

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

Present: Chair - Robin Hardin, David Tomblin, Paul Cantrell, Bridget Lussier. Council Liaison – Mayor Brook Lyon, Susan Milliken, Val Henshaw, Town Staff liaison - Parker Richardson, Town Councilmember Julia Drayton-Crumblin. Absent: Lynda Glover

February 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes: Susan Milliken made a motion to approve the Feb. 10, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by David Tomblin. The minutes were unanimously approved. (Correction in 2/10/26 minutes: Susan Milliken was present).

Tree Awards: Presentations, Nominations & Tree Medallions: Chair Hardin distributed a letter and packaging for past Tree Canopy and Tree Steward award winners for the medallions for their trees. TAC members agreed that this was a good idea, rather than asking the past winners to pick up their medallions at Town Hall. Chair Hardin will hand-deliver the letters and medallions soon to all the past tree award winners. Chair Hardin asked if the past tree award winners could be made more prominent on the Town of James Island website. Mayor Lyon agreed to ask town staff to do this.

First Baptist Church - Tree Steward and Canopy of Distinction Award Presentations still need to be scheduled. Mayor Lyon will contact Reverend Murray at First Baptist Church and report back to the TAC.

Nominations for Tree Awards: We will continue to search for a dogwood tree or trees to award once they are in bloom this spring. David Tomblin and Chair Hardin will look for a dogwood tree to award when they are in bloom in May. (Condon Dr. is a possibility)

Future Tree Giveaways-November 2026: Mayor Lyon reported to the TAC on the possible cost of fruit trees for the Fall 2026 tree giveaway at the Friday, Nov. 6, 2026 Town Market. The TAC previously agreed that the Fall 2026 Tree Giveaway will be focused on fruit trees. Mayor Lyon reported that many non-fruit trees run around \$10 each, but that fruit trees are more expensive. She is working with George Hyams to research prices. Hyams Garden Center can pre-order the fruit trees for us. Fruit trees could run from \$18.50-\$19 each depending on size; one-gallon citrus trees run approx. \$20 each. Delivery will be an added cost. Mayor Lyon is presently working on the Town's annual budget and will know more regarding funds available soon.

The TAC discussed varieties of fruit trees to price for the Nov. Tree Giveaway. Varieties discussed include pear, plum, fig, apple, Meyer lemon, grapefruit, mandarin orange and pecan. Potential plan may be to order approx. 200 trees total/ (6) varieties of fruit/nut trees/(33) trees of each variety. Budget report: The TAC has \$3,226.00 currently in our budget, but more funds may be available after July 1, 2026 with new budget year. Discussion was held regarding whether we could provide planting soil with each fruit tree at the Tree Giveaway. This will be discussed further. The idea of providing each person who takes a tree with a coupon to purchase soil was also discussed. The TAC settled on (20) each of the following varieties if available: Meyer lemon, grapefruit, fig, pomegranate, plum, and pecan. Mayor Lyon will discuss specifics with George Hyams. Mr. Hyams will place the order for the trees in late September.

Spring Educational Tree Planting with Camp Road Middle School: David Tomblin and Chair Hardin have been working with Camp Road Middle School to plan this event. The event is scheduled for Thursday, March 19th, 2026, 10:30 a.m.—1825 Camp Road. David Tomblin has checked for utilities and chosen sites for the (6) Shumard oak trees to be planted (grassy open space on the side of the school where the carpool line/bus lane is located). All attendees will need to check-in at the front office and show ID to receive Visitor badge. Attendees can park any place we can find a space. David Tomblin and Chair Hardin are planning the program. The students will dig the holes for the trees. (8) students are expected to participate. Chair Hardin and Mayor Lyon will check into getting pizza delivered and providing drinks. David Tomblin will pick up the trees from Pinckney Park and deliver to the school. Mayor Lyon will take photos. All TAC members who can are encouraged to attend.

For the Good of the Order: Bridget Lussier updated members on grant opportunities. She found several grants that the TAC may qualify for depending on our specific projects planned, including grants from SC/state entities. Most grant opportunities are later in the year. Bridget L. asked that we please begin tracking our volunteer hours, as many grant applications require this information. Motion made by Chair Hardin for Bridget L. to continue to research grant opportunities for the TAC. Seconded by Val Henshaw and passed unanimously.

Mayor Lyon invited TAC members to the Lighthouse Point Annual Picnic on March 28th, 12 – 3 pm. (Indian Mound)

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of TOJI TAC will be Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 5 p.m.