Jonathan Colburn - Urban Forestry Manager

**Staff:** Joe Rainey

**1. Call to Order**

Conducted by Chair

**2. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum**

Conducted by Curtis L. Hart, Chair,

Commissioners present:

Curtis Hart  
Susan Fraser  
William Burke  
Nina Sickler

**Quorum present** (4, in person): Yes

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

- a. Lisa Grubba, Greenscape of Jacksonville:** State of the Canopy event is tonight at WJCT Studios. Ms. Grubba will be retiring with New Executive Director Nicole Kresse is present to introduce herself.

**b. John Nooney: (Public Speaker)** Expressed his concerns regarding his trespass citation on Jacksonville University property (seeking pardon), and river access. Is lobbying for the purchase of his property by Potsburg Creek and greater waterfront access. Would like a tree commission resolution recognizing John Nooney's efforts in land acquisitions.

**c. Nancy Powell, Scenic Jacksonville:** Expressing support for legislation landscape code 448 and seeks resolution from tree commission.

**d. Action Items:**

**4. Prior Meeting Minutes.**

**Issue:** Minutes from August 20 Meeting to be approved as amended.

**Motion:** Approved

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** William Burke

**Vote:** approved, unanimous.

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

1. Combined Revenues for Fiscal YTD are \$8.02M compared to \$6.61M Sep-24. An increase of \$1.41M year-on-year.
2. Combined Expenses for Fiscal YTD are \$3.90M compared to \$6.04M on Sep-24. A decrease of \$2.14M year-on-year.
3. Combined Revenues for Sep-25 were \$500.3K compared to \$1.07M for Sep-24, a decrease of \$569.4K. Meanwhile, expenses were \$334K and \$782K on Sep-25 and Sep-24, respectively.
4. Total unallocated funds were \$26.35M for Sep-25.
5. There is an issue with the Tree Mitigation website in the calculation of the Available for Appropriation calculation. The variance is \$12,601,358.50 as of the date of the report. We are investigating and will report on the results.
6. We discovered an error in the Aug-25 Financial package in the calculation of the cash. The error, \$48,453.55, understated the Unappropriated funds for Aug-25. The correct Aug-25 unappropriated funds are \$25,845,992.38. The

revised Aug-25 balance sheets are attached to the Sep-25 Financial Package.

**Powell:** Inquiry regarding increase in Funds and where they come from. **Hart:** greater portion is from expanding development but sustained increased revenue is not expected. **Sickler:** Regarding sustained fund balance, the new positions have been approved and are in process of being realized. New positions will support increased productivity in applying Tree Commission funds to more projects with the needed staff.

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

Total funds not appropriated at \$35.36M. Remaining in the four pools \$9.97M (R and R 2.92M; 630-City \$2.01M; Level 2 \$2.12M; and Level 3 \$2.47M).

Total obligated funds are \$3.23M as of September, 2025.

**7. Level 3 Project Proposals: NONE**

**8. Level 2 Project Proposals:**

**i. Gatorbowl and Bay St. - Justin Gearhart**

**Action Items:** Verify Land Ownership, lower contract pricing incoming, requesting 10% contingency.

**Motion:** Approve, for \$31,186.99

**Moved by:** William Burke

**Second:** Nina Sickler

**Vote:** approved as presented, unanimous for \$31,186.99

**ii. Marjenhoff Park - Johnathan Johnston**

**Action Items:** **Hart:** Requests that contact information to be provided on all proposals moving forward

**Motion:** Approve, for \$34,830

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** William Burke

**Vote:** approved as presented, unanimous for \$34,830

**iii. Resilient Ribault - Johnathan Johnston, Kathleen McGovern**

**TK Stokes Boat Ramp**

**Motion:** Approved for \$20,210

**Moved by:** William Burke

**Second:** Susan Fraser

**Vote:** Approved as presented, unanimous for \$20,210

**Charles "Boobie" Clark**

**Motion:** Approved for \$30,250

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** Curtis Hart

**Vote:** Approved as presented, unanimous for \$30,250

**Forestview Park**

**Motion:** Approved for \$13,200

**Moved by:** Curtis Hart

**Second:** William Burke

**Vote:** Approved as presented, unanimous for \$13,200

**Yancey Park**

**Motion:** Approved for \$17,650

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** Susan Fraser

**Vote:** Approved as presented, unanimous for \$17,650

**Charles Reese Park**

**Motion:** Approved for \$7,275

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** William Burke

**Vote:** Approved as presented, unanimous for \$7,275

**Simonds-Johnson Park**

**Motion:** Approved for \$20,100

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** William Burke

**Vote:** Approved as presented, unanimous for \$20,100

**Johnnie Walker Park and Pool**

**Motion:** Approved for \$25,050

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** Curtis Hart

**Vote:** Approved as presented, unanimous for \$25,050

**Ribault Preserve**

**Motion:** Approved for \$27,500

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** William Burke

**Vote:** Approved as presented, unanimous for \$27,500

**iv. Dames Point Park - Kathleen McGovern**

**Motion:** Approve, as amended for \$39,300

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** Susan Fraser

**Vote:** approved as presented, unanimous for \$39,300

**f) Updated Additions to Approved Species List Soapberry -  
Jonathan Colburn**

**Motion:** Approve,

**Moved by:** Nina Sickler

**Second:** William Burke

**Vote:** approved as presented, unanimous

**9. Status of Level 2 Projects:**

**See status report in Sept agenda Pgs 63-66**

**10. UFMP Update, Dr Jennifer Hinton:** Presentation. Please see supplemental documents for details.

Discussion regarding pros, cons and possible conflicts of the project and how this can be applied to Tree Commission business.

11. Taskforce: No update

**12. Old Business:**

**SPAR 2025 Canopy Wooden Ballard Quote – Jonathan Colburn**

**Zach Hanson:** as representative of applicant agreed to forgo the planting of the particular trees that required the use of bollards to avoid delays in project.

**13. New Business:**

END OF MEETING 11:37 AM

ATTACHMENT 1