

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

December 4, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to Order at 3:40 p.m.
Members present Debra Carr (1), Doug Deluca (6), Mark Dubaz (3), Wendy Lally (5), Susan Peterson (4), Jamie Tamburo (2).
Not present: Jeremy Herring (7) Virtual
City Council or Staff present: Mr. Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development, Zach Harris, City of Biloxi Arborist and Rodney McGilvery, Ward 4 Council Representative.
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Minutes: November minutes were approved.
- IV. City Arborist Comments:
 - A. There will be a Tree Hearing at the City of Biloxi Planning Commission meeting on January 2, 2025. In anticipation of our mitigation requirements Chick-fil-A planted 8 8" Live Oak trees along the north side of the development which were purchased for \$50,000 to mitigate the 8 trees they will be removing. These trees were planted correctly and will be watered several times a week and will be monitored by Zach Harris for the three year time frame required by our LDO. He provided all the members a copy of the site plan and the Chick-fil-A arborist report for all the trees, These trees all have metal tags to identify them. Zach discussed the trees being removed and others on the property that possibly could be moved. He and Mr. Creel answered questions about the site and trees and City codes. The building site has been adjusted several times to help save an additional three trees. The parking spaces have been adjusted as low as Chick-fil-A can go for their corporate requirements. Everyone on the committee understood even though we weren't happy about the trees being removed that they have met the City Codes and the City Tree mitigation requirements. Zach Harris let us know this would be a short time frame to get the Tree Recommendations in for the Tree Hearing because of the Christmas Holidays. So tree committee members

need to have our recommendations to be provided early so they can be in by December 20th.

- B. A site visit was completed by the Tree Committee members for the Dollar Tree store on Poppo Ferry Road and the recommendations were presented to the Planning Commission for the November 21st Tree hearing. The Tree Committee needs to have their recommendations for the Chik-fil-A completed and turned in by December 20th to meet the deadline for the Planning Commission Agenda and due to the Holiday City of Biloxi closures. Recommendations and suggestions that haven't been addressed will need to be forthcoming.
- C. Committee Reports:
Susan Peterson attended DRC meetings on November 13th, November 20th, and November 27th. There was no meeting on December 4th.
- D. Majestic Tree program: Everyone is reminded to try and register a Majestic Tree.
- E. City of Biloxi Beautification Plan: This is currently on hold as the City of Biloxi is revising this plan.
- V. Tree Committee Member Comments:
 - A. Mark Dubaz, Doug Deluca and Zach Harris are working on updating the LOD mitigation plan to make it more fair for older and bigger protected trees that will be removed in the future. The plan is to make it more expensive and to mitigate with more protected trees.
 - B. An article was written (Biloxi's Majestic Oaks) and published in the December BNews about the process of registering Majestic Trees with the Societe des Arbres and the City of Biloxi. This registration will make it more difficult to remove "protected trees" in the City of Biloxi and places them on a watch list with the City of Biloxi Arborist. We would like to match the article in the B News to challenge our City of Biloxi homeowners to reach our Tree Committee goal of 25 in 2025.
 - C. Susan Peterson has contacted Cheryl Bell, Director of Parks and Rec to provide a list of where the City of Biloxi Tree Committee could plant trees that has easy water access. She has checked and we can have automatic water sprinkler systems installed with our mitigation funds.
 - D. A request by Susan Peterson has been written asking the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber to reinstate their program for planting "protected trees (live oaks)" in the City of Biloxi. This program would be advertised by the BBAC for remembrance trees or memory trees which could be planted on private

property and they would hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for this event. The sponsor would pay for the tree and planting. She has personally planted two memory trees at Todd Miguez Park at 425 Parker Street in 2018. Pictures were circulated showing how much these two live oak trees had grown.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Susan Peterson
Tree Committee Chairperson/Secretary