

CITY OF BILOXI

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

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

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 10, 2020

- I. Call to Order 4:12 p.m.
Members present: Tracy Wyman (2), Geneva Dummer (4); Carroll Campbell (5); Beau Blalock (6); Pam Barlow (7). Robin Rodolfich (1) joined by phone.

Members at Large: Bertha Henry and Liz Garrido
- II. Minutes. There was no January meeting. Minutes of the December 2019 meeting were read and approved as read (Motion by Beau; 2nd by Geneva).
- III. Public Comment:
Carroll briefed the public 'members at large' attendees on the Tree Committee's general role as well as recent activities.

Bertha Henry and Liz Garrido were in attendance and shared their concerns about unpermitted pruning / removal of trees done by Adams' Contractors at Emerald Lakes in Wool market. The citizens brought images which were evidence of tree mutilating and which do not comply with either ANSI standards or City of Biloxi Land Development Ordinance. They had contacted the City Arborist who agreed that no permit had been sought or issued regarding the removal or significant pruning of protected trees in this subdivision. Additionally, the citizens had collected over 75 signatures of neighbors (approximately 95% of the neighborhood) advocating that this practice be stopped. The citizens were advised by the Tree Committee to alert their City Councilperson Nathan Barrett, and take the matter before City Council which would meet on the following day. Additionally, the Committee, alerted the City Arborist of their concerns and that these citizens would be present to give voice to the matter at the City Council meeting.

- IV. Ongoing Business
 - A. Action Tracking
 - Updates were made as follows:
 - B. Site Visits & Recommendations
 - Bertucci Property: a complete tree survey was provided to DRC and the site visit was completed. Recommendation were presented to the Planning Commission on January 16.
 - A site visit is scheduled for Big Play Go Kart Track for February 13.

Site Visits still outstanding, and to be scheduled in February:

- Woolmarket Community Center
- Pringle Ave Self Storage (verify only non-protected trees are slated for removal)
- Hawkins Development / People Plaza Retail Strip
- People's Plaza Retail Strip (Verify trees to be saved / removed)

- Beach Vista Apartments, 133 Briarfield Avenue

Issues requiring follow-up with City Arborist:

- Eagle Point (Trees were cut for a subdivision; no TC oversight occurred. CA has agreed to investigate. Reportedly, the developer has agreed to replant some trees. Specifics are needed.)

C. Committee Reports

- PR / Communications (Robin Rodolfich)
Robin talked with Gary Bachman and he is likely interested in helping develop some education videos. Some topics of interest and importance for public education include:
 - 1) Proper Pruning of Live Oaks
 - 2) Basic Tree ID—*The Top 5*

Carroll and Robin will meet to move this process forward.

- Majestic Tree Program (Geneva Dummer)
An outline for the program was presented and discussed. Items to be researched further include what trees may exist that already have this designation, and what the Biloxi Garden Club may be doing in these efforts. It was emphasized that trees receiving “Majestic” designation should require additional approvals if they are ever to be considered to be permitted for removal. The Committee has already recommended this be included in revisions to the LDO verbiage. The findings and outline will be presented to the City Arborist and Director of Community Development at our next meeting with them.
- City Beautification Program (Tracy Wyman)
The Committee continued to add points of interest for the City Beautification Program to the Ward Map. Tracy will compile a report of recommendations to the City, to be reviewed in draft to the Committee at our next meeting, and presented to the City Arborist and Director of Community Development at our next meeting with them.
- Permit Tracking (Beau Blalock)
Beau continues to track all tree permits which the TC has been advised of on a spreadsheet. These will be compared with the end of period tree permit report produced by the City Arborist. This process just helps us be sure that we are aware of all tree permits, and that all removals or significant pruning requests are accounted for.

VI. Current Business (25 minutes)

- A. Mitigation Tracking
- B. LDO Progress—the Tree Committee’s response to the City Arborist’s recommended verbiage changes has not yet been drafted. This will need to happen this month, and will need to be taken to the City for discussion.
- C. Semi-Annual Report Due: It is time to compile our semi-annual report. The Committee will divide the work as follows:
 - 1) Tracy – Mitigation Tracking Report Update
 - 2) Carroll—General Report Notes
 - 3) Beau—Request Tree Permit Summary (Aug 1, 2019 – Jan 31, 2020) from City Arborist; compare with ongoing permit tracking records; reconcile differences.

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