

CITY OF BILOXI

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: ZOOM Meeting.

MINUTES JUNE 8, 2020

NOTE: The April and May meetings were missed due to our adjusting to a new normal. Until further notice, all meetings will once again take place on the 2nd Monday of each month at 4pm. Meetings will be via WebEx or Zoom until further notice.

- I. Call to Order 4:05 p.m.
Members present via Zoom: Tracy Wyman (2), Geneva Dummer (4); Carroll Campbell (5); Robin Rodolfich (1).
- II. Minutes. The March 2020 meeting minutes were not ready for viewing. They will be made ready with the June minutes for all to review via email. April and May meetings did not occur due to recommended social distancing practices during the pandemic.
- III. Public Comment. No members of the public were present.
- IV. Ongoing Business
 - A. Action Tracking
 - 1) Updates:
 - a) Big Play is experiencing intermittent tree protection infractions, noted by Carroll. She has reached out to the CA and will follow-up.
 - b) The action tracking spreadsheet will go out via email for all members to update.
 - c) Follow-up is needed regarding the unauthorized tree removals and tree damage at Emerald Subdivision in Woolmarket which citizens brought to our attention in February.
 - 2) New Items
 - a) Lafayette Trees Damaged in recent storm. After back and forth correspondence, the City is bringing in an outside consultant / certified arborist to determine if these trees were damaged due to construction practices. The trees are on State property, and thus not the City's liability, but the City is hiring the consultant. Geneva will follow-up with the City Arborist on the progress.
 - B. Site Visits & Recommendations
 - 1) The following site visits were scheduled for March 10 and cancelled. Geneva will reschedule. The City Arborist does not need to be present for these visits, and they should all be scheduled together.
 - a) Woolmarket Community Center - Report
 - b) Pringle Ave Self Storage - Report
 - c) People's Plaza Retail Strip – Report
 - C. Outstanding Issues Requiring Follow-Up
 - 1) Eagle Point (pending CA investigation, based on August 31, 2019 report to City Council)
 - 2) Hilton Gardens (mitigation past due, based on August 31, 2019 report to City Council)
 - 3) Woolmarket, Emerald Lakes / Tree Mutilation (Mitigation status update is needed).
 - 4) Beach Vista Apartments: It was stated in DCR that no tree issues exist for this site; however it appears trees are on this site and will be impacted. Follow-up needed.
 - 5) Hidden Springs: Follow-up needed.
 - 6) Faler property: Follow-up needed.

D. Committee Reports

1) PR / Communications (Robin Rodolfich)

No progress to since the February Report. Outstanding actions needed include:

- a) Carroll and Robin meet to create a 4-6 month outline of materials to be produced and disseminated. Ideas include *Proper Pruning of Live Oaks*, *Basic Tree ID—The Top 5*, *Right Tree Right Place*, coinciding with video clips from Gary Bachman disseminated through the City's PR department and Vincent Creel.
- b) Carrol and Robin have agreed to meet next week.

Robin will report to the Committee on this progress by June 15.

2) Majestic Tree Program (Geneva Dummer)

No progress since the February Report. Geneva will follow-up with parties identified in the Majestic Tree Program that she presented in February including:

- a) Societe Des Arbres contact, Mary Westfall to obtain the list of current registered tree in Biloxi.
- b) Eric Nolan, City Arborist to obtain an outdated list of registered trees.
- c) MSU Master Gardeners Program Director to determine if there is a Master Gardener who would like to take this volunteer project on.
- d) MSU Master Naturalist Director to determine if there is a Master Gardener who would like to take this volunteer project on.

Geneva will report to the Committee on this progress by June 15.

Tracy will submit her 'majestic tree' via the Societe Des Arbres application process to see how the process works, and how well it works.

3) City Beautification Program (Tracy Wyman)

No progress since the February Report. Outstanding Actions include:

- a) Prepare/present a compiled 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.

Tracy will report to the Committee on this progress by June 15.

VI. Current Business (25 minutes)

- A. Carrol and Beau have each completed their portion of the February 2020 Tree committee Report. Tracy will complete her portion (mitigation tracking and report compilation), and submit to the Committee and to the City Arborist and Director of Community Development by June 15. Pending any recommended revisions, the report will be read at the City Council meeting following final approvals.

TC will move forward with planning the next report to go through August 2020.

- B. Mitigation Tracking- no report, no progress.
- C. LDO – Tracy will back-track / follow-up and determine where we left off with this and the next steps, reporting back to the Committee by June 15.

VII. Meeting Adjourned at 5:18 p.m.