

**CITY OF BILOXI
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes
April 9, 2018**

Members in attendance: Robin Rodolfich (1), Tracy Wyman (2), Bernie Marinovich (6)

Members not present: Matt Dubaz (3), Mary Kinney (4), Carroll Campbell (5)

I. Call to Order: 4:11 p.m.

II. March 2018 Minutes

A motion to approve and accept the March 2018 Meeting Minutes was made by Tracy Wyman. The motion was seconded by Robin Rodolfich. Motion carried.

III. Ongoing Business:

A. Current Issues & Code Violations:

- 1) In recent months, the Tree Committee has noticed and reported to the City several code violations pertaining to tree protection. In the March 2018 meeting, it was established that each member of the Tree Committee would conduct monthly 'windshield surveys' of their Ward. One of the main violations has been storage, stock-piling, and parking within the canopy of a protected tree on construction sites. A uniform system is needed to record, report, and track code violations.

A Code Violations Spreadsheet was drafted during the meeting by members present as a system to record, report, and track code violations. It was decided that committee members would a) record violations on the spreadsheet; b) report the violations to their Council Person immediately via email and copy the City Arborist; and d) follow-up with their Council Person until the code violation has been resolved satisfactorily according to the Land Development Ordinance. In addition, Tracy Wyman was designated as the committee member to be copied on emails, and will hold the archived record of images until such a time as an on-line archive can be developed.

A motion to adopt this system was made by Bernie Marinovich, and seconded by Robin Rodolfich. Motion carried.

- 2) Windshield survey reports by Ward and Ward Maps – No members reported on windshield surveys. Hardcopies of legible Ward maps will be distributed to each member at the May meeting.

B. Meetings Reports:

In order to be kept aware of all plans relating to tree protection, the Committee has committed to taking turns to attend all DRC and Planning Commission meetings.

- 1) DRC Meeting Report
Bernie Marinovich reported that the March DRC meetings revealed no plans relating to tree protection.
- 2) Planning Commission Report
Carroll Campbell reported that the March 15 Planning Commission Meeting dealt with a variance for the new development of the Holliday Inn on Hwy 90 at Rodenberg Avenue. The Tree Committee requested to visit this site with the City Arborist (see results under 'Sites Reviewed', below).

C. Sites Reviewed:

- 1) Pedestrian Bridge @ WWII Memorial: Five members of the Committee reviewed the proposed Site Plan and made recommendations (See Appendix A).
- 2) Holiday Inn, Hwy 90 @ Rodenberg: The Committee was alerted to this property by attending a Planning Commission meeting, and requested to view the site with the Site Plan. The visit revealed the submitted Site Plan did not reflect an accurate depiction of the tree issues on the property. Therefore, the Committee recommended a variance permit be re-adjudicated, and that the detailed site plan be corrected and re-submitted. Community Development Director Jerry Creel has sent the variance application back to DRC to be revised.

IV. Current Business:

- A. Tracy Wyman reported she is preparing Tree Committee Agenda and Minutes for publication on the City of Biloxi Website, as recommended by Council members in the March 2018 meeting.
- B. Mitigation Report Structure – Tracy Wyman reported that a system to track mitigation of protected trees is in process. A draft will be ready for input from the Committee and City Arborist during the current month.
- C. Ward Representation— Carroll Campbell (via email) reported that Julie Bubek has stepped down as Ward 7 representative. Mary Kinney (former Ward 4 representative) will take her place upon approval by the City. Councilman Barrett and Mayor Gilich have been advised of this recommendation. With Mary Kinney's move to Ward 7, the Ward 4 seat is now open. Councilman Demming and Mayor Gilich have been asked to seek a replacement for the Ward 4 Representative.
- D. LDO Verbiage—Tracy Wyman reported that the LDO verbiage changes, as recommended by the Tree Committee, are still in process. Within the current month, a draft will be ready for input from the Committee, and sent to Councilman Tisdale who as agreed to prepare the verbiage for proposed incorporation into the Land Development Ordinance.

V. Meeting Adjourned: 5:10 p.m.