

**CITY OF BILOXI
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes
August 13, 2018**

Members in attendance: Tracy Wyman (2), Matt Dubaz (3), Geneva Dummer (4);
Carroll Campbell (5), Matt Dubaz (3), Bernie Marinovich (6),
Brian Lamar via phone call-in (7)

Members not present: Robin Rodolfich (1)

City Council Representation: None

Public Representation: None

I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

II. Minutes: July 2018 minutes were read. No discussion ensued. Matt Dubaz motioned the July 2018 minutes be approved as read. Geneva Dummer second the motion. Motion carried.

III. Ongoing Business:

A. Updates to Action Tracking.

Please note that properties reported by a representative do not necessarily fall within their Ward.

1. Ward representatives noted progress, issues, and updates from windshield surveys and public meeting attendance as summarized here:

ACTIVE UPDATES:

- a) Sawgrass Subdivision: Nearing completion, committee should continue to watch (MD).
- b) Bay Vista tree trimming by utility company looks severe; Add to Action Tracking (CC).
- c) Vista Fire Station potentially still dumpster/container beneath canopy (CC).
- d) Blake: TC recommendations were approved at Planning Commission. CC will follow-up as to updated site plan and mitigation (BM).
- e) Biloxi Beach RV Resort/205 Veterans Blvd: Approved by PC; CA will schedule site visit with TC and with Developer present (BM/RR).
- f) Fun Time: BM reported from DRC meeting that the plan which is to retain 75-85% of trees, and that CA stated there would be no protected trees taken out. The Tree Committee must verify this, must schedule a site visit with CA.
- g) Robert E. Lee Property. As per CC, this was reviewed in Planning Commission for a zoning issue and there are no tree issues at this time though CC noted it is heavily wooded. Added to Active Tracking.
- h) Ixolib Estates Subdivision (formerly listed as Brasier Road). CC reported this is a wooded area and the site plan would go back to DRC due to potential flooding issues. There are no tree issues at this time, but this should be reviewed by tree committee. Added to Active Tracking.

CLOSED UPDATES (3 MOVED):

- a) Wetzell Drive: BM/RR reported the property is paved and individual lots have been designated. Each lot owner will be responsible to apply for tree permits as needed.
- b) Bordering LaQuinta: rezoning denied by City Council.
- c) North end of Dubuys Road: CLOSED, not within jurisdiction.

ADDED TO ACTIVE (3 ADDED):

- a) Robert E. Lee Zoning: Currently a zoning request. Tree Committee Should Watch
- b) North Oak Lawn Lane: BL is obtaining a copy of the permit from City Arborist to understand why this was clear-cut.
- c) 205 Veterans. Project passed DRC but did not go through Tree Committee review. City Arborist will schedule a site visit with TC. Added to Active Tracking (RR).

LONG RANGE / MITIGATION TRACKING (1 MOVED)

- a) Cedar Lake Preliminary Plat 5 / Cedar Crescent Subdivision
- b) All other properties currently being tracked for mitigation include: Cedar Crescent Subdivision; Sawgrass property; Hilton Gardens; Hyatt Place; Circle K on Cedar Lake; Davis & Davis.
- c) A request was made to the City Arborist on 8/13/2018 as to the mitigation status of these properties.

2. Active Tracking Spreadsheet Summary

ACTIVE – 21 properties

CLOSED – 11 properties

LONG RANGE / MITIGATION TRACKING – 9 properties

TOTAL – 41 properties

3. Active properties currently being tracked as follows:

- a) Listed as 'Watching' (9):
 - 1) Proposed Waffle House @ Dukate & 90
 - 2) Cornerstone Center
 - 3) Pedestrian Overpass on 90 at WW@ Monument
 - 4) Cedar Lake and Old Hwy 67
 - 5) Woolmarket RV Landing
 - 6) Ixolib Estates (Brasier Rd Subdivision)
 - 7) Treasure Bay Casino
 - 8) Sunkist; single vacant lot
 - 9) Robert E. Lee
- b) Listed as 'Action Needed ASAP' (8):
 - 1) End of Oak Lawn Lane (BL)
 - 2) Blake Assisted Living (CC)
 - 3) Fun Time (CC)
 - 4) Biloxi Beach RV Resort: Site visit and TC review needed (CC)
 - 5) Faler property. Zero North Oaklawn Lane (BL)
 - 6) Holiday Inn @ Hwy 90 and Rodenberg (CC)
 - 7) Vista Fire Department (MD)
 - 8) North Oaklawn Lane (BC)

