

**CITY OF BILOXI  
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Location:** Community Development Conference Room

**Minutes**

**August 7, 2024**

Mr. Jerry Creel introduced himself and let us know that Zach Harris would not be attending the meeting today. Zach is on Maternity leave until mid-September. Mr. Creel told us he is filling in for Mr. Harris and when needed has been hiring an outside tree company for advice and work. Mr. Creel is keeping a list of tree permits and work that has been accomplished while our City Arborist is out of the office. This includes Tree Permits that have been granted because of minor tree trimming or removals because of dead or diseased trees. He will turn the updated list over to Mr. Harris when he returns. Mr. Creel will stay for our meeting today.

- I. The regular meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. Members present: Mark Dubaz (3), Susan Peterson (4), Jeremy Herring (7). Excused: Wendy Lally (5) City Council or Staff present: Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development and Rodney McGilvary, Ward 4 Council Representative.
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Minutes: June minutes were approved. There was no July meeting.
- IV. City Arborist Comments:
  - A. There were no comments as Zach Harris is on Maternity leave. We did not receive a paper update from him or an email.
  - B. Mr. Creel updated us on Tree permits that he has signed off on. All were minor requests and none involved Majestic Trees. His updated list will be handed over to Mr. Harris when he returns to work. Mr. Creel has hired when needed tree trimming for city of Biloxi trees and ones in the City Right of Way. Some permissions have been granted to homeowners for tree removal and trimming.

V. Ongoing Business:

- A. Action Tracking: We are currently not working on any projects.
- B. Site Visit and Recommendations: None
- C. Committee Reports: None
- D. DRC Meetings: Zach Harris has not attended any DRC meetings since he has been on leave. Jeremy Herring can no longer attend these meetings. I asked if anyone else could attend these meetings which are held at the Community Development Conference room (Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd) at 9 am every Wednesday? No one volunteered. I will attend them as our Tree Committee needs a heads up on Majestic Trees in the Planning stages so we can make sure the developers know what the LDL requirements are. This way they will be prepared before they go to the Planning Commission and it gives us time to work on our Tree Committee recommendations. As a reminder all the Tree Committee members get a DRC agenda the meetings about 5 days ahead. They are now sent from (Jen Gill) [jgill@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:jgill@biloxi.ms.us). New position for her. They used to come from Selina Hammons ([shammons@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:shammons@biloxi.ms.us)). So please make adjustments to your email addresses.

VI. Current Business:

- A. It was decided that we need to replace our Chairperson who has been gone since November. Susan Peterson will take on this position.
- B. She asked for someone to think about being Vice Chairperson.
- C. We are still 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 4:35 p.m.

Submitted by:

Susan Peterson, Tree Committee Chairperson/Secretary

\*These minutes were amended at the at the November 6, 2024 Tree Committee Meeting.