

Town of James Island

Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023 meeting

Present were Committee Members: David Tomblin (President), Kathy Woolsey (VP), Jenny Welch, Paul Cantrell, and Julie Hallman. Councilman Garrett Milliken, Staff: Mark Johnson (PW Director) and Flannery Wood (Planner II).

The meeting was brought to order by President Tomblin at 4:35 PM. Everyone had a chance to look over the minutes from the last meeting, and the minutes were approved.

Tree Canopy Awards: Kathy Woolsey mentioned a Sassafras Tree on Regatta that was quite striking right now with red leaves. The members said they would drive by to see it.

Arbor Day 2023: The members discussed this at length. SC Arbor Day is December 1st. Mark Johnson pointed out that this was the Town Tree Lighting and Town Markest that day which would be occupying Staff all day. It was decided to celebrate on the following Friday, December 8th. Pinckney Park was chosen as the site and it was decided to plant a Black Gum in honor of Councilman Garrett Milliken's service to the environment. The committee voted to pay for the tree and to try Aukland Nursery in Walterboro or Roots and Shoots in West Ashley. Mark Johnson will call to see availability.

Tree Funding: Councilman Milliken discussed the current state of funding for tree related expenses in the budget. The Committee has \$3500 available, Tree interns have \$2400 available, Public Works has \$10,000 in tree maintenance funds, which have been used for the tree pruning project on Camp Road, and the tree fund has \$96,000 available for mitigation. Paul Cantrell mentioned an tree give away program that the Town of Mount Pleasant has and that we could emulate that for our own tree give away program. It was also discussed to plant some appropriate trees on the road rights of way for beautification. The poor state of SCDOT Scenic Byways was discussed. Liz Boyles in the Mount Pleasant Planning Department handles their tree give away program.

Tree Council Meeting Times for 23/24: Kathy Woolsey asked the meeting times be moved to 5PM. There was discussion about a different day of the week as well, but no vote was taken.

Electronic filing system: Councilman Milliken will be transferring the Tree Advisory Committee electronic files to David Tomblin.

Good of the order: Paul Cantrell said we should plant the Arbor Day tree in honor of Garrett Milliken's service.

Meeting ended at 5:25PM

Respectfully submitted by Mark Johnson