



**City of Key West
Tree Commission Meeting
December 08, 2008
510 Greene Street, Old City Hall, 5:00 PM
Minutes**

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Roll Call

Tree Commissioners:

Julio Barroso
 Danilo Crespo
 Gregory Curry
 Mimi McCoy Grantham
 Sandra Lee – Chairperson
 Rudy Molinet
 Niels Weise

Staff:

Ronald Ramsingh
Asst. City Attorney
 Cynthia Domenech-Coogle
Urban Forestry Program Manager
 Gladys Abreda
Administrative Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

(a) Additions/Changes:

Mr. Danilo Crespo requested Tree Commission account balances and if funds were in General Fund. Staff will have report ready for January 12, 2009, meeting. Mr. Ramsingh, asst. city attorney will research and will also have report ready for January meeting.

4. Presentations

Urban Forestry Program Manager Report

Ms. Cynthia withheld report until January 12, 2009, meeting. Motion to approve Rudy Molinet second Mimi McCoy-Grantham.

5. Approval of Minutes

(a) May 14, 2007

(b) September 10, 2007

(c) October 15, 2007

(d) November 17, 2008

Ms. Cynthia asked the Minutes to be extended until the next meeting. Motion to approve Mimi McCoy Grantham, second Danilo Crespo.

6. Resolutions Tabled Items:

- (a) **322 Duval Street, State of Florida Department of State and Historic Resources:** Represented by Hubert E. Baxter. Maintenance to Spanish Lime

Approved **Denied** **Tabled** **Further Action**

Notes: Decision made on site on 11-24-08. Present were Tree Commissioners: Sandra Lee, Julio Barroso acting as chair, Danilo Crespo, Mimi McCoy Grantham, Niels Weise, staff, Cynthia Domenech-Coogle, Gladys Abreda. Also present were: Ms. Diane Silva with OIRF who coordinated with the state department in Tallahassee regarding installation of ADA ramp and Steve Johnson board member of Historic Florida Keys Foundation, owners of the 'Oldest House'. Tree Commission denied applicants requested location of ramp which was between historic Spanish Lime tree and 'Oldest House'. Denial due to conflict of ramp width larger than space between house and tree, ramp would cover newly renovated cistern and further construction to house to widen entry way. Tree Commissioners made the recommendation to place ramp to north side of building with lift.

7. Resolutions:

- (a) **3316 Harriet Ave. Noel and Myra Puig:** Remove (1) Strangler Ficus Tree.

Approved **Denied** **Tabled** **Further Action**

Notes: Tree is lifting house's piling and distorting foundation at front of house.

Motion to approve: Rudy Molinet, second Mimi McCoy-Grantham

Replacements: 4.9 caliper inches of native canopy trees of choice Fl #1.

- (b) **City of Key West/Cemetery:** Represented by Cynthia Domenech-Coogle. Remove (15) Washingtonia palms Trees.

Approved **Denied** **Tabled** **Further Action**

Notes: Palms line perimeter of cemetery at Frances Street and Passover Lane, palms have become a liability. They have become structurally unsound by uprooting and breaking in half. Past and very recent damages are from the Washingtonia palms uprooting, uprooting and falling, tops are ripping off and have caused damage to fences, gravesites, tombstones, vaults and historic walls. Domenech-Coogle also stated that some of the coconut palms at some of the intersections have become an issue in that maneuverability of hearses and vehicles around corners have damaged not only the palms but are breaking historic walls and gravesites. At this time numbers of palms to be relocated have not been determined. Palms will be relocated to Truman Waterfront as promenade. At this time coconut palm relocation is only in discussion stage, no determination has been made. Rudy Molinet asked if there is a plan to replace trees promptly that are removed to maintain the appearance of the cemetery. Staff described required replacements as described in ordinance. Washingtonia palms will be replaced with Silver Thatch palm, Silver palm

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and Buccaneer palms. Also discussed was the current damage of the huge Ficus trees and large trees that are damaging gravesites. Staff reiterated city's jurisdiction limited to work only on city property.

Motion to approve Mimi McCoy-Grantham second Rudy Molinet
Replacement: 15 native palms Fl#1, minimum 4', to be planted on site.

- (c) **City of Key West/McCoy Indigenous Park:** Represented by Cynthia Domenech-Coogle. Transplant various trees, as per plan, for office trailer removal.

Approved **Denied** **Tabled** **Further Action**

Notes: Office will be relocated to Public Works facility soon; trees will be transplanted and replanted in same location to allow for trailer removal. Most are silver buttonwood and Jamaica Capers.

Motion to transplant Danilo Crespo, second Mimi McCoy Grantham

8. Administrative Table Hearing:

- (a) **1835 Flagler Avenue, Advanced Auto Parts:** Tree work with out permits.

Approved **Denied** **Tabled** **Further Action**

Notes: Staff is waiting for response to Compliance Settlement Agreement from corporate headquarters.

Motion to table: Rudy Molinet, second Mimi McCoy Grantham

9. Champion Tree Nomination

Ms. Cynthia said next month she will bring a list of the trees that will be able to nominate champion trees.

10. Discussion Items

Mr. Danilo Crespo wanted to know if the Tree Commission account is in the General Funds, and is it used only for replacement and education of trees, but according to Ordinance 110-287, it should be in a special account, and shall be spent by tree commission and approved by the city commission, Mr. Julio Barroso said he was under the assumption the account shall not be touched for anything other than trees, Ms. Mimi McCoy Grantham said that the donations are in the general account. Mr. Rudy Molinet requested Cynthia research the balance of money that tree commission has. Mr. Ronald Ramsey said he will get clarification on use and account location.

11. Staff and Emergency Approval Permits

- (a) 3612 Duck Ave., Chestor Knowles, Remove (2) Coconut Trees. **Permit 5252**

- (b) 701 Washington Street, Emmy Chetkin. Remove (1) Areca Palm, (1) Queen Palm & (1) Coconut Palm. **Permit 5253**

- (c) 3446 Riviera Drive, Mark Curtis. Remove (2) Coconut Palms. **Permit 5254**

- (d) 603 Free School Lane, Jeffrey Villis. Remove (1) Coconut Palm. **Permit 5255**

- (e) 3218 Eagle Ave., City of Key West. Remove (3) Coconut Palms. **Permit 5256**

(f) 1016 Grinnell Street, John & Susan Hobbins. Remove (1) Coconut Palm.

Permit 5257.

(g) 906 Von Phister Street, Richard Vincent. Remove (1) Palm Tree. **Permit 5258**

(h) 924 Southard Street, Remove (2) Washingtonia Palms. **Permit 5263**

(I) 625 Simonton Street, Leila Rupp. Remove (1) Coconut Palm. **Permit 5264**

(j) 717 Emma Street, Barbara Jordan. Remove (1) Coconut tree. **Permit 5265**

(k) 20th Street Row, City Key West. Remove (2) Coconut trees. **Permit 5266**

(l) 1507 Grinnell Street, **Emergency**, Remove (1) Breadfruit Tree. **Permit 5267**

(m) 900 United Street, City Key West. Remove (1) Coconut Tree. **Permit 5268**