

## CITY OF BILOXI TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Location:** Community Development Conference Room

**Minutes**

**March 11, 2024**

- I. The meeting was called to Order 3:42 p.m.  
Members present: Susan Peterson (4)  
City Council or Staff present: Zach Harris, City Arborist
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Minutes: Available but could not be voted on without a quorum.
- IV. City Arborist Comments:
  - A. Zach Harris provided an update on the Reef Express, LLC (owner) Freddie Fountain w/Fountain & Assoc, LLC to discuss the request to remove five (5) protected trees for the property (Case No 23-083-PC), Ward 5, identified as 126 Debuys Rd Tax Parcel No. 1110M-03-008.002. The two damaged trees have been removed. He is checking on that property regularly.
  - B. DRC meeting Tuesday March 12, 2024 on the property at Point Breeze (Beach Blvd and Grandview Dr.) This plan will not be approved as provided for the meeting.
  - C. No tree hearings coming up.
  - D. Zach Harris is updating the approved City of Biloxi Tree Company list.
  - E. He brought pictures of the protected Magnolia Tree on Querens Ave, downtown Biloxi which included the current road work. The contractor has been very receptive to protecting the tree. They have even moved the roadway to accomplish this. He is working on having the tree documented to have it designated a Champion Tree when the State reinstates this program. The program is now administered by the State of Tennessee.
- V. Ongoing Business:
  - A. Action Tracking: We are currently not working on any projects.

B. New Items: Susan Peterson, Tree Committee Secretary, provided a copy of the Sun Herald Sound Off article that was published on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

C. Site Visit and Recommendations: None

D. Committee Reports:

1. DRC Meetings: Zach Harris and Jeremy Herring have been attending these meetings. Nothing to report.
2. Majestic Tree Program: Susan Hunts paperwork for her two Live Oak Majestic Trees have been submitted to the Community Development Director, Jerry Creel for the City of Biloxi Tree Program. Zach Harris has been made aware of this submission.
3. PR/Communications, Upcoming Events: Susan Peterson brought copies of the "Are Your Trees Ready for Hurricane Season?" These were sent to the City of Biloxi PR Director, Cecila Dobbs-Watson to be included for the upcoming Hurricane Preparedness.

VI. Current Business:

We are still are in need of three members on the current City of Biloxi Tree Committee. Council members along with the Mayor's Office and the City of Biloxi PR have been notified that Ward 1, 2 and 6 have vacancies.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 3:56.