

# CITY OF BILOXI TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: ZOOM Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81836319920>

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## MINUTES JULY 13, 2020

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***NOTE: All meetings will take place via Zoom until further notice.***

- I. Call to Order 4:00 p.m.
- II. Members present via Zoom: Tracy Wyman (2), Geneva Dummer (4); Carroll Campbell (5); Robin Rodolfich (1).
- III. Minutes. April and June 2020 minutes were approved as read. Geneva motioned for approval; Carrol second the motion.
- III. Public Comment. None.
- IV. Ongoing Business
  - A. Action Tracking Updates. Geneva Dummer made follow-up with CA to discuss several properties. Action required is noted on the Action Tracker, with the following properties needing prioritization:
    - Eagle Point. Based on the August 2019 report to City Council, the City Arborist is to investigate the tree concerns with this property, which included no tree permitting, and no record of number of trees removed, size or species. Upon investigation, the City Arborist reports that the Developer believes all trees removed were under 14” and not in the ‘protected species’ status. With no record of size, species or # of trees removed, there was no mitigation requirement. No fines were assessed.  
**ACTION REQUIRED: The Tree Committee believes this case should go to court. Developers are well aware of the law in terms of providing the City with site plans that include tree removal plans.**
    - Hilton Gardens. CA reports that this project is complete and mitigation records have been met.  
**ACTION REQUIRED: TC will record the mitigation species and # when this information is learned.**
    - Emerald Lakes. CA reports that “because it was the first time that the Contractor used this subcontractor, this case was used as a learning experience. The permit for that lot has been issued. Two trees in the center of the site have to be taken but 4 will remain on the perimeter.  
**ACTION REQUIRED: The Tree Committee will request mitigation for the trees to be removed.**

- 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.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Follow-up needed.

- Hidden Springs: CA reports that it is believed that Phase 1 (22 lots) is complete, with no recent movement. TC records shows DRC requested a full site plan.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Status report needed as to updated site plan, and whether mitigation is required.

- Husley Property: CA doesn't recall this property; TC recalls making recommendation and is inquiring as to whether recommendations were followed.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Requires follow-up.

B. Site Visits & Recommendations to be scheduled for Tree Committee:

- Woolmarket Community Center
- Pringle Ave Self Storage
- People's Plaza Retail Strip

C. Committee Reports (15 minutes)

- PR / Communications. Carrol Campbell reported for Robin Rodolfich and presented a 6-month plan for public relations to be coordinated with the City Arborist. The plan is to publish a series of short education articles for the B-News on the following the topics: *Oak Tree Identification, Tree Removal Permits, Native Species Suitable for Urban and Suburban Environments on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and Ecological Benefits of Urban Trees*. Additional topics may include: *Right Tree Right Place, and Proper Tree Planting and Pruning*.
- Majestic Tree Program. Geneva Dummer reported that one Societe' des Arbres' application was submitted and went through the process to receive a certificate of designation in less than 30 days. In addition to the Societe' designation, Geneva will draft a digital application to identify these applicant trees as "Biloxi Majestic Trees".
- City Beautification Program. Tracy Wyman reported that no progress has been made.

V. Current Business

- A. Mitigation Report. Tracy is working on gathering information for the mitigation report, and will compile this report with the activities of the reporting period submitted by Carroll, and the tree permits records submitted by Beau Blalock. This report will represent August 1, 2019 through March 30, 2020.
- B. LDO Progress. Tracy will discuss with the City Arborist to understand the status on changes to the LDO verbiage.

VI. Meeting Adjourned: Estimated at 5:00 p.m.