

CITY OF BILOXI

TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

October 2, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to Order 3:30 p.m.
Members present: Mark Dubaz (3), Jeremy Herring (7), Wendy Lally (5), and Susan Peterson (4). **Not present:** Jamie Tamburo (2)
City Council or Staff present: Zach Harris, City Arborist, Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development, Peter Abide, City of Biloxi Attorney, Rod McGilvery, Ward 4 Council Representative.
Visitors: David Balwinski, Diane Balwinski, Linda Brambila and Keith Quigley
- II. Minutes were approved.
- III. Public Comment: The Balwinski's wanted to have the City of Biloxi move or replace the 5 Magnolias at the front of the property at the Beau View Condo's on Hi way 90. Peter Abide, City Attorney, explained that the City has already paid to save their fountain by reworking the underground so they don't have to move it. The City does not replace trees or landscaping due to infrastructure work. Zach Harris explained that to move trees you have to work at least 18 months out to prepare the tree and that less than 50% survive the move. Mr. Creel shared his contact information with them if they have any more questions.
- IV. Ongoing Business:
 - A. Zach Harris let us know he was given permission from the MS Forestry Commission to use their I Tree Program/ Tree Plotter to plot the tree and tree canopies for one year. He had applied for a grant from them.
 - B. He is currently working on the 2025 Tree City Application for Arbor Day Tree giveaway. Just for our knowledge we do not follow the National Arbor Day as our donated trees need to be planted when it will be most beneficial for them, Zach will also tie it in with a "Tree Run."
 - C. We are the second oldest Tree City in MS with Columbus being the first.

- D. There are no Tree hearings coming up.
 - E. There are no Site visits or recommendations scheduled.
 - F. Mr. Creel has turned over all the Tree Permit Applications to Zach Harris.
 - G. Action Tracking: We are currently not working on this but will in the future.
 - H. Site Visits and Recommendations: Nothing was brought up. Wendy Lally mentioned this but did not make any comments. It was mentioned that Zach had covered this in his report earlier.
 - I. Committee Report: Mark Dubaz has been working with Zach Harris to update our current LDO and is working on research from other cities to adjust our mitigation requirements by adding a higher mitigation for bigger "protected trees" and their canopies. This research will also include the "taking of trees" in consideration.
 - J. Susan Peterson and Mark Dubaz are working on updating the Tree Committee job descriptions and procedures.
 - K. DRC Meetings: Susan Peterson has attended the meetings on September 11th, September 18th, September 25th, and October 2nd. All the Tree mitigations have either been addressed by Zach Harris before he took leave or he has currently addressed them. I have advised the new project managers of our City of Biloxi Tree rules when protected trees come up in their plans.
 - L. PR: Several articles have been provided to the City of Biloxi to be published.
 - M. Majestic Trees Program: None have been submitted.
 - N. City of Biloxi Beautification Plan: Zach Harris is currently working on this.
- V. Current Business:
- A. The Tree Committee still needs 2 replacements for the Tree Committee.
 - B. Susan Peterson reminded all the Tree Committee members that we do not share or disseminate any Tree Committee information until it becomes "Public Record". If you aren't sure check with Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development. You may also refer them to Zach Harris, City Arborist, or Jerry Creel.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Submitted by:

Susan Peterson
Tree Committee Chairperson/Secretary