

Town of James Island
Minutes of the Tree Advisory Council
February 10, 2026

Present: Chair, Robin Hardin, David Tomblin, Lynda Glover, Paul Cantrell, Bridget Lussier. Council Liaison – Mayor Brook Lyon. Guest – Town Councilmember Julia Drayton-Crumblin

January 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes: David Tomblin made a motion to approve the Jan. 6, 2026 minutes, seconded by Paul Cantrell. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements: Natalie Rumph has had to leave the council due to family responsibilities, Julie Hallman (Vice Chair) is on medical leave.

Tree Awards: Presentations, Nominations & Tree Medallions:

First Baptist Church’s Tree Steward and Canopy of Distinction Award Presentations need to be scheduled. Mayor Lyon will contact Reverend Murray at First Baptist Church. A Sunday afternoon after church service is preferable as a day/ time to do this presentation. Information will be forthcoming to TAC members on the date/time for this presentation.

Award medallions for Canopy of Distinction winners: The council will get in touch with former canopy winners to let them know that they may have a medallion to affix to their winning tree. Chair Hardin and Susan Milliken will work together on a letter to mail to past winners, letter will include an image of the medallion for them to see. Past winners could pick up medallion at Town Hall. Bridget Lussier offered to help with design and formatting of letter.

Nominations for Tree Awards: We will continue to search for dogwood trees to award once they are in bloom this spring.

Drive-Thru Tree Giveaway Evaluation and Future Tree Giveaways: The February 7, 2026 Tree Giveaway hosted with the Charleston Parks Conservancy was a success with at least 2/3s of the trees being picked up. Leftover trees are being stored at Pinckney Park. Chair Hardin thanked Mayor Lyon and TAC members for their help. Expenses for Feb. tree giveaway totaled \$197.15 for gift certificate to the Charleston Parks Conservancy and breakfast provided to volunteers. Susan Milliken made the motion to approve this expense, Chair Hardin seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Members discussed using the remaining TAC annual budget of \$3,226.00 for purchasing trees for another tree giveaway in fall of 2026 at the Friday, Nov. 6th Town Market, focusing on fruit trees, and also for supplies needed for the spring tree planting at Camp Road Middle School. Members

discussed the possible cost of trees for future tree giveaways. Chair Hardin will work with David Tomblin and Mayor Lyon to price trees from wholesalers for future tree giveaways and get back to the TAC with more information. Possible options are Parsons and/or Superior Trees. David Tomblin noted that the fruit trees needed for the November 2026 tree giveaway can be ordered in advance.

Spring Educational Tree Planting with Camp Road Middle School: David Tomblin and Chair Hardin have been in touch with the teacher/s at Camp Road Middle School. The spring tree planting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th, 2026, 10:30 a.m. We will be planting five oak trees set aside from the tree giveaway. Members discussed checking in with school office upon arrival to obtain Visitor IDs—Chair Hardin will check with the school on this and let us know the procedure. David Tomblin will plan program, check with Clear Cuts guys on utility lines and will bring supplies needed to plant trees. Students will dig tree holes. Mayor Lyon will check with the school and see if they'd like to publicize the event. More info to come via email to members regarding this event.

For the Good of the Order: Chair Hardin again expressed appreciation for all the volunteer help at the Feb. 7 Tree Giveaway. Bridget Lussier asked about whether we might be interested in obtaining any grant funds, as she can explore applying for grants. Members agreed that applying for grants is a great idea. Bridget L. will investigate grants we may qualify for and get back to the TAC. Mayor Lyon invited the TAC members to the Lighthouse Point Annual Picnic on March 28th, 12 – 3 pm. (Indian Mound)

The next meeting of TOJI TAC will be Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 5pm.

Meeting was adjourned.