

Jacksonville Tree Commission  
Meeting Minutes July 12, 2018  
Approved July 25, 2018

<b>Commissioners Present:</b>	John Crescimbeni, Chair Chris Flagg Aaron Glick John Pappas Rhodes Robinson	<b>Staff:</b>	Cindy Chism
<b>Advisors:</b>	Jason Teal, OGC Richard Leon, Urban Forest Manager Kathleen McGovern, City Arborist Joel Provenza, Accounting	<b>Public:</b>	Tracey Arpen, Greenscape John November, Public Trust Anna Dooley, Greenscape Courtney Wilson, Greenscape

**A.** Meeting was called to Order by Chair at 12:07 PM.

1. All present introduced themselves.
2. Submittal of Speaker's Cards.
3. Motion made by Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Pappas, to approve minutes from the meeting of June 28, 2018. None opposed.
4. Fund balance and encumbrance report for 15(F) and 15(N) (Attachment A)
  - a. Better Jacksonville Plan funds – CM Crescimbeni asked if it has yet been determined how much of the Better Jacksonville Plan funds are from 15(F) and how much are from 15(N). Mr. Provenza said he would follow up with Ms. Eichner.
5. Status of Pending Tree Projects (Attachment B) – there are no changes this week.

**B. . New Business**

1. Tree List (Attachment C) and Application Workshop
  - a. CM Crescimbeni asked if Mr. Leon and Ms. McGovern had been working on the tree list. Ms. McGovern said the IFES Florida Friendly column has been added, including a footnote describing what Florida Friendly means. A separate list will be developed for parks after a meeting with the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. CM Crescimbeni asked if the parks list will be expanded from the right-of-way list and if the other columns had been added. Ms. McGovern said that everything had been addressed.

b. CM Crescimbeni asked if life expectancy was discussed, and more specifically, the life expectancy of wax myrtle trees. Mr. Leon said they are a small understory tree and he wasn't sure of life expectancy. In the footnotes of the list, however, it states that wax myrtles are only to be used for mass plantings, visual screening, and transitions into natural areas. Mr. Flagg added that life expectancy of wax myrtles depends on a number of factors. There is a preferred life expectancy but it is based on perfect growing conditions. **The parks list will be available for the next meeting.**

## 2. Final Project Evaluation

a. As Ms. Fetner was unavailable, the Project Evaluation has not been finalized.

## 3. Lonnie Miller tree removal – John Pappas

a. Mr. Pappas said there were approximately twenty trees removed and a permit is required. The confusion arose because the park is an ash remediation site and the understanding was that no permits were necessary. Mr. Pappas said the trees removed were outside the actual ash removal area and do require mitigation which will be completed at the time of the park improvements. CM Crescimbeni asked if the requirements for mitigation are doubled because of the penalty implemented by the new ordinance. Mr. Pappas asked for leniency due to the confusion surrounding the entire site. There are more trees that have to come down for the installation of the amphitheater which is going through the permitting process now. **CM Crescimbeni has asked that at the next Tree Commission meeting, Ms. Fetner provide a detailed explanation of the project at Lonnie Miller Park.**

## 4. Right Tree, Right Place (Attachment D)

a. CM Crescimbeni provided a document from Florida Power and Light which has suggestions about planting trees near power lines and asked **Ms. Fetner to provide a report for the next meeting regarding any City regulations on planting near powerlines.** If there are no regulations, perhaps some should be generated. **Mr. Leon will invite Joe Anderson from JEA to the next meeting to brief the Tree Commission.**

## C. Public Comment

John November, Public Trust – As there is no Tier II discussion today, Mr. November wanted to remind the Tree Commission that September 7 is fast approaching. CM Crescimbeni said the application format revision is being discussed with the City's IT Department. It will be converted to a fillable document online and will look more user-friendly. Ms. Fetner has been tasked with making the application "fun to complete and not something that looks like an IRS form."

Mr. November said he's started work with the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department and the Timiquana Parks Foundation on our Preserves; looking at the Preserves and determining how they can be restored using tree funds. When the property was preserved in 1998, there were plans to reduce the amount of old planted slash pine and have it resemble more of an old growth forest.

Mr. November reiterated the importance of giving the Urban Forestry staff a small budget for City-wide, small-scale planting projects. As a part of that (potentially) \$3 million budget, \$1.5 million could be used exclusively with City Council Members to allocate approximately \$100,000 each for small-scale planting projects within their districts. Those projects would follow the requirements outlined by the Grandin Memo. Ms. McGovern would list the projects on the tree mitigation webpage and report to the Tree Commission on the status of these projects. The City Arborist has been hired to do a specific job and she is limited in what she can do without a budget. If the Tree Commission feels that amount is too robust, the Urban Forestry staff should be provided a budget to replace trees which have been removed.

CM Crescimbeni said he has asked the Council Auditor's Office to provide a detailed annual accounting of the 2008 appropriation (\$1.4 million) which went to the Public Works Department and took ten years to spend. At the next meeting, that report should be finalized and the distribution of those types of funds will be better understood.

Mr. Pappas pointed out that it was not policy to replace all trees being removed. That was more associated with Council Member projects. Did the Tree Commission want to make "remove and replace" a policy? Mr. Leon said he would like to get to that point. There is also a category in the C.A.R.E. system to request a tree. CM Crescimbeni asked if those projects would be listed on the tree mitigation webpage if this budget was provided for small scale plantings. Mr. November said according to the settlement, all funds spent from the tree fund must be tracked on the tree mitigation page. The projects would also show up on Plan-It GEO tool which will have its own layer that shows only trees planted with the tree funds on City property.

Mr. Teal asked about a possible perpetual re-engagement of the contract with Plan-It GEO because the Office of General Counsel is relying on that as evidence they may need later in a lawsuit. That is their source of inventory for what the tree funds are being used for. If the City decides not to renew that contract, will they lose all of that historic information? Mr. November responded that, as required by the settlement, everything needs to be listed on the tree mitigation page. Plan-It GEO can be used as an additional tool to spatially see where things are based on GPS. The license costs approximately \$3000-\$5000 per year and is paid for the next three years by Greenscape and Public Trust. All data can easily be extrapolated and dropped into another host should the decision be made not to renew.

Anna Dooley, Greenscape – Right Tree, Right Place is a philosophy which is held widely throughout the country particularly by utility companies, including JEA. Joe Anderson, from JEA is the perfect person to discuss this with the Tree Commission.

#### **D. Action Items**

**Ms. McGovern will provide the parks list for the next meeting.**

**Ms. Fetner will provide a detailed explanation of the project at Lonnie Miller Park to the Commission.**

**Ms. Fetner will provide a report for the next meeting regarding any regulations on planting near powerlines.**

**Mr. Leon will invite Joe Anderson from JEA to the next meeting to discuss Right Tree, Right Place.**

#### **E. Information**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>. Several Commissioners are not available. The meeting will be rescheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> and can be held in any room which is open to the public.

#### **F. Meeting adjourned at 12:52pm**