

CITY OF BILOXI
TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

September 4, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to Order 3:35 p.m.
Members present: Wendy Lally (5) and Susan Peterson (4).
Not present: Mark Dubaz (3) and Jeremy Herring (7). Both excused.
City Council or Staff present: Mr. Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development.
- II. Public Comment: None
- III. Minutes: August minutes were approved.
- IV. City Arborist Comments:
 - A. There weren't any City Arborist comments, as Zach Harris is on FMLA leave.
 - B. Mr. Creel, who is filling in for the City Arborist, again updated us on the Tree Permits that he has signed off on which included homeowners' requests. For the homeowners requests he has photos taken by John from Code Enforcement, include with those requests. Additionally, he has hired, when necessary, from a rotating list of local approved tree companies for contracted work on trees that are on the City of Biloxi right of ways and city property. He is keeping a list of all Tree requests to hand over to Mr. Harris when he returns.
- V. Ongoing Business:
 - A. Action Tracking: We are currently not working on these updates.
 - B. Site Visits and Recommendations: We were invited by the owner of the project, Dr Rains, to tour the project with him at the Cottages of Moffett Rd. on Friday August 23rd at 4 p.m. This was not a formal site visit. He wanted to show us what he wants to do on the site. Wendy Lally, Jeremy Herring and Susan Peterson were present and walked the property with him. I reminded him when

- we finished that he needed a certified arborist report that included a tree site plan, a tree mitigation report, the trees being removed needed to be marked correctly and this report needs to go to Zach Harris the City of Biloxi Tree arborist before this project can move forward.
- C. Committee Reports: Susan Peterson, Chairperson, had sent out earlier by email to each of our Tree Committee members "General Job" description for each member to look over. This does not include anything in the Tree LDO and City of Biloxi Guidelines that are posted on the City of Biloxi web site. My idea was to have this information available to new Tree Committee members or for City of Biloxi residents that might be interested in joining the Tree Committee so they will have a better idea of what we do and when we met. Wendy Lally wanted to wait to discuss this information when all our members are present. We will address this at our October Tree Committee meeting. A reminder to our Tree Committee members that we are not to discuss Tree Committee information about agendas or meetings until it is voted on or becomes Public Record. We do not share this information publicly before meetings are held and if someone asks about information, we should refer them to Mr. Jerry Creel (Director of City Planning) or Mr. Zach Harris (City of Biloxi Arborist). We are also reminded that we represent the City of Biloxi and should be polite to all residents.
 - D. DRC Meetings: Susan Peterson has attended the meetings on August 14th, 21st, 28th and September 4th. All the Tree mitigations have either been addressed by Zach Harris before he took leave or I have advised the new project managers of our City of Biloxi Tree rules.

VI. Current Business:

- A. The Tree Committee still needs replacements for the Tree Committee. A recommendation has been forwarded from Ward 2 to the Mayor. We will wait to see if it is forwarded by the Mayor to the City Council.

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

Submitted by:

Susan Peterson
Tree Committee Chairperson/Secretary