

CITY OF BILOXI

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

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

MINUTES

JULY 10, 2023

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

Members present: Tracy Wyman (ex officio member Chair); Mark Dubaz (3); Susan Peterson (4); Wendy Lally (5); Jeremy Herring (7)

City Council or Staff present: Zack Harris, City Arborist
- II. Public Comment: No members of the public were present.
- III. June 2023 minutes were read and approved.
- IV. City Arborist Comments.
 - A. The mitigation agreement for the Anchor’s Landing development is pending, though they have stated their intentions to pay into the Mitigation Trust.
 - B. The Reef Gas Station project has been signed-off, approved to move forward as planned. Mitigation count will be verified in the August meeting.
 - C. Insurance companies are now requiring large tree limbs that are over a primary structure to be removed. The CA is working on this, attesting that if the limbs are healthy the removals are unnecessary. Success on this argument is not guaranteed, but he is referring such cases to Fulghams, Inc., a firm that handles tree inventories, tree risk assessments, and tree litigation.
 - D. CA outlined the check-list he plans to use for DRC clearance:
 - a. Survey must be submitted by TRAQ certified professional.
 - b. Plans will include a ‘value calculation’ based on present state of canopy and trees;
 - c. Plans will include a Landscape Plan in the DRC phase;
 - d. Tree Survey by licensed land surveyor;
 - e. Mitigation requirements / plan must be included in plans;
 - f. Meeting all above requirements would approve the project for a Tree Hearing.
- E. Ongoing Business
 - A. Action Tracking:
 - Add : ‘The Current’ on Beach Blvd. which proposes 16 protected trees be removed. Currently in DRC.
 - Follow-up on Outdoor Storage regarding citation for removal of 7 Live Oaks.
 - B. Site Visits & Recommendations

- Site visit and recommendations were submitted by the Tree Committee for Our Lady of Fatima to remove 5 Live Oaks for construction of new clergy house. Plans are for mitigation to occur on-site.

C. Committee Reports

- PR / Communications – Tracy will prepare an article *“The Communities Role in Public Meetings: Your Opportunity to be Heard”*.
- Majestic Tree Program –
 - The CA is still working to get the first two designated majestic trees on the City Council Agenda. CA will follow up and let us know the scheduled date.
 - Susan has received SOT designation for the Live Oak at the Old Brick House, as well as two other private property trees.
 - Robin will continue to work to get the tree at the Keesler Gate designated.
 - As a reminder, our goal is to have 25 majestic trees designated in 2023.
- City Beautification Program – No report.
- Permits: Past permits (August – May) still need to be added to our tracking spreadsheet.
- DRC Report: Shirley has been attending DRC meetings when she can.

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. The Committee welcomes Mark Dubaz (Ward 3) and Jeremy Herring (Ward 7).
With the Committee now full, Robin Lang has submitted her resignation, and we thank her for her many years of service. She will continue to stay on the text chain and continue to support the Majestic Tree efforts.
- B. Larry Tucei, tree historian plans to attend and present his work to the Committee at the July meeting.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned: 4:45 p.m.