

Jacksonville Tree Commission
Wednesday December 16, 2020 – 9:30 AM
Approved January 27, 2021
Via Zoom Platform & In Person

Commissioners Present:	Chris Flagg, Chair Curtis Hart, Vice Chair Ron Salem John Pappas Mike Robinson Rhodes Robinson	Staff:	Cindy Chism
Advisors:	Susan Grandin, OGC Joel Provenza, Finance Kathleen McGovern, City Arborist Richard Leon, Urban Forester Manager	Public:	Todd Little, COJ Joe Anderson, JEA Fred Pope, COJ Jeff Lucovsky, COJ Anna Dooley, Greenscape John November, Public Trust Mike Zaffroni, Liberty Landscape Nichole Evans, COJ Dave McDaniel, COJ Mary Staffopoulous, COJ Tracey Arpen, Scenic Jax

1. **Call to Order** - Chair
2. **Roll Call and Verification of Quorum** – Cindy Chism
3. **Submittal of Speaker’s Cards** – Chair
 - a) A raised hand icon as well as waving at the screen will be acknowledged by Chair or Ms. Chism.
 - b) For those attending in person, paper speakers cards are available.
4. **Update to the Bylaws regarding Hybrid meetings (Attachment A) – Mary Staffopoulos**
 - a) After the expiration of the Governor’s Executive Order 20-69, which suspended the requirement for a physical quorum and meetings be held in a physical location, a way needed to be found to accommodate the continued desire to hold meetings yet keep the number of persons in a meeting room down and to practice social distancing. The Office of General Council and the Ethics Office suggested the hybrid meeting option, which allows staff, Commission members and the public to attend via Zoom. To continue to hold hybrid meetings, what the law allows is a quorum must be physically present but members of the public, staff and other Commissioner’s may utilized communications media technology.
 - b) A revision to the Bylaws is being proposed which identifies COVID-19 or other health related illnesses as extraordinary circumstance that would warrant allowing a Commissioner to attend using Zoom. A quorum must still be physically present to conduct the meeting; however the remaining Commissioners may attend via Zoom. Other extraordinary circumstances could be decided upon on a case by case basis.
 - c) The proposed changes begin in Section 5, Meetings – see Attachment A.
 - d) Mr. Pappas made a motion to approve the suggested revisions to the Bylaws including the addition of allowing voting for members which utilize communication media technology due to military or other government service, seconded by Mr. R. Robinson, none opposed.

5. Action Items:

- a)** Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2020 meeting – Chair
 - i. Motion made by Mr. R. Robinson to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. M. Robinson, none opposed.
- b)** Proposed Level 2 Project(s) – Kathleen McGovern
 - i. Freedom Park Tree Planting Project
 - 1. Presentation – Kathleen McGovern
 - 2. Public Comment – Ms. Grandin pointed out this park is a celebration of the Gullah Gechee community, in the Cosmo area, this is at the entrance to the national monument.
 - 3. Vote – Motion made by Mr. Pappas, seconded by Mr. M. Robinson, none opposed.

6. New Business

- a)** Proposed changes to F.S. 163.045 Tree pruning, trimming, or removal on residential property – Susan Grandin
 - i. Revise (1) in the current statute (Attachment B) at danger in the last sentence to read “danger and or hazard as defined by ANSI A300”. As the statute does not define “residential.” See Attachment B (4) for recommended definition. Motion to approve recommended changes made by Mr. M. Robinson, seconded by Mr. R. Robinson, none opposed.

7. Public Comment – General

Anna Dooley, Greenscape – On the 21st of December, the tree giveaway and paper shredding event was held in cooperation with Keep Jacksonville Beautiful Commission. Special thanks go to CM Salem for his participating in spite of the rain. There were 2 miles of cars lined up for distribution of 2000 trees and 25 tons of paper dropped off for shredding.

Nancy Powell, Resiliency Committee – Would like to further report on the Committee’s goals with funding help from the Tree Commission. We would also like recommendations on how to move forward with completing these goals, perhaps a subcommittee consisting of a few from the Tree Commission, some from the Resiliency group, staff members, just a cross section of people who could advise and make recommendations to the Tree Commission. Mr. Flagg and Ms. Grandin will schedule a meeting to discuss how to further the Resiliency plans. Mr. November added he and Mr. Pappas discussed adding a staff member from Public Works Engineering Division to the group. Joe Anderson sent a link for the Miami Beach Presentation of their Urban Forestry Master Plan and how it affected their Resiliency Plan. He would be happy to send it again. It may be good model to begin with. Ms. Powell asked how to get to a Master Plan, where do we begin. Mr. Flagg said he would like to continue the conversation at a later date.

8. Reports:

- a)** Fund balance and encumbrance report for 15(F) (Ordinance Tree Fund), 15(N) (Charter Tree Fund) and BJP – Joel Provenza
- b)** Status of Pending Tree Projects – Kathleen McGovern
- c)** Fund Status of 630-CITY, Remove & Replace and Level 2 Programs– Richard Leon

9. Old Business – Deferred until January meeting

- b)** Review Legislation for funding increase(s) – Susan Grandin
- c)** Discussion of Improvements to Level 3 Application Process – Dave McDaniel
- d)** Tree Farm – Curtis Hart

10. Adjournment – the next meeting is Wednesday, January 20th and will be a Hybrid Zoom meeting.