

CITY OF BILOXI TREE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

August 6, 2025

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m.
Members present: Debra Carr (1), Doug Deluca (6), Jeremy Herring (7), Wendy Lally (5), Susan Peterson (4), and Jamie Tamburo (2).
Excused: Mark Dubaz (3).
City Council or Staff present: Mr. Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development
Brad Manus, City contracted arborist and Paul Tisdale, Ward 5 Council
Representative.
Guests: See attached sign in sheet.
- II. Minutes: June minutes were approved. The Tree Committee did not meet in July.
- III. Public Comment: I welcomed the guests that were in attendance and asked them to sign in. I reminded everyone that they have a total of 10 minutes to speak. We do not usually allow discussion but if you would like to speak, please wait to be recognized. Several people attended. There were a few comments, suggestions and questions. I thanked everyone for attending.
- IV. Ongoing Business:
 - A. Updates / Comments from City Arborist: Mr. Creel told us the City Arborist position is still posted and has not been filled. There have been applicants but they are not qualified. The City has increased the pay to \$56,000 plus for additional education and certifications. Mr. Creel is still acting as temporary arborist but with restrictions for granting tree permits. He is only approving permits for removal of protected dead or diseased trees and for trees that need to be removed because of insurance requirements. All these tree permits have been documented with photos. No protected healthy trees have been removed. He has provided a printed list of the trees that have been granted tree permits. This list will be attached to the minutes. There were a few comments,

suggestions and questions. All questions were answered by Mr. Creel or Brad Manus.

B. Action Tracking (15 min): Temporarily on hold.

C. Site Visits and Recommendations:

- **Hawk Creek Phase 2** subdivision tree recommendation is on hold. When we receive all the paperwork and the site has been grubbed the tree committee will make their recommendations for this subdivision.
- Everyone was emailed copies of the information for the **988 Wildwood Lane Hearing** paperwork on July 7th. Additional photos were emailed on July 8th. Tree Committee members saw the tree permit at the June Tree Committee meeting. The tree hearing was presented at the July 17th Planning Commission meeting. Our recommendations needed to be in by Monday July 14th. Everyone was reminded to do a site visit on their own and to make sure they announced themselves to the homeowners first before walking the property. Jamie stated she wanted the tree committee member present with their recommendation because doing it virtually would not work for her to know the person was there and she didn't want written recommendations allowed. I stated we would allow virtual call in and tree committee members could identify themselves over the speaker phone for the tree hearing discussion for recommendation. The tree committee members could also email or text their recommendation and would be able to state that was their recommendation by their "phone call in." We have always allowed this in the past for tree recommendations. I reminded everyone this is the first time we have required a homeowner to meet a tree hearing with the Planning Commission for personal trees. Brand Manus was contracted by the Planning Office to go to the property and check out the 17 trees that were to be removed from the property and to provide his assessment. He presented photos of the trees, discussed his assessment and answered our questions. We had a quorum of our tree committee members present on July 17th. Wendy Lally and Jamie Tomuro did not attend. Our basic recommendation by the majority of the tree committee members present after much discussion about individual trees, the insurance request and questions answered by Brad Manus was that we agreed with allowing the King's to remove their 17 trees. A copy of our tree recommendation for 988 Wildwood Lane, TR-25-003, has been posted on the City of Biloxi Tree Committee web page.

2513 Brighton Circle: Jamie Tomuro and Wendy Lally expressed their concern that this issue should not be discussed by our tree committee and

was a waste of their time and our committee. Mr. Creel explained that Paul Tisdal passed this request to our Tree Committee and asked for assistance with this tree permit. Peter Abide, City Attorney also recommended it be discussed and handled by our Tree Committee. After much discussion this issue was recommended to go to the City Planning Commission for a tree hearing to be held on August 20th for them to make a decision. The Tree Committee was not making a “tree recommendation” since our current City of Biloxi LDO’s do not address neighbors trimming a homeowner’s protected tree.

