

Office of the Mayor
Andrew "FoFo" Gilich



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October 12, 2018

City of Biloxi Tree Committee
Attn: Ms Carroll Campbell
347 Big Lake Road
Biloxi, Ms 39531

Subject Letter of Conflict, Tree Permit Application for Nature Trails Phase 2 Development

Ms Campbell,

I have received and reviewed the Tree Committee letter of conflict dated October 5, 2018 regarding the Tree Permit for Nature Trails Phase 2 Development. Additionally, I have personally walked the planned development and discussed the tree permit details with the developer. I asked the City Arborist to give me a new physical count of "protected trees" to be removed. Contrary to your letter of conflict the number of protected trees to be removed is 78 and not 124. I note that the location of many protected trees is such that there are multiple trees on platted lots and if not removed those lots would not support a new residence.

One of our challenges in development of this area of the city is drainage. Developers and builders must plan drainage structures to handle 100-year storm water amounts. This means that it becomes critical that planned developments to be graded such that storm water runoff is captured in drainage structures and routed to detention ponds. Thus grading of Nature Trails Phase 2 development must be done before we can allow building of the houses. Grading of the site will change soil level also requiring introduction of additional fill dirt. Changing the grade levels would remove soil around some trees and add soil level around others and that would cause those trees to die.

The Developer initially proposed 30-gallon Live Oaks at the 40 building sites. He now proposes to increase live oak tree plantings to 78 of the 30-gallon trees. The Developer is open to additional off-site mitigation plantings if the tree committee would propose such sites. In my view and that of our city arborist, a 3:1 mitigation at this site is not practical. Given the importance of doing the grading and drainage structures properly before construction is allowed to begin and the compromise to 78 additional trees on site, I will accept this compromise and intend to give authority for the developer to begin his site work immediately. Please get back to me with the Tree Committee proposal for any off-site mitigation planting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A.M. Gilich, Jr.", is written over a white rectangular area.

A.M. Gilich, Jr.
Mayor

AMG/km