

**CITY OF BILOXI
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

MINUTES

July 8, 2019

Members in attendance—Robin Rodolfich (1); Geneva Dummer (4); Chair Carroll Campbell (5)

No members of the public were present, nor any Biloxi officials.

I. Call to Order 4:10 p.m.

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes for Past Meetings— Minutes were approved as read.

III. Hancock County Tree Live Oak Tree Registration – Robin volunteered to contact Hancock County regarding their Live Oak Tree Registration Program. Geneva suggested we need a professional to identify the tree proposed for registration. Possibly the Cooperative Extension Service can assist with this, a Master Naturalist knowledgeable in tree species, or the City Arborist.

IV. Ongoing Business:

a. Action Tracking—Those present reviewed Action Tracker.

- i. Pedestrian Overpass at Santa Maria can be moved to closed.
- ii. Bertucci—our letter/memo on this project was presented to City Arborist Eric Nolan at DRC. It is attached as an addendum to these minutes
- iii. Carroll agreed to discuss mitigation related matters with the City Arborist on her next phone call with him. (e.g. Hyatt Place, Cedar Lake Circle K).

b. Site Visits and Recommendations:

- i. **Bertucci and Fun Time --** Carroll and Tracy have each contacted Eric by email about setting up site visits, but no response has been received to date. Carroll agreed to contact him again by phone.
- ii. **Majestic Oaks RV Park —**Carroll raised the point there was no site plan for this project. Carroll noted that the felled trees she and Tracy had observed when they visited following the start of tree removal did not appear to be water oaks (*Quercus nigra*), though they agreed they were oaks of some kind. Still, as oaks, they are protected, and mitigation is required by ordinance to be put into place for them. Agreed by those present the City needs accuracy regarding tree species in a tree inventory.

c. PR/Communication Update

- **FB page—** Whereas earlier it was understood that Tree Committee would manage a Tree Committee / City Tree Facebook page, it now appears that there is a preference that Tree Committee matters be posted on the City's main FB page. Geneva and Vincent Creel have discussed this possibility; she is still waiting for follow-up from him on

this. This matter presents some questions: If all questions/conflicts go to Public Relations regardless of what page they will appear on, why not have all tree items go on the City Page? Does the City want us to handle FB trolls to relieve them of that responsibility? If the City publishes tree items on City FB page, who handles basic questions related to trees when residents send them via FB?

- **Education** – agreed we should expand our own education role (in cooperation with and approval by the City Arborist), and this is something we can turn more attention to now that progress is being made on mitigation issues and revisions to the land development ordinance.

V. Current Business:

- a. **Open Tree Committee Positions**—Geneva has asked Beau Blaylock with Gulf Coast Produce if he is interested in representing Ward 6. She has also talked to Donny Handler of Train Air Conditioning regarding Ward 7. No other members present had information to provide on interest or possible candidates.

Carroll will reach out to Ward 6 and 7 council members again to ask for recommendations.

- b. **6/24/2019 meeting with City Arborist and Director of Community Development.** Meeting highlights are attached as Addendum 2.

- c. Brochure for use in DRC and Planning Commission. Neither Tracy nor Carroll have heard back from the City Arborist or Director of Community Development on whether the Tree Committee can begin using the brochure to guide DRC meetings as it relates to tree protection.

- d. Could not agree on who will draft Semi-annual report. Those present discussed the possibility of dividing it into portions.

- e. **Live-oak saplings at Barhonovich Park**—Robin has talked with the City Arborist who advised it is currently too hot to plant. Robin says Councilman Lawrence wants to cut all trees and create a soccer field at the site.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.