I. The Meeting was called to order at 3p.m. by PTAC Chair Barbara Farrior, in attendance was PTAC members Victoria Bergesen, Gordon Fritz, Brad Hill, and Parks Supervisor Adam Wellins,

II. Minutes from the February 22nd, 2024 meeting was approved.

III. Barbara Farrior opened discussions about Palm Trees at Evergreen Cemetery, Adam Wellins shared a packet with the committee for the Palm Tree in question, the packet included pictures of the damage and concerns the Palms were causing to the live oak trees, as well as a written report from ISA Certified Arborist Micheal Murphy and a quote from Southern Tree Company for the recommendation of removal and not spading for transplanting the trees to a new location. In the report Mr. Murphy stated the palms growing into the canopies of the live oaks as well as growing in between their limbs would cause irreversible damage to the live oaks and would stand better to be removed from the site, the quote provided from Southern Tree explained that spading the trees would do more damage than good to the burial sites in which the trees are currently located, the committee unanimously agreed for the removal of the palm trees.

IV. Adam Wellins updated the committee on the progress made for the vegetation blind project along the Spanish Moss Trail, the piping was installed by the Public Works Streets and Storm Water Division and their Supervisor Norris Bloodsaw, Adam Wellins also informed the group that the plantings will be picked up from the nursery and he
would liked to invite PTAC to plant them at a later date once everything was picked up and it could be put onto the schedule.

V. Victoria Bergesen lead discussions on the PTAC recommendations for changes to the tree ordinance, listed among the recommendations are, vague langue that allows loop holes, listing responsible personnel for tree care and proceedings, increased fines for tree cutting and updated mitigation scales, making it easier for citizens to find how to apply for permits for tree removal, and updated list of the South Carolina invasive species list, and to stop the usage of the term “qualified arborist” it should be listed as “ISA Certified Arborist”.

VI. New Business opened with discussions on the new park being built on Boundary St for the First South Carolina Volunteers Park, and Barbara Farrior encouraged the committee to walk the property and come up with recommendations for what they think the park should have incorporated. The Committee stated they believe the park should remain passive, possibly add trails, benches and wild flower to add beautiful color and less turf to be mowed from a maintenance stand point, Victoria Bergesen provided the committee and staff a list of recommendations for changes to PTAC responsibilities, listed among the recommendations are but not limited to, creating an Urban Forestry Plan due to the amount of time and effort that a well worked plan would take, some plans take years to come together and PTAC terms are only temporary, handing and submittal of Tree City USA application paper work due to most of the paperwork and labor are under Public Works and the information needed is only available in City Data bases. And the utilizing funds from the City Tree Fund, due to being told there is no tree fund. Nathan Farrow said he wanted to make sure that none of these responsibilities were under Tree City USA requirements before we change them but said he would be willing to rewrite the responsibilities with the committee to have a better working relationship moving forward.

VII. Meeting was adjourned.