

Jacksonville Tree Commission

Minutes

Wednesday December 18, 2024, - 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 January 15, 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
Nina Sickler
William Burke
Chris Miller

Quorum present (4, in person): yes

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

NONE

Action Items:

1. Prior Meeting Minutes.

Issue: The minutes from November 20, 2024, pending approval

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: Susan Fraser

Vote: **September minutes** approved, unanimous.

2. Level 2 Project Proposal(s):

Atlantic Blvd- Justin Gearhart- Gearhart: Request tree install in medians, 20 crepe myrtles, total: \$45,379.20. FDOT has been communicated to regarding trimming and maintenance requirements.
(See Details on PG 3 of December Agenda)

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: William Burke

Vote: approved, unanimous.

Five Points - Gearhart: Request to replace Washingtonian Palms with 13 Eagleston Hollies and 2 Winged Elm, total: \$35,226.
Fraser: concerns over encroachment on foot traffic and signage.
Gearhart: Will discuss with applicant and merchants as to any issues, concerns and viability
(See Details on PG 9 of December Agenda)

Chair: **Defer to January meeting,** pending outcome of merchant outreach.

Palmetto Leaves Regional - McGovern: deferred from last meeting adjustments made to tree count and location. JEA has been consulted with no concerns found. Total: \$152,650
(See Details on PG 14 of December Agenda)

Motion: Approve, as presented.

Moved by: Susan Fraser

Second: William Burke

Vote: approved, unanimous

3. Suggested new species for approval: Shortleaf Pine.

Colburn: after review of current planting on Union Street not optimally located but in very good shape.

Fraser: If planted in appropriate location with soil amendments and necessary environments.

Miller: Concerns on availability (See Details on PG 22 of December Agenda)

Motion: Approve.

Moved by: Nina Sickler

Second: William Burke

Vote: approved, unanimous

4. Financial Report: Jose Regueiro:

a. Combined revenues: Fiscal year \$1.2M compared to \$604K thousand on November 23. Combined expenses yearly are \$409K, compared to \$615K combined revenues for November 2024. \$646K compared to a \$195K for November 2023, an increase of \$451K. Meanwhile, expenses were \$248K, \$391K on November 2024 and November 2023 respectively.

b. Fund Status: Justin Gearhart: Total funds not appropriated \$27.785M. Remaining in the three pools in public works \$1.7M. For 630-City \$2.1M. For level 2 \$4.3M and Level 3 \$2.3M.

Hart: Requests report be formatted larger

Gearhart: suggests combining financial reports to alleviate duplicates and report timing complications.

Authorized: to trim Packages down, "Highlights, and Summary" pages to remain.

(See Details on PGs 23-46 of December Agenda)

5. Status of Level 2: Justin Gerhart: Changes North Bank River walk and Fishwiler Park are off warranty, previous project approved last time all passed MBRC are starting scheduling and planning stages.

(See Details on PG 47 of December Agenda)

No Motion/ No Vote.

6. Parks Department Project Update:

JillENZ: Summary of Parks tree warranty history.

McGovern: The report started from April 2023

Discussion: Details relating to warranty, install procedures, vandalism and environmental/weather conditions related to tree remove/replace delays, failures and damages. Review of provided spreadsheets, warranty, replacement and costs.

(See Details on PG 53 of December Agenda)

No Motion/ No Vote.

6. New Business

Fraser: Taskforce meeting for December has been postponed to January for collection of materials for new digital library resources and to allow speakers to sign on and prepare. She is looking to schedule the Task Force meetings moving forward to coincide with Tree Commission dates. Jon Colburn will be taking lead in collecting and organizing digital library submissions. Looking to ramp up for January.

No Motion/ No Vote.

END OF MEETING 10:27AM

ATTACHMENT 1

APPROVED