

CITY OF BILOXI

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

November 6, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.
Members present: Mark Dubaz (3), Jeremy Herring (7) virtual, Wendy Lally (5), Jamie Tamburo (2) 15 minutes, and Susan Peterson (4).
City Council or Staff present: Zach Harris, City Arborist, Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development, Cecila Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Manager, John Majure Public Affairs Specialist, and Rodney McGilvery, Ward 4 Council Representative.
Visitors: None
- II. Minutes were read and approved.
- III. Public Comment: None
- IV. Ongoing Business:
 - A. Zach Harris, City Arborist filled us in on the MS Forrest advisory Tree Board and Forestry Program.
 - B. He is applying for the Tree City USA program for Arbor Day.
 - C. He and Mark Dubaz have eliminated the I Tree Program for our Tree Committee since it doesn't work well for us.
 - D. We have a Tree hearing coming up for the Dollar Tree with the Planning Commission on November 21st. Zach will forward the paperwork to all the Tree Committee members as soon as he receives it so we can do a Site visit, make recommendations and vote.
 - E. Action Tracking is temporarily on hold.
 - F. Susan Peterson attended 5 DRC meetings: October 9th, October 16th, October 23rd, October 30th and November 6th. There may be a Tree hearing for the property on Poppo Ferry Road with the Planning Commission. Zach Harris has signed off on all the others.
 - G. Photo of Live Oak trees is in the November B News.
 - H. Moffett Road appeal has been tabled for the next City of Biloxi Council meeting on November 19th.

- I. Majestic Tree Program: None at this time.
 - J. City Beautification Plan. Zach Harris and Mr. Creel discussed that this has been brought up but at this time the City is not moving forward on this program since it might involve 49 members?
- V. Current Business:
- A. Mark Dubaz reported on the I Tree program that Ocean Springs participated in and the grant they were awarded.
 - B. Mark Dubaz moved and Jeremy Herring seconded we amend the City of Biloxi Tree Committee minutes from August 7, 2024 to read:

VI. Current Business:

- A. It was decided that we need to replace our Chairperson, who left the Tree Committee in November 2023. Susan Peterson volunteered, and the Tree Committee members approved her as the new Chairperson/ Secretary. There was a discussion before that when Tracy Wyman was the Chairperson, she also handled the Secretary position.
- B. Susan Peterson asked the Tree Committee to consider a Vice Chairperson. Mark Dubaz volunteered. The Tree Committee members approved him

Past minutes read:

VI. Current Business:

- A. It was decided that we need to replace our Chairperson, who left the Tree Committee in November 2023. Susan Peterson volunteered, and the Tree Committee approved her as the new Chairperson.
- B. Susan Peterson asked the Tree Committee to consider appointing a co-chairperson.

This amendment was seconded, discussed and the vote passed to amend the August 7, 2024 minutes.

Mark Dubaz, Jeremy Herring and Susan Peterson were present at the August 7, 2024 meeting and all were present for the amendment vote on November 6, 2024, along with our guests: Mr. Jerry Creel and Rodney Mc Gilvery.

This corrected amendment will be addressed in the August 7, 2024 minutes.

- C. Wendy Lally sent an email request for the Tree Committee members to vote to change our meeting day from Wednesday to Thursday. Three of the Committee members voted against the change. The vote failed. The meeting day will not change.
- D. Susan Peterson presented an email from Cecila Dobbs Walton on the City of Biloxi Tree Committee web site to each of the Tree Committee members. The City is treating the Tree Committee members the same as all the other City of Biloxi committees.
Her note: "the only thing changing to the public is that the tree committee members' name, numbers, and email addresses are not posted on line any more. So, if the public wants to contact the tree committee, they have to go through community development. That information is online. I am treating the tree committee members, the same as other city, committees, and boards meaning their personal numbers and emails are not posted on line and the public has to contact the department. Cecila Dobbs Walton was present at the meeting and explained the change and answered questions."
- E. Susan Peterson presented a copy of the "Removal and Replacement" to be added to our procedures. This was suggested by three members and legal to follow the other city rules and will be added to our procedures in the LDO when completed. We have copied the same wording as the other City of Biloxi Committees except to change the words to Tree Committee.
- F. Copies of the Notes taken at the Moffett Road Site visit were provided to each Tree Committee member. These are not meetings and not included in our minutes. This note is just an account of the Site visit.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan Peterson

Tree Committee Chairperson/ Secretary