

**CITY OF BILOXI
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MINUTES

February 11, 2019

Members in attendance: Robin Galle (1), Tracy Wyman (2), Matt Dubaz (3), Geneva Dummer (4), Carroll Campbell (5); Bernie Marinovich (6), Brian Lamar (7)

City Council Representation: None

Public Representation: None

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. January 2019 Minutes. The January 2019 meeting minutes were not available for approval, but will be reviewed and approved by the Committee via email.

III. Ongoing Business

A. Action Tracking

- **Current Action Items**

- 1) Waffle House @ Dukate & 90: Monitor maintenance of tree protection barriers.
- 2) Hilton Gardens: Carroll will report the absence of tree protection fencing and materials stock piling.
- 3) Fun Time: Geneva will follow-up to schedule a site visit
- 4) Pedestrian Overpass on Hwy 90 @ WW2 Monument: Carroll will report via Code Enforcement and City Arborist regarding no permit being issued or tree protection being in place.
- 5) Cedar Lake @ Old Hwy 67: Update name to "Hidden Springs". This property is currently in abeyance due to court proceeding.
- 6) Biloxi Beach RV Resort: The City has not responded to the Letter of Conflict which was issued by the Tree Committee regarding the Planning Commission's decision after Committee recommendations were made. Carroll will follow-up.
- 7) Faler Property (aka/ End of Oaklawn Ln of Ex 41): Brian Lamar followed up w/ Nathan Barrett in November, and in mid-December with City Arborist. Carroll will verify the July 5 hearing date.
- 8) Treasure Bay Casino: Tracy will verify whether a permit was issued for tree removal.

- **Added to Action Tracking**

- 1) Benachi: The drainage work on this street has begun; monitor for proper tree protection.
- 2) Jackson Graves: A large Magnolia was removed. Brian Lamar to report to City Arborist and code enforcement.
- 3) Bertucci Development: Watch for appearance on DRC agenda and mitigation adherence.

- **Closed Cases**

- 1) 2535 & 2529 Bay Vista; 2489 Provence: Reportedly, trees were downed without proper permitting. This will be addressed through future public relations & education.

- 2) Savannah Place: Closed 2/11/19 (recommendations were previously made to the Planning Commission, partially approving Tree Committee recommendations.
- 3) Hyatt Place Property next to the cemetery: Moved to long-term for monitoring of health of mitigation trees during establishment period.

- **Long-Term Tracking**

- 1) Caterpillar Development Center
Councilperson Barrett confirmed Ward 7 desires the mitigation trees for this site be planted at the Community Center.

B. PR / Communications update

The Tree Committee was represented on Super Talk MS on 2/6/2019, with favorable response, and will reengage them when there is a news item. Ideas were discussed as to future public relations opportunities. In a recent meeting Jerry Creel offered that the City could create Tree Permit / Tree Protection Video that would require annual viewing by Contractors. Brian Lamar suggested the Tree Committee Chair present an upcoming Lyons Club or Biloxi Rotary meeting.

IV. Current Business

A. Proper protocol for reporting Tree Protection issues was reiterated.

- 1) Report via email to City Arborist (State address, and ask if he's aware of the situation). Each Tree Committee Member has the clearance to do this. Follow-up is the responsibility of the person who reported the issue.
- 2) If truly a code enforcement issue, report to Code Enforcement @ 435-0841. This ensures the issue goes on public record, and that the existing plan for correction is set in motion.

B. Outcomes of January 18 Meeting and LDO review with City Arborist (CA) and Director, Community Development (Director).

Tree Committee members present: Carroll Campbell, Bernie Marionvich, Tracy Wyman

a) LDO Review. Together with the Tree Committee, the Director and CA thoroughly reviewed the TC's suggestions to the LDO, line by line, with the following comments:

- 1) Regarding the TC's role in a City Beautification Plan (required by the LDO), the Director and CA suggested the LDO should include verbiage in support of a Beautification Crew, so that as a city beautification plan is developed, there is also a system in place for its maintenance. Additionally, the Director and CA stated there may be opportunity for the Tree Committee work with City and the Grant Committee to secure a Forest Commission grant for the development of a Comprehensive Beautification Plan that would create a distinct landscape at gateways into Biloxi. The planning grant would allow for: mapping of target locations, schematic landscape design with plant lists, maintenance guidelines, and a phasing plan to prioritize sites for implementation as dollars become available.
- 2) Approaches to Mitigation tracking will be further explored by CA, including how mitigation could be tracked through using software such as Munice, City Works, or possibly GeoPlanet.
- 3) In regards to the TC's *Suggestions Native Trees for Replanting/Mitigation*, the CA suggested that the list also note those which are most commercially available.
- 4) The Director and CA agreed the existing LDO verbiage as it relates to Tree Protection is too complex, requiring a reader to visit many places in the LDO to understand the laws, and it must be simplified while also protecting our

trees. The CA will take the proposed recommendations and develop the draft of proposed revisions.

b) Other items discussed:

- 1) Director reiterated Tree Committee's role as advisory and not a 'policing' role which would be inappropriate. TC representatives ensured that it reiterates proper protocol for addressing issues in each meeting. Proper protocol is to contact City Arborist and Code Enforcement, since addressing the issues is the job of the City. The Director asked to be copied on all inquiries to City Arborist regarding compliance issues.
- 2) City Arborist is to send the Tree Committee a report of all permits issued to date.

c) A follow-up meeting is set with City Arborist Eric Nolan for February 15 at 10am regarding the following:

- 1) Discuss his progress on establishing a mitigation system and how it would be integrated with Munice, City Works, or possible GeoPlanet
- 2) Develop/approve criteria for mitigation tree sites
- 3) Refine list of approved mitigation sites
- 4) Discuss mitigation bank language and how to set this up
- 5) Verify what mitigation has occurred to date
- 6) Review/get input on species list and what is commercially available

C. LDO Revisions-

The committee discussed next steps which would include presentation to Planning Commission for workshop.

D. Mitigation- A list of sites, and mitigation tracking ideas was discussed (i.e., mitigation bank/trust fund, other options)

E. Majestic Tree Program- The committee discussed designating a sub-committee, creating an application, and creating & mapping of designations. No sub-committee was appointed.

F. Beautification plan was discussed as reported above in the meeting with Director and City Arborist.

G. Annual Tree Committee Report to City Council

The Tree Committee compiled its annual report and reported to the City Council on February 5, 2019. The Director of Community Development was surprised by this report, which led to some less-than-favorable press.

V. Meeting Adjourned: Estimated at 5:45 p.m.