

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 27, 2016

From: City of Biloxi Tree Committee – Mary Kinney, Julianne Bocek, Matthew Dubaz, Tracy Wyman, Bernie Marinovich, Robin Galle Rodolfich, Carroll Campbell

To: Jerry Creel, Director of Planning
Eric Nolan, Arborist

Re: Amended Recommendations La Quinta Project Tree Plan

- A. **Require maximum protection to Tree #2** to the full diameter of canopy during construction. Do not use this entrance as a construction entrance.
- B. **Regarding Tree #3:** The parking scheme does not offer proper tree protection. Require tree protection plan to be submitted for approval by the Tree Committee.
- C. **The tree committee recommends modifications to the current plan.**

The LDO requires that specimen trees be protected at Section 23-4-(6) G. It was found during a site visit that at present, the three smaller live oak trees to the south of the property that are set for removal measure between 12” and 18” DBH. They are **specimen trees**, as defined by the Biloxi’s Land Development Ordinance (LDO) at section 23-10-2, Definitions and Interpretation, at item #2:

TREE, SPECIMEN A tree—other than a pecan (*Carya illinoensis*), Chinese tallow or popcorn (*Sapium sebiferum*), or member of the pine genus (*Pinus*)—that falls in any of the following categories:

1. Any tree located within a tree protection zone (See Section 23-6-4(F)(5), Establishment of Tree Protection Zone.) with a DBH (diameter at breast height) of eight or more inches;
2. Any oak, magnolia, or bald cypress with a DBH (diameter at breast height) of five or more inches;
3. Any tree within a street right-of-way or on city-owned property; or
4. Any tree with a DBH (diameter at breast height) of 36 or more inches.

These will soon grow to be highly-valued majestic oaks because they are in direct sun and have no competition. There are many reasons to keep the three smaller trees to the front. If retained, they will beautify and provide cooling and shade for the hotel

and the neighborhood, and so on. Their presence will beautify the view from the hotel to the south. Please consider the following possibilities:

- Retain the small oak just southwest of the entrance; it will beautify both the Hwy 90 entrance and the view to the south from it, as well as shade the parking lot. There appears to be enough room for cars to navigate around it if it is kept. There are some indications it may not be healthy, however. If retention of that tree is possible, we recommend the City arborist examine it.
- Retain the tree directly south of Hwy. 90 entrance that is currently in the area designated for parking lot by eliminating four parking places. Alternatively, the City may consider allowance for removal of this tree if a second 8" DBH Live Oak is planted within the planting bed along Hwy. 90.
- Retain the smaller tree due southeast of Tree #3. If it has to be removed, plant one 8" DBH live oak to compensate for its removal in the front bed of lot.
- Require shrubs along south side of parking to sufficiently screen parking from street view.

Permeable cover / Pavers: To protect all the trees that are ultimately retained or else added to the site, we recommend that the developer be required to install permeable cover, such as pavers, in the area surrounding each tree or the bed that contains it, that is sufficient to allow ample irrigation of the root systems by rainfall. Otherwise, these trees will die a slow death if there is too much impermeable cover.

- An additional benefit of permeable cover is mitigation of storm water run-off, which is good for the City.
- Esthetically, pavers are better-looking than asphalt.

D. Our recommendations in the event that one or all of these trees are removed as planned:

1) For each tree that is cut, plant replacement trees at a ratio of two replacements per removed tree. The replacements should measure 5" to 8" DBH. Replacements should be planted in the following areas, listed in order of priority:

- On the La Quinta site—there is room for two replacement trees in the front bed of the site
- the median on Highway 90, planted within regulation of traffic/site-line requirements, providing shade to parking, beautification and street shade
- Biloxi's downtown,

- any area where our city has lost street trees
- the dog park on Popps Ferry,

The developer should be required to monitor all replacement trees to ensure that they become well established in their new locations.

2) Move the trees to one or more of the following locations, to be monitored by developer to ensure they become well-established:

- the median on Highway 90, planted within regulation of traffic/site-line requirements, providing shade to parking, beautification and street shade
- Biloxi's downtown,
- any area where our city has lost street trees,
- the dog park on Popps Ferry.