

**Town of James Island**  
**Minutes of Tree Advisory Council**

**August 13, 2024**

**Present:** David Tomblin, Paul Cantrell, Jenny Welch, Julie Hallman, Natalie Rumph, Garrett Milliken & Robin Hardin **Staff:** Mayor Lyon & Keith LaDeaux

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the June 11, 2024, meeting were approved.

**Nominations for Tree Award:** No new trees were nominated. Mayor Lyon will set date when weather cools for Canopy Award to be made to Lighthouse Point Civic Club.

**Status of Tree Equipment Purchases:** Keith reported that all recommended equipment has been purchased, including an organizer for the Town's trailer. Members hoped precautions would be taken to prevent theft of the new equipment.

Garrett asked if new tree bags could be placed on the (2) Black Gums in Pinckney Park and (3) trees along the cemetery on Dills Bluff. He noted one of these trees needs replacement.

**Updates on Arbor Day Planning:** Natalie distributed an excellent brochure she prepared for the Tree Council describing her ideas for Town tree giveaway events. She recommends holding (2) tree giveaways/year, each associated with Town celebrations/markets. She suggests the distribution of evergreen trees at the Holiday Market and Lemon Cling Peach Trees, recommended by Slow Food Carolina, at the Town Market closest to Earth Day, probably Friday, May 2. Discussion ensued about the presentation of, and information associated with, trees to be given away. Evergreens could be wrapped in holiday motif of burlap and twine. All agreed vital to distribute information on planting and care with each tree distributed.

Logistics were considered, including the source, number, temporary storage, maintenance, and cost of trees to be given away. The acquisition of 250 trees per giveaway seemed to be an agreeable number. Paul asked to see price variables associated with different numbers of trees to be purchased. Garrett suggested a "Planted Tree Award" to help encourage tree recipients to plant and nurture their free trees. In January we will evaluate the December tree giveaway and adjust plans accordingly for spring giveaway.

Jenny asked about possibility of acquiring some bigger trees for distribution and/or planting on Town property. Mayor Lyon has been in contact with Lowe's and Lowe's has been generous in donating equipment/supplies to the Town and thinks Lowe's would be amenable to donating bigger trees. She's also been in contact with George Hyam, Hyam's Garden Center, and he is amenable to helping the Town. It was suggested that she request

decorative wreaths from Hyam's and 3-5 gallon Magnolia trees from Lowe's to be raffled at the Holiday Market.

Discussion went to Christmas trees for the Town. Mayor Lyon would like to get a big evergreen with root ball for Town Hall and place (2) more Christmas trees in Pinckney Park and Town Council Chambers.

Mayor Lyons announced that the Town will be getting (6-8) AmeriCorps volunteers to help with drainage projects on James Island.

**For the Good of the Order:** Wendy Shelton, Town staff, will be submitting our application for the Tree Grant for which Kristen Crane has received information. David offered to assist Wendy with any specific information she needs. There was discussion of how we would use the money from this grant. Garrett suggested it be used for the annual subscription cost to GeoThinQ and "tree mapping" for the Town's Master Plan.

David showed Summerville's brochure, which includes their Tree Ordinance, and would like us to develop something similar.

Garrett is looking into organic herbicide with Clemson and Natalie will check into it with her colleagues.

The Tree Council's meeting schedule was reviewed and an October meeting may need to be held.

*The next meeting of the Town of James Island Tree Council will be held Tuesday, September 10, 5pm in Town Hall.*