

CITY OF BILOXI TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

February 12, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to Order 3:32 p.m.
Members present: Jeremy Herring (7), Wendy Lally (5) Susan Peterson (4)
City Council or Staff present: Zach Harris, City Arborist
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Minutes: None available
- IV. City Arborist Comments:
 - A. Zach Harris provided an update on the Planning Commission Meeting held on February 1, 2024. He and the City Attorney, Peter Abide, met with 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. Recommendations were required at that meeting and were done by Fulgham's Inc. It was decided to accept the recommendations provided. The company will save the one tree left that was viable and will not build one of the units they had originally planned. Additionally, they will mitigate the two trees removed and the two trees that cannot be saved.
 - B. Still assessing where to plant mitigation trees (estimates \$7k - \$10k per tree). He will work with Tree Committee on this plan.
 - C. City of Biloxi has asked for a plan for greenery along Howard Avenue from the City Arborist. Nothing has been planned.
 - D. MGCCC Campus road project is currently in progress.
- 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 letter sent to the Planning Committee for the meeting to be held on February 15th

for the Reef Express project. It stated the Tree Committee agreed with the assessment for mitigation. The letter also reminded the Planning Committee of our required timeline for notifying the Tree Committee before it can be placed on their agenda so that we can provide our recommendations. A copy was sent to each of the Tree Committee members and to the City Arborist.

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: No report or update.
3. PR/Communications, Upcoming Events: Nothing to report.

VI. Current Business:

A report to the City of Biloxi that we are down three members on the current Tree Committee. Susan Peterson and Zach Harris have notified the current Council Members and the Mayor's Office that Ward 1, 2 and 6 have vacancies.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 4:17