

## **CITY OF BILOXI**

### **TREE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Location: Community Development Conference Room**

**Minutes**

**March 5, 2025**

- I. The meeting was called to Order at 3:32 p.m.  
Members present: Debra Carr (1), Wendy Lally (5), Susan Peterson (4), and Jamie Tamburo (2). Excused: Doug Deluca (6), Mark Dubaz (3) and Jeremy Herring (7).  
City Council or Staff present: Mr. Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development and Rod McGilvery, Ward 4 Council Representative.  
Guests: There were several guests present from our local community. (See Sign In list of attendees attached to our March minutes.)
- II. Before we continued with the March agenda Wendy Lally interrupted and wanted to make a motion. I explained it needed to come under new business but she continued. MS Lally motioned "I would like new elections for our Tree Committee positions for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary since we now have full representation with all seven members and we need to all vote on this. I'd like it placed on next month's agenda." Jamie Tamburo seconded the motion. Discussion was held. I stated I would put it on next months agenda. There was no vote.
- III. Minutes: February minutes were approved.
- IV. Public Comment: I welcomed all the guests and reminded them that public comment is for a total of 10 minutes and to be mindful of others who might want to speak. There were

several people who made public comments, asked questions about the Tree Committee, Chick-fil-A mitigation, boats allowed to sink in the harbor, boat waste, pine trees and air quality.

V. A. Updates from the City Arborist:

Mr. Creel explained that the position is still posted for the City of Biloxi arborist position. The pay is negotiable depending on qualifications. There haven't been any applications that are qualified. He let us know he is granting tree permits. At this point MS Lally interrupted and wanted to know why Mr. Creel was sitting at the table and allowed to speak? She said she did not want him there. I let Mr. Creel explain his qualifications and reasons for being at our meetings. He then went on to talk about the permits he has signed for trimming, dead trees, and insurance requirements. He has copies of the tree permits and photos of the trees in question. Additionally, he is not granting any tree permits for questionable or healthy trees since he is not an arborist. He has provided a list of the tree permits granted. (This list will be attached to our March minutes.) MS Lally wanted to know why there is a list now? I mentioned in the past our tree arborist would have gone over the permit list at our meeting and Mr. Creel is supplying us with a printed list of tree permits now.

B. Action Tracking (temporarily on hold)

C. Site Visits: There were no site visits.

D. Committee Reports:

DRC Attendance: Susan Peterson attended the DRC

meetings held on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, Feb 19<sup>th</sup>, and March 5<sup>th</sup> 2025. No one attended on Feb 26<sup>th</sup> or March 5<sup>th</sup>. (There were no trees on the agenda.)

E. PR/Communications:

An article has been written by Susan Peterson, explaining how to register “Protected Trees” and “Majestic Trees” and has been included in the March edition of the BNews. She announced a reminder that information for the BNews for PR has a lead time of about two weeks in order to get the BNews to the printer and mailed out by the first of the month. Cecilia Dobbs Walton, City of Biloxi PR has added a note under City of Biloxi Public Meetings directing the public to the City of Biloxi web site for more information.

F. Majestic Tree Program:

Susan Peterson has set up a city-wide Public Workshop to held on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at 676 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the large auditorium. This workshop will show how to register a Majestic Tree with the Societe Des Arbes and the City of Biloxi. It has also been advertised in the March edition of the BNews.

The Querens Magnolia Tree is in the process of becoming a Majestic Tree through the Societe Des Arbres.

G. City Beautification Plan (Temporarily on hold.)

V. Current Business:

A. Tree Committee Member Comments/ Old Business: None

B. Susan Peterson asked Jamie Tombero if she had sent the information she researched to Mr. Creel and the Tree Committee members. She stated she had not.

C. Reports to the City: None  
VI. Meeting Adjourned: 4:24 p.m.