

# CITY OF BILOXI TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

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

## MINUTES

Oct 09, 2023

- The meeting was called to Order at 3:30 p.m.
  - Members present: Tracy Wyman (1); Susan Peterson, via phone (4); Jeremy Herring (7)
  - City Council or Staff present: Zack Harris, City Arborist
- Public Comment: No members of the public were present.
- September 2023 minutes were read and approved as revised.
- City Arborist Comments.
  - CA has contacted Misty Booth, Director of Forestry Commission and reported a favorable discussion around the following:
    - “Stop the Pop” program to eradicate the invasive popcorn trees;
    - Improved language for the LDO to protect the tree canopy. He suggested the City may be able to hire an MSU intern to help with canopy mapping.
    - Biloxi is the 2nd oldest “Tree City” in the state, so there may be grant dollars available to the City for canopy mapping and protection.
  - The Current development was approved by Planning Commission as proposed.
    - The developer was initially interested in mitigating on-site. However, once they understood they must warranty planting establishment for 3 years, they opted to pay into the Mitigation Trust \$32,000.
  - Regarding the LDO, the CA is moving forward with the tree ‘valuation’ which will aid to replenish trees at their actual value. The Planning Commission is in support of this. The CTLA Trunk Formula (2015) is a nationally recognized valuation tool, calculating dollar value by caliper inch. The CA will be meeting the Director of Community Development, Peter Abide (City Attorney) and Seattle Master Certified Arborist, Lauren Erickson to further discuss this topic.
  - The CA is working through the TC’s Mitigation Spreadsheet to bring it up-to-date. In particular, is working through the Shorecrest development issues.
  - CA announced the lights in trees at How-Hop will be multicolored and not wrapping the trunks or branches. He has been advising the How-Hop organizers on this.

- Ongoing Business

- Action Tracking:

- B. Site Visits & Recommendations

- Recommendations for The Current subdivision were presented to Planning Commission this period.

### C. Committee Reports

- DRC Attendance – Jeremy has been attending regularly.
- PR / Communications – No report.
- Majestic Tree Program – Being turned over to Mark Dubaz and Susan Peterson.
- City Beautification Plan– Once the Mitigation Trust is at \$100k, the CA reported he will revisit the development of an official beautification plan.

### 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

- Tracy has accepted a position with the City of Asheville, and will be resigning from the Tree Committee in November.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned: 4:35 p.m.