

CITY OF BILOXI TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Time / Location: Community Development Conference Room
3:30 – 4:30 pm

MINUTES **MAY 09, 2023**

- I. The meeting was called to Order at 3:30 p.m.
 - Members present: Tracy Wyman (ex officio member Chair); Shirley Robinson (2); Susan Peterson (4)
 - City Council or Staff present: Zack Harris, City Arborist
- II. Public Comment: No members of the public were present.
- III. April 2023 minutes were read, and approved with minor revisions.
- IV. City Arborist Comments.
 - A. CA reported on his May 2023 updates to the Tree Permit Application:
 - Expanded information for developers and property owners on qualified tree professionals and how to select one;
 - Further clarification on proper and improper pruning techniques such as ‘lion tailing’ of Live Oaks.
 - Now includes ‘application date’ and requires an applicant email address.
 - Now includes a box for DENIED applications, as well as those approved.
 - B. CA reviewed the Committee’s current Mitigation Tracking Spreadsheet and together we were able to make several updates on projects 3/17/2022 to the present.
 - C. Ongoing Business
 - A. Action Tracking:
 - No projects were updated, added, or closed this period.
 - One project was added to Mitigation Tracking:
 - Tullis Property, pending mitigation decision.
 - B. Site Visits & Recommendations
 - 2023_TR-23-003_Anderson Construction Self Storage (Cedar Lake and Old Hwy 67) which included the removal of 6 protected trees and one protected cluster as follows:

1 Live Oaks (Qty)/DBH	1 S.Magnolia (Qty)/DBH	1 Gum Tree Cluster (Qty)/DBH
(1) 36"	(2) 12"	(1) 48"
	(1) 10"	
	(2) 8"	

The Tree Committee approved the proposed removals with a 2:1 mitigation requirement.

C. Committee Reports

- PR / Communications – Tracy will prepare an article *“The Communities Role in Public Meetings: Your Opportunity to be Heard”*.
- Majestic Tree Program –
 - Some progress has been made by the CA toward getting this on the Agenda through his drafting of an official Resolution. The final version must be approved. Additionally, it was noted that trees on public property must be nominated by the Committee to the City Arborist / City Council. Thus, the Guice Tree must go through a slightly different process.
 - The CA suggested that we seek designation of the Live Oak at the Old Brick House.
 - Our goal is to have 25 majestic trees designated in 2023.
- City Beautification Program – No report.
- Permits: Past permits (August – May) need to be added to our tracking spreadsheet. Tracy and Wendy Lally will work on this.
- DRC Report: Shirley has been attending DRC meetings. Project with tree issues include the Reef Express which had a ‘Stop Work Order’ issued by the CA.

VI. Outstanding Issues

There has been no progress in getting the draft report to the Director of Community Development. Tracy will get the draft to the committee. We have been advised by the CA to move forward with a simplified report so that we can begin to give regular and more complete reports in the future.

VII. Current Business

- A. Ward 3 and Ward 7 Vacancies. We have heard ‘through the grapevine’ that a Mr. Forester (Ward 7) and Mark Dubaz (Ward 3) have been appointed by the Mayor’s office to fill these positions, though we have not received official word from the Mayor’s office or contact information of the individuals.
- B. Larry Tucei, tree historian plans to attend and present his work to the Committee at the June meeting.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned: 4:50 p.m.