

CITY OF BILOXI

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING (TC) JULY 12, 2021

Location: Community Development Building, 676 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Biloxi MS 39530.

Meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month, 3:30-4:30pm, in the large conference room

Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81836319920>

- I Meeting was called to order at 3:35pm

Members present Robin Lang (1); Matthew Dubaz (3); Susan Peterson (4); Carroll Campbell (5) Vice Chair; Pam Barlow (7); Tracy Wyman (ex-officio)
- II June minutes were read and approved with changes. Matt Dubaz motioned to approve and Pam Barlow 2nd.
- III Public Comment: No public comment. We did have a visitor, Jayden Evens, who is a member of the Boy Scouts of America, 2nd class, troop 122. He is attending Community Development meetings to achieve his merit badge in Community Service. Welcome Jayden!
- IV Ongoing business
 1. Action Tracker. The Bertucci project was added to the tracking. The property development needs a tree survey and a tree hearing. There are 122 protected trees the developers are asking to remove. A site visit will be planned before the tree hearing occurs. Tracy will arrange this site visit.
 2. Susan Peterson, ward 4, was officially welcomed. All positions are now filled.
 3. Tracy Wyman, in leu of Ward 2 position already being filled was made ex officio Chair. This was agreed to by the TC and Jerry Creel.
 4. Carroll Campbell was official recognized as Vice Chair
 5. Site Visits and recommendations:
 - A. TC made recommendations to Planning Commission on June 17, 2021 regarding trees at Reserve At Parkers Creek. Eric Nolan, City Arborist, presented the recommendations. The Planning Commission accepted the TC recommendations.
 - B. The clear cutting at West Oaklawn/Shorecrest: Tracy will resend all the documents to the Mayor, Director of Community Development, and City Arborist. Robert Harenski, Atty for City of Biloxi Community Court will be copied.

6. LDO, Land Development Ordinance; We are regrouping with the City Arborist, Eric Nolan and Director of Community Development, Jerry Creel, to discuss the proposed changes to the ordinance. The meetings have been postponed due to issues with Covid etc. We are ready to get back on track with this matter.
7. We are waiting on the publication of Carroll Campbell's article on removal of trees in the August B-News. After publication we will follow-up with Eric Nolan and Vincent Creel regarding the creation of an educational video that will possibly be required viewing of all Contractors.
 1. Majestic Tree program: Marion Andrews with the Naturalist Program would like to start volunteering starting in October
 2. New tree committee members that would like to have more of an active role in the workings of the committee, please just speak up and let us know. We all need to share the load.
 3. Biloxi Tree Mapping Inventory; We need a grant and Carroll Campbell volunteered to help write it. Eric Nolan will be invited to next meeting in order to discuss how to achieve this goal.
 4. John Barrett, Sierra Club member will be invited to next meeting to discuss his role in trying to eradicate Popcorn trees, which is an invasive species.
 5. At the last Planning Commission meeting, the Audubon Society did a presentation about the Least Tern Nesting Areas. Carroll Campbell suggested doing a similar presentation pertaining to low impact wetlands/watersheds and the impact of trees in watershed protection and erosion control.
 6. Carroll Campbell also suggested that, after we pull together the Majestic Tree program, having someone from TC making a presentation, 5 or 10 minutes, to the Planning Commission.
 7. We would like to invite Atty Robert Harenski, Atty for City of Biloxi Community Court, to our October meeting to discuss how this new legal action will be implemented.

VI Meeting adjourned at 4:55pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Robin Lang, Secretary, Biloxi Tree Committee