

**CITY OF BILOXI
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Location: Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (769 Howard Avenue, Biloxi)
Time: 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

January 14, 2019

Members in attendance: Robin Galle (1), Bernie Marinovich (6), Geneva Dummer (4), Carroll Campbell (5); joining late—Tracy Wyman (2)

City Council Dr. Paul Tisdale
Representation: Public None
Representation:

I. Call to Order. The 4:00 p.m.

II. December 2018 Minutes. The December 2019 meeting minutes read. Geneva made a motion to accept the minutes as read, and all accepted. Motion carried.

III. Ongoing Business

A. Action Tracking

1. Ward representatives noted progress, issues, and updates noted during the month's observations and public meeting attendance as summarized here:
2. ACTIVE Updates
 - a) Due to lack of follow-up from City Arborist in arranging a phone conference, Carroll was not able to report any updates on the items that are being monitored for mitigation compliance.
 - b) Hilton Gardens—the protective fencing has been removed from the bases of the trees at the site.
3. CLOSED Updates (4 tracked items were moved to CLOSED):
 - a) Sky Zone Trampoline bar—no tree issues apply to this item
 - b) 423 Linda Dr. – this was first brought to our attention in July, and representatives agreed this item should be removed because of lack of timeliness to take any action on it; moreover, we have agreed to pursue an education campaign for the public in the coming year before we begin pursuing having penalties or other remediation assessed in cases of code violations for individual homeowners
 - c) Sunkist trees removed on vacant lot --same thinking applies as with 423 Linda Dr.
 - d) Tullis-Toledano/Convention Center Feasibility Study--Councilmember Paul Tisdale was present, and he confirmed that the feasibility study for the convention center is underway; the City will reimburse the company conducting the feasibility study. They are looking at several properties, both publicly and privately owned.
4. NEW ITEMS ADDED FOR TRACKING
No new items added.

5. OTHER ISSUES

The Committee discussed an incident that took place Sunday afternoon, Jan. 13, 2019, near 1732 Pass Road in Biloxi's, where Perry's Caribbean Café is situated. Trees were

pruned in a way that appeared to be excessive and done without a permit—in other words, they were “substantially altered.” Brian Lamar and Carroll Campbell have captured photographic documentation of this incident. The issue has been addressed by including in the pending LDO revisions a definition of the ‘substantial alteration’ according to the ANSI A300 standards, and requirement for the City to obtain a signed work order and specifications from the Contractor when protected trees are significantly altered. Please reference item IV(A)(1) below.

- B. PR / Communications update.
No update was presented.

IV. Current Business

- A. Present LDO Revisions –Carroll provided the two hard copies of our revisions, finalized by Tracy, that she will present to Mr. Creel and CA on January 15, 2019.
 - 1. Carroll explained the addition of guidelines language that was added Monday after the incident Sunday with the trees adjacent to 1732 Pass Rd. These Guidelines have been derived directly from ANSI “Tree Pruning” Standards, Second Edition. Other than that, the revisions are as they were when they were last reviewed by the Committee.
 - 2. Sponsorship and Presentation by City Council—Paul Tisdale re-confirmed his earlier commitment to introduce our revisions to the City Council agenda; he reviewed the workshop process, which will involve input from Planning Admin, Tree Committee, and the public, and which would be an iterative, inclusive process and therefore the ideal direction for these code revisions to take.

- B. Mitigation—Please see above at item VIII.a.i.1.
A general discussion took place. The city arborist has recently noted in a public meeting the difficulty of enforcing mitigation requirements. Albeit difficult, mitigation is a valid requirement included in the Land Development Ordinance to support tree protection. The Committee discussion resulted in a significant suggestion create a fund for mitigation in lieu of, or as one of a range of options, to enforce mitigation compliance. For example, the development company pays into a fund that will cover all costs of mitigation including planting, irrigation, and maintenance of trees. This possibility should be discussed in upcoming discussions of LDO revisions with Director Creel and CA.

- C. Annual Report.
Carroll has drafted the annual report to the Mayor and City Council (as required by the LDO). Copies were disseminated to the Committee for review. All were invited to submit revisions, and the report will be finalized after the LDO/Mitigation meeting with City Arborist and Mr. Creel, scheduled for January 15th. Carroll suggested an evening City Council meeting would be best suited for its delivery, to ensure greater attendance by members of the public.

- D. Utilities Pruning Documentation Update with Photographs
Carroll presented her photographic documentation of the live oak trees on Old Bay in West Biloxi that were trimmed by Mississippi Power. The trees show adventitious growth in response to the pruning. Adventitious growth indicates that the tree is compensating for tissue lost to pruning and is not a considered a desirable outcome of tree pruning, but indicates that trauma to the tree due to excessive pruning. Carroll will continue to photograph these trees over the coming six months.

- V. Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.