

**CITY OF BILOXI
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MINUTES

June 10, 2019

Members in attendance: Robin Galle (1), Tracy Wyman (2), Carroll Campbell (5)

City Council Representation: None

Public Representation: Sherri Munter, Deanne Stephens, Mary Kinney

- I. Call to Order 4:00 p.m.
- II. Minutes: Minutes for February, March and April minutes were available for all present. Members will review and respond with approval or comments via email. May minutes were approved as read.
- III. Public Comment: Each of the citizens present at the meeting shared their concerns as related to tree protection in the City of Biloxi, strongly advocating for more tree conservation in the City.
 - A. Sherri Munter: Spoke regarding the Majestic Oaks RV Park, and questioned why trees are coming down without specific plans. She would like to see as much actual tree conservation on this property as possible.
 - B. Deanne Stephens: Spoke regarding her experience at a recent City Council meeting. She expressed she does not feel there is enough time allowed in public meetings for community members to give voice. Overall, she is trying to express her concerns over the City's general practices of development which she feels do not seem to responsibly blend economic development with natural resource protection.
 - C. Mary Kinney: Participated in the general conversation and spoke about the need for the City to prioritize protection of trees as it considers development plans. Additionally, her husband has contacted his Ward's Tree Committee Member in the past regarding potential issues, and has not received responses on any occasion.
 - D. Tree Committee Response: Chair, Carroll Campbell explained that the Tree Committee is an advisory committee, advising the City on citizen perspectives that align with the LDO in regards to Tree Protection. The Chair of the Tree Committee further advised that citizens should persist in attendance at public meetings, speaking up, and even contacting the City Council, Director of Community Development, and the Mayor when they have concerns. The Tree Committee members commit to follow-up with all citizen inquiries, and regret this was not done in the case mentioned above. Chair, Carroll Campbell will see that all members are aware of this concern, and that a practice of follow-up is upheld heretofore. Additionally, a discussion ensued regarding how citizens can assist the Tree Committee and the following ideas were mentioned:
 - 1) Call your TC Ward representative if you see tree protection concerns. The TC will look into each issue with the City Arborist, and let the citizen know what was learned, and the outcome.
 - 2) Members at Large: Carroll suggested the TC develop a Member at Large position, for those citizens who would like to help regarding tree protection. Members at Large would attend TC meetings, though without voting, learn what's in the ordinance and city processes so they can act as support with further TC activities. They could possibly find someone to

attend City Council meetings, as we have never had anyone on TC who could regularly do that, and possibly be able to hit ground running if one of us has to step down. This may also be a means to increase community engagement.

- 3) The TC will make a suggestion to the City to provide a means for greater public input when it becomes apparent that not enough time will suffice for all community input (i.e., web link, special meeting, etc.).

IV. Ongoing Business

- A. Action Tracking
 - Updates: None.
 - New Items: Beach Blvd RV Park Mitigation added to Long-Term Tracking
- B. Site Visits & Recommendations
 - Bertucci: To be scheduled
 - Fun Time: To be scheduled
 - Majestic Oaks RV Park. Site visit occurred. TC made recommendations. PC approved application and TC recommendations. Developer stated that he was planning to mitigate as required by the LDO with 450 trees on site. The Tree Committee will track this process.
- C. PR / Communications update
 - Criteria for Facebook Page - no progress to date.
 - Presentations: Chair, Carroll Campbell presented to the Lyons Club in May with favorable response from those in attendance. Topics included the progress the Committee has made thus far, and how citizens can become involved.

VI. Current Business

- A. Open Positions: Carroll Campbell had asked to step down as Chair, but as rescinded this request and will remain in this position for the time being.
Brian Lamar (Ward 7) and Bernie Marinovich (Ward 7) have stepped down as Tree Committee Members. Their service is greatly appreciated, and replacements will be sought immediately through B-Mail, Emails and calls to the Ward 6 and & Councilpersons, and to the Mayor.
- B. Update: Mitigation / LDO Meeting with City Arborist
The Tree Committee reviewed CA notes from March 2019 meeting, and came up with several points which need further work/discussion. The Committee will schedule a meeting with the City Arborist to work collaborative to refine/details and direction of mitigation and discuss progress and status of draft to LDO revisions.
- D. Update: Brochure for use in DRC and Planning Commission. Tree Committee will follow up on approval of these, and have printed within the month for member's use in DRC meetings.
- E. Update: Planting live oak saplings at Barhonovich Park. Robin will contact CA to discuss the potential within the week, and report back.

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.