- c) Listed as 'Action by Tree Committee Past Due' (4):
 - 1) Hilton Gardens (CC)
 - 2) Old Wal-Mart on Pass Road (CC)
 - 3) Sky Zone (BL)
 - 4) 400 Block of Linda Drive (CC)

B. Other Issues of Concern.

1. Tree Committee is now receiving residential permits for removal of 1-4 trees, as stipulated in the LDO. Carroll Campbell will set up a free DropBox account and will serve as the resting place for all permit documents and site plans. Carroll will ensure that all permits that come to us from the City Arborist be stored in this location for future reference when preparing annual reports to the Mayor as stipulated in the LDO.
2. Mitigation Status Report from City Arborist. A mitigation status report has not been received from the City Arborist. Tracy Wyman will outline what the status report should include and submit promptly. Mitigation Status Reports must include whether trees for a property have been replaced, and if so, the quantity, size, species, and location. If not, the report should state when /where is mitigation expected. Tracy will follow up as to receipt of the report. A second follow-up will come in a formal letter from the Tree Committee.

C. Sites Reviewed. No sites were reviewed this month.

IV. Education/Outreach (Brian Lamar)

Brian Lamar reported that he is preparing talking points around the topic of what the Tree Committee is currently working on for a live report on 103.1 Super Talk. It was agreed we would invite Vincent Creel and Cecilia Dobbs to participate in planning the talking points, as well as Chair, Carroll Campbell and Tracy Wyman.

V. Old Business

- A. Tree Mitigation System Subcommittee Report. Tracy Wyman reported that *City Works* software could assist with mitigation tracking. A June meeting with the City Arborist confirmed his support of this idea, though he'd have to check with the City's IT department as to the feasibility. To date, we have not heard back on this. Tracy will follow-up.
- B. LDO Review. Tracy Wyman presented proposed revisions to the Tree Permit Application, and the Tree Permit Process Diagram. After discussion it was agreed members would have until noon on 8/15/2018 to review and make suggested revisions. The next steps will be to carry out the same process with the Tree Committee Section of the LDO and the Tree Permit Section of the LDO. We will then present this package along with a summary of intended revisions to City Council. Due to the difficulty of a sub-committee meeting to carry out this process, and due to the high importance of this issue, Carroll Campbell recommended that the September 2018 meeting be solely dedicated to the finalization of our proposed recommendations.
- C. Comments on communication procedures: Communication procedures were reiterated, that the Tree Committee should take any concerns first to the City Arborist, then to the Director of Community Development. It was agreed that each Tree Committee member

should feel free to ask the City Arborist questions directly (at his recommendation), so as to clear up any questions or concerns quickly and efficiently.

VI. New Business

- A. We have received a copy of the ANSI Standards for Tree Pruning available for review at GCCDS. The publication is copyrighted and may not be put on the website, but the City Arborist is working to find a suitable publication that can be put on the website for community education purposes.
- B. Utilities Pruning. Several concerns have been raised about severe pruning by utility companies, which is allowed without permit to support public health and safety. While education of tree trimmers may be one option, Geneva Dummer learned from Mississippi Power that their employees are well-trained and do trim/prune according to ANSI Pruning Standards. To provide evidence supporting this, the Tree Committee will select a few trees which have been severely pruned, and pictorially document their change over 1 month, 3 months, 6 months and 1 year. It is hoped that the findings support the Mississippi Power claim that the practices promote good tree health, which could serve as public education tool as well. If the findings show otherwise, this will support our taking further action.

- C. **Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.**