

Jacksonville Tree Commission  
Wednesday January 17, 2024, – 9:30 AM  
For approval February 21, 2024  
Via Zoom Platform & In Person

**APPROVED**

**Commissioners  
Present:**

Curtis Hart (Chair)  
Susan Fraser  
Nina Sickler  
Chris Miller  
William Burke

**Staff:** Charles Hayes (COJ)

**Public:**

Jennifer Grable (COJ)  
Lisa Grubba (Greenscapes)  
Nancy Powell (Scenic Jax)  
Jenny Hinton (COJ-PRCS)  
Valerie Feinberg (COJ-FUSE)  
Landall Demby (JEA)  
Kathleen McGovern (COJ P&R)  
Scott Souder (JEA)  
Joshua Hodges (Greenway)  
Mike Zaffaroni (Liberty)  
Jeff Lucovsky (COJ-P&D)  
Traccy Arpen (Greenscapes)  
John Nooney  
Nancy Powell (Scenic Jax)  
Johnathon Johnston (COJ-P&D)  
Garner Cox (Groundwork Jax)

**Advisors:**

Trisha Bowles, OGC  
Justin Gearhart, City Arborist  
Jonathan Colburn, Urban Forestry Manager

1. **Call to Order** – Chair
2. **Roll Call and Verification of Quorum** – Chair
3. **Submittal of Speaker’s Cards** – Chair
  - a) A raised hand icon as well as waving at the screen will be acknowledged by the Chair.
  - b) For those attending in person, paper speakers’ cards are available.
4. **Action Items:**
  - a) Minutes from January 17, 2024, Tree Commission Meeting
    - i. Approved (Susan Fraser, Nina Sickler)
  - b) Proposed Level 3 Projects
  - c) Proposed Level 2 Project
    - i. Senior & Community Centers
      1. Kathleen McGovern presented the project.
      2. Public Comment
        - i. Kathleen McGovern did an overview of current areas that are undergoing renovations. She explained how the sites would benefit from heat

mitigation these trees will provide. Stated trees will complement the sites both aesthetically and environmentally as well as providing shade.

1. Bennie Furlong Senior Center
  2. Jim Fortuna Senior Center
  3. Leroy Clemons Senior Center
  4. Rebault River Preserve
  5. Mayport Community Center
  6. Ringhaver Park
- ii. Curtis Hart asked if Ringhaver Park equipment was still getting properly maintained.
  - iii. Kathleen McGovern stated she did not know.
  - iv. Kathleen McGovern explained the Bennie Furlong Senior Center would tie into the existing on-site irrigation system that could be maintained.
  - v. Curtis Hart asked if the project was under a 2-year warranty.
  - vi. Kathleen McGovern explained that based on irrigation systems and species of trees that are currently thriving in areas a 1-year warranty would be sufficient.
  - vii. Susan Fraser inquired about the ability to tie into irrigation system.
  - viii. Kathleen McGovern replied yes.
  - ix. William Burk asked if the trees would be planted at a distance so the root system would not damage sidewalks.
  - x. Kathleen McGovern replied yes
3. Vote
    - i. Approved (Susan Fraser motion, Nina Sickler second)
- i. Tree Planting Northbank Riverwalk
    1. Kathleen McGovern presented the project.
    2. Public Comment
      - i. Kathleen briefed the commission on the tree planting beginning at 245 Riverside Ave. and extending to the northwest to 111 Riverside Ave. She explained it would be 30 trees along with soil and grass for erosion control. She explained that there was an irrigation system and would be renovated.
      - ii. Curtis Hart as if the trees were Oak.
      - iii. Kathleen McGovern stated trees were like Oak.
      - iv. Curtis Hart asked if it was a 2-year warranty.
      - v. Kathleen McGovern answered it was a 1-year warranty due to having an irrigation system.

