

CITY OF BILOXI

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

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

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2019

I. Call to Order 4:12 p.m.

Members present: Robin Rodolfich (1) via phone, Tracy Wyman (2), Geneva Dummer (4); Carroll Campbell (5)

Public Representation: Beau Blalock

II. Minutes. The August 2019 minutes were approved as presented.

III. Public Comment: Beau Blalock expressed his interest in serving on the Tree Committee, representing Ward 6. The Committee will ask Councilperson Kenny Glavin to nominate him for the position, as per LDO.

IV. Ongoing Business

A. Action Tracking (10 minutes)

Updates:

- Waffle House on Dukate moved to CLOSED. Project is complete and no mitigation required;
- Hilton Gardens moved to LONG TERM TRACKING, awaiting mitigation;
- Blake Assisted living moved to LONG TERM TRACKING, awaiting mitigation;
- Pedestrian Bridge on Hwy 90 at WWII Monument moved to CLOSED. Project is complete and Committee recommendations were accepted;
- Biloxi Beach RV moved to LONG TERM TRACKING, awaiting mitigation;
- Benachi Improper Trimming. Public Education & Replanting Needed.

Action/Inquiry Required by Committee:

- Eagle Point- Clear cutting. No permit issued;
- Irish Hill Saplings: Need attention;
- Jack Hill & Jim Boyd Roads: Confirm permit was issued;
- Treasure Bay: No tree inventory. Confirm mitigation plan. Trees removed beyond scope of permit.

New Items:

- Beach Vista Apartments, 133 Briarfield Ave #2019-040
1110J-02-123.000, 1110J - 0121.000 Frank Zhang
WATCH for appearance on Planning Commission Agenda for Tree Hearing
- Comfort Inn/choice Hotels, 1746 Beach Blvd., Terry Moran, #2018-064
2 Live Oaks are permitted for removal; 6 valued species required for mitigation.
WATCH for mitigation.
- Pass Rd. Iberville LLL DBA Storage Choice Biloxi, 289 Iberville Dr; Tom Henry, # 2019-038
4 protected trees are permitted for removal; 12 valued species required for mitigation.
WATCH for mitigation.

B. Site Visits & Recommendations

- Bertucci: Site visit will occur after tree inventory is complete.
Fun Time. Project on hold (remove).
Beach Blvd RV Park. Project Complete (remove).
- Woolmarket Community Center. Possible site for tree planting. Discuss with CA to consider adding to Biloxi mitigation site list.

C. PR / Communications

- 1) Robin Rodolfich reported she will seek opportunities for professionals such as Dr. Gary Bachman (MSU Extension) to publish articles in Biloxi Newsletter related to tree conservation.
- 2) Developing and Education Program.
Robin Rodolfich, has agreed to serve as Chair of Education and Public Relations

VI. Current Business

A. Open Positions: Tree Committee Chair, and Wards 6 & 7 Representative

Carroll talked to Council members Barrett and Glavin this afternoon. Councilperson Glavin will ask Mike Leonard to help solicit for these open positions. Carroll will follow-up. Beau Blalock, in attendance, is interested in serving on behalf of Ward 6. Carroll will assist with the proper nominations according to the LDO.

B. Mitigation Tracking & LDO Progress.

Mitigation and replanting of required trees is not occurring, and/or is not tracked in a way that can ensure timely replanting of required species. The Committee is working in cooperation with the City to establish reliable mitigation tracking, and will meet with the CA on 9/13/2019 to continue this conversation which has been ongoing since June 2018. LDO verbiage, based on the Committee's proposed changes submitted in February 2019, is pending draft by CA.

C. Brochure for use in DRC and Planning Commission meetings is now printed and will be used effective immediately.

D. The Committee's semi-annual report has been postponed to give time for issues with mitigation to be addressed. The report is now scheduled for presentation on October 12, 2019.

E. Committee Member Needed: Responsible to log permits & mitigation requirements. This topic is tabled until next meeting.

F. Majestic Tree Program.

Geneva Dummer agreed to serve in this position which will include writing guidelines, getting Committee and City approval, and implementation/oversight of program.

G. City Beautification Program.

Tracy Wyman agreed to serve as Chair City Beautification, which will include research of similar programs in other Cities, and recommendations to City.

VII. Meeting Adjourned: Estimated at 5:30 p.m.