

## MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Andrew Gilich  
Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development  
Eric Nolan, Arborist

From: City of Biloxi Tree Committee  
Robin Rodolfich, Chair  
Matt Dubaz, Vice-Chair  
Tracy Wyman  
Mary Kinney  
James "Bernie" Marinovich  
Juli Bocek  
Carroll Campbell

Date: October 25, 2017

Re: Recommendations Regarding Caterpillar Development Center Tree Permit

1. A cluster of 7 water oak trees at the center north area of the site is slated for removal. One of the trees is a 6" tree, and therefore does not meet the definition of a specimen tree found at 23-10-2 of Biloxi's Land Development Ordinance, attached. The rest are trees of 8" DBH, and are therefore are specimen trees. The applicant must perform mitigation, with replacement trees planted at a ratio of 3 to 1, as required by Biloxi Land Development Ordinance (LDO) statute at Section 23-6-4(G)(4). Please see below for the text of this statute.
2. To the northwest, the 18" water oak and 8" Magnolia are both specimen trees according to the LDO. If they are removed, the applicant must be required to perform mitigation at a ratio of 3 to 1 for each tree removed.
3. There are several other trees within clusters on the site with a green ribbon (i.e., slated for removal). **These trees are not shown on the plan, attached, and not all of the trees within the clusters are shown on the plan.** Among these, there is an 8" Magnolia and a large twin-trunk unidentified species that are specimen trees, and should be retained.
4. The total number of trees at the site and the ultimate total number of trees to be removed are not known at this time. Our recommendation is that before moving forward, the client be required to update their plan to show all trees at existing at the site and all trees proposed for removal. Mitigation must take place once the total number of destroyed trees is known.

## **Recommendations for Mitigation**

The Tree Committee recommends that replacement trees be planted on the site at a ratio of 3 to 1, in accordance to LDO requirements for mitigation, as follows:

From Section 23-6-4(G)(4):

Each healthy specimen tree removed or destroyed shall be replaced with three replacement trees, measuring at least six inches in caliper by American Nurseryman Standard. The replacement trees shall be replanted within six months of the removal or destruction of the specimen tree.

This is a large property with plenty of room for new trees. The tree committee recommends mitigation trees be planted around the perimeter of the site to the west, south, and east, which will be to the rear of the building and playground. Mitigation trees can also be planted along the front of the parking lot for shade and beautification.

The tree committee recommends that replacement trees consist of southern magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and live oaks (*quercus virginianus*).