

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 5, 2017

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

To: Mayor Fofa Gilich  
Jerry Creel, Director of Planning  
Eric Nolan, Arborist

Re: Tree Permit Application for Davis and Davis Law Office  
Lot 3, Marcia Court, Biloxi, MS

The developer of the Davis and Davis Law Offices proposes to remove one large tree labeled as 24" Oak in the center of the site, and also a cluster of smaller oaks, also in the center of the site. We agree that the cluster of trees should be removed. However, we recommend modifications to the current site plan:

- a. The Tree Committee advises that the developer retain the 24" DBH tree. This tree appears to be in excellent health, judging by the canopy, which is magnificent. The lower trunk of this tree features some adventitious branching. This is normal for an oak tree growing in the open and exposed to strong sunlight, and it does not appear to have endangered the tree's health. The tree can be easily trimmed to make it more aesthetically appealing.
- b. In fact, if this oak is retained, it would be an amenity to the staff and clients of Davis and Davis. It will provide shade to the parking lot, which everybody appreciates in our hot climate, as well as beautification to the site.
- c. To keep the tree, we recommend reconfiguring the parking and/or siting of the building to protect the tree and root zone of the 24" oak central oak; this will also protect the trees marked HW, as these are also oaks (possibly laurel oaks). There is room for improvement. According to the site plan, 1 space per 400 feet is required for this professional site; a minimum of 12.81 spaces is required for this space of 5,570 square feet. However, the current plan contains 21 spaces, nearly twice the required number. We further note that parking is available at the buildings short distances to the east and west.

- d. If parking spaces cannot be eliminated or the spaces reconfigured to benefit the 24" tree, an alternative would be to remove the small maple on the west side of the lot, transfer it to another area of the site or to another plot of land, and put parking spaces in this area.
- e. As an additional alternative, the developer may want to consider arranging the building to the front and west so as to allow for a more shaded parking lot at the rear. Approximately 4 smaller trees with DBH of 4" to 8" at the rear of the lot are not pictured in the site plan, but would grow into good shade trees eventually in this scenario. They are of similar species to the trees proposed to be retained.
- f. Making the building two-story would free up space for parking.
- g. We recommend that the tree to the east labeled "36 HW be trimmed so that the crown is better balanced.
- h. We request that the trees labeled as "HW," or hardwoods, be accurately identified.
- i. The footprint of this building comes close to the drip lines of the trees intended for retention. These trees must be protected during construction, as required by Biloxi municipal code at LDO 23-6(4)(H).