

CITY OF BILOXI TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Time / Location: 2nd Monday of each month; 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Community Development Building, Location TBD
676 Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Biloxi, MS 39530

MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2022

I. The meeting was called to Order at 3:40 p.m.

Members present: Tracy Wyman (ex officio member Chair); Shirley Robinson (2); Susan Peterson (4); Carroll Campbell

II. Public Comment: None.

III. February 2022 minutes were approved with minor edits.

V. Ongoing Business

A. Action Tracking:

- The following properties were added:
 - Gas Station @ DuBuys & Hwy 90 (Watch for DRC or Planning Commission)
 - Caillavet Housing (Watch for DRC or Planning Commission)
 - Magnolia Subdivision (Shorecrest @ Boyette- Watch for tree survey and Planning Commission scheduling).
- No properties were moved to “closed” or “mitigation tracking” this period.

B. Site Visits & Recommendations

- There following site visits and recommendations to the Planning Commission occurred during this period:
 - March 2022:
 - 22 0315 Aqua Suites

D. Committee Reports

- PR / Communications (Carroll Campbell and Robin Lang) – Carroll Campbell Prepared two articles for publication in the City of Biloxi Newsletter: a) Beyond Live Oaks, parts 1 and 2. Tracy will prepare an article on changes to the LDO.

No articles recently submitted have been published due to other priorities for the Newsletter, according to Vincent Creel. He promised to publish the articles as soon as possible. The Committee agreed to prioritize the LDO updates article, so that article will appear before the other two (due to revisions just being enacted as of March 1.

- Majestic Tree Program – (Tracy). Tracy shared the Majestic Tree Program Step-By-Step Guide which will be presented to City Council and Planning Commission.

Christine Davis has agreed to present the information to these groups, with the first being on June 7 at 6pm before City Council at City Hall. Everyone that can, should attend this meeting.

Tracy will begin preparing visuals for this presentation, including a brochure.

Tracy suggested that every tree committee member become an expert at the process so that we can each advocate for citizens to apply for majestic tree status.

The step-by-step guide will be emailed to every member this week. All members should practice the steps on a tree convenient for them. Basically, the Société Des Arbres (Society of Trees) designation is the first step in the process is complicated. Please practice going through those instructions as if you were applying for designation. Once members can do that, we will then have the confidence to walk our friends and neighbors through the same process.

- City Beautification Program (Tracy Wyman) – Tracy will inquire with the City about this document this month.
- The following members attended DRC and/or Planning Commission meetings this period, on behalf of the Committee: Matt Dubaz, Shirley Robinson, and Robin Lang. Thank you!!

VI. Outstanding Issues

- A. Oaklawn Recommendation was ignored by the City, after two Letters of Recommendations. The City Arborist explained to Tracy that unless someone actually has video footage of trees being removed, that it will not hold up in court. The group agreed this is not true, and Carroll also reminded the group that Mary Kinney HAS video footage of this event. Tracy will draft another letter of recommendation to the City.

Carroll will reach out to the Kinney's once again to attempt to obtain a copy of the video footage.

- B. Allenwood Drive, insufficient tree permit process—Tracy will inquire with CA.

VII. Current Business

- A. Tracy will reach out to the Community Court judge, Judge Harenski, to see if he would speak at an upcoming meeting.
- B. Since we missed the opportunity to be involved with Arbor Day this year (Feb 2022), we will try and find an opportunity for involvement at Earth Day. Carroll Campell will contact Sherri Bell (Parks & Rec) to see about potential opportunities.
- C. Pam Barlow has been updating the Tree Permits for near one year now, as per the emails received from Eric. The Committee believes this is an important task for everyone on the committee to share in. We are looking for a member to take over this task for approximately 6 months. It requires a computer, and can be learned by anyone.
- D. Carroll suggested reestablishing the practice of inviting a Council member to our regular meetings. We'll discuss how to incorporate this at our next meeting, but if anyone would like to volunteer to invite their council person to the May or June meeting it would be great.

Please coordinate with Tracy since we're also inviting Judge Harenski, and we don't want to double up.

- E. Mitigation has been occurring at St. Mary's Park. Tracy will inquire with the City Arborist as to whether irrigation is provided for the establishment period, and she will add this location to our list of approved Mitigation Locations.

- F. It is past time for the Tree Committee to give report to City Council. Tracy will get the data from the City Arborist and reconcile that report with our records. Tracy will compile the overall report. Carroll will prepare the narrative, building on the established framework.

- G. Mitigation Tracking requires a status report on several properties. Tracy will meet with Eric this month to assure we have updates on every property, and to assess the likelihood of the mitigation tracking meeting the new provisions of the LDO (i.e., GPS coordinates, species, date of planting, tracking for 3 years, etc.)

VIII. Meeting Adjourned: 4:25 p.m.