- vi. Susan Fraser commented that the department has the staff and can maintain the irrigation systems along with the trees.
- vii. Curtis Hart asked if the city should get away from 1-year warranties.
- viii. Kathleen stated there was a benefit for two years in some instances.
- ix. Nina Sickler what the cost was for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- x. Kathleen McGovern stated around \$700 per.
- xi. Susan Fraser asked how many trees were replaced in the 1st year.
- xii. Curtis Hart asked if we could get some solid date on how many trees are replaced in the second year of the warranty and stated this could be the deciding factor in the 1- or 2-year warranty discussion.
- xiii. Mike Zaffaroni replied that he has planted over 6000 trees and could provide some of the data needed.
- xiv. Jonathan Colburn agreed flexibility was needed.
- xv. Kathleen McGovern explained 1-year was sweet spot especially when irrigation system is in place.
- xvi. William Burke asked if irrigation was the deciding factor.
- xvii. Mike Zaffaroni explained that it depends on species, time of year planting, and type of soil. He also explained that in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the warranty the trees are visited 100-150 times a year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the warranty is about half that number.

### 3. Vote

- i. Approved (Susan Fraser motion, Nina Sickler second)

#### i. McGirts Creek Restoration

- 1. Jenny Hinton presented the project.
- 2. Public Comment

- i. Jenny Hinton presented the project that included status, overview, department roles, and history on the project when it was acquired as part of the Preservation Project Jacksonville.
- ii. Curtis Hart asked if the area flooded.
- iii. Jenny Hinton replied yes
- iv. Curtis Hart asked if new trees absorb more water than current Slash pines.
- v. Jenny Hinton didn't have an exact number but stated yes.
- vi. Jenny Hinton stated some of the cost would be offset for the timber and a Forester would be onsite.
- vii. Curtis Hart asked if someone would be onsite the entire project of thinning the trees and stumps removed.
- viii. Jenny Hinton stated, an Environmentalist and Forester would be there during the work.
- ix. Jenny Hinton stated would be monitored for 5 years.

- x. Curtis Hart stated he would provide drone footage for before, during and after to show progress.
- xi. Susan Fraser stated that the total cost for a long project should be considered. Contractors, permits, and fees.

3. Vote

- i. Approved (Nina Sickler motion Susan Fraser seconded)

i. Southern S-Line Enhancement

- 1. Garner Cox presented the project.
- 2. Public Comment
  - a. Garner Cox briefed project for 140 trees planted
  - b. Curtis Hart asked about the warranty.
  - c. Garner Cox stated one year.
  - d. Nina Sickler asked if the trail was asphalt and would there be an issue with roots causing damage.
  - e. Garner Cox stated it would be no issues.
  - f. Curtis Hart stated the presented, project plan needed more detail and if a golf cart was allowed.
  - g. Kathleen McGovern stated only bicycles.
  - h. Traccy Arpen asked why so much Cabbage Palm is being planted that it was not using Tree Commission funding properly.
  - i. Garner Cox stated to fill in areas for environment that no Cabbage Palm is planted where a tree can grow.

3. Vote

- a. Approved (Susan Fraser motion, Nina Sickler second)

i. FUSE Fellow

- 1. Valerie Feinberg presented project.
- 2. Public Comment
  - a. Valerie Feinberg presented project
  - b. Susan Fraser recommended meeting monthly for the FUSE planning.

3. Vote

- a. No vote

- d)** Fund balance and encumbrance report for 15(F) (Ordinance Tree Fund), 15(N) (Charter Tree Fund) and BJP (Attachment A) – Justin Gearhart
- e)** Fund Status of 630-CITY, Remove & Replace and Level 2 Programs (Attachment C) – Justin Gearhart
- f)** Status of Pending Level 2 Tree Projects (Attachment B) – Justin Gearhart

**5. Reports**

- a) Level 2 Tree Projects Update

**6. New Business**

- a) Meeting to go digital – Justin Gearhart

**7. Public Comment**

- a) Attempting to get sponsor to turn property to public area – John Mooney

**8. Adjournment** – the next Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February, at 9:30am and will be a Hybrid/Zoom meeting in Ed Ball Building, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Public Works Office, conference room 5.