D. Committee Reports:

- DRC Attendance: Susan Peterson attended these DRC meetings: August 13th, 20th, 27th and September 3rd.
- PR/ Communications and Upcoming Events:
 - *An article was written by Susan Peterson for the August BNews on Biloxi’s Bald Cypress trees.
 - *We are pleased the City of Biloxi will be gifted with 20 live oak trees through the Tree Memorial Program in Partnership with Hancock Whitney Bank. This program is through the **Land Trust for the MS Coastal Plain**. These trees will be planted by the Land Trust at the appropriate time and if need be, the family that made the donation will take care of watering them. This generous donation was made by the Okeefe family and each tree will be named after a family member. Once I get more information I am hoping to add this link to our web page.
- Majestic Tree Program:
 - *I have checked with the Societe Des Arbres to see if they will share the Biloxi Majestic Trees that have been registered and then have the addresses listed on the City of Biloxi web page. They will get back with me.
 - *At the end of our tree committee meeting we discussed the City of Biloxi Majestic Tree application for the Appe’s. After much discussion it was decided their tree did not meet our requirements. A letter will be sent to them letting them know our decision.

V. Current Business:

- A. Tree Committee Comments: None
- B. Chairperson / Secretary Comments:

I have been invited to two different local Garden Clubs to present our Majestic Tree Program and registration for the City of Biloxi.
C. Reports to the City: None

VI. Old Business:
None

New Business:
Cecilia Dobbs Walton, City of Biloxi Public Affairs, will be posting our Tree Committee agenda the Friday before our monthly meetings. This will align our agenda with the Biloxi City Council and Planning Commission web pages.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.

Submitted by:

Susan Peterson
Tree Committee Chairperson/Secretary

Owner	Address	Trees removed	Diameter	Contractor	Date issued
Erin King	988 Wildwood Ln	16-18 various Oak Trees		Southern Tree Surgery LLC	6/4/2025
Monique Williams	346 Lee St	1 Oak		Owner	6/6/2025
Ronald Peresich	2015 Bayside Dr	Trim Trees		Owner	6/9/2025
Sunkist Country Club Inc	2381 Sunkist Country Club Rd	2 Oaks & Pine		Owner	6/10/2025
Kristen Manners	2489 Castille Pl	1 Oak		Wrights Tree	6/12/2025
Anatole Bay Homes	495 Popp's Ferry Rd #76	Trim Trees		Anatole Bay HOA	6/13/2025
Angela R Juzang	417 Alicia Dr.	1 Oak & Trim 1 tree		Angela R Juzang	6/13/2025
Gilbert R Mason Sr	365 Fayard St	Trim Trees		TBD	6/13/2025
MAS LTD LLC	1028 Howard Ave	Trim Trees		Owner	6/13/2025
James & Julein Christina	212 Benachi Ave	Trim Trees		Lee Jay Johnson	6/14/2025
Team Raul, LLC	1706-1708 Garden Park Dr	1 Oak		Team Raul, LLC	6/18/2025
Wealth Hospitality	612 Beach Blvd	2 Oak s	18.8 & 16.9	Patel Construction	6/18/2025
Noah Mitchell	1310 Kensington Dr	Trim Trees		Brotherhood Services	6/20/2025
Leslie Porter	13373 Lorraine Rd	1 Oak		The Tree Guys	6/23/2025
Kenneth Worthy	305 Westview Dr	1 Oak	21	Epic Homes, LLC	6/24/2025
Shirley Stoy	319 Belvedere Dr	1 Oak & Trim 1 tree		Owner	6/27/2025
Burger King 6461	2395 Pass Rd	1 dead Oak		Wrights Tree	6/29/2025
John Bosch	2566 River Place Blvd	1 Oak	14	Owner	7/1/2025
Milton Love	351 Lakeview Blvd	1 Oak	20	Taylor Tree Service	7/2/2025
Roland Merrill	326 Santini St	1 tree		Owner	7/2/2025
Biloxi Houseing Auth	2130 Pass Rd	1 Oak		Owner	7/3/2025
Joh Roark	813 Rustwood Dr	1 Oak	35	Owner	7/8/2025
Reed Reeland	1228 Kensington	Trim Trees		Owner	7/11/2025
Bobby Howarth	964 Country Club Ln	1 Oak		Owner	7/11/2025
Billie Dunn	2251 Baywood Dr	3 Oaks & 1 Magnolia		Owner	7/14/2025
Giordano Serafina	1050 Frank P. Corso St	Trim Trees		Owner	7/14/2025
Richard Cobath	869 Tee	1 Oak		Taylor Tree Service	7/21/2025
Nicholas Conger	2572 Brighton Cir	1 Oak		Southern Tree Surgery LLC	7/22/2025
Elbert Meaut	2337 Edwards Cir	4 Oaks		Southern Tree Surgery LLC	7/25/2025
Lavern Turner	2061 Juniper Dr.	1 Oak	23	Owner	7/29/2025
Dora Land	221 Bayly Dr	1 Magnolia		Owner	7/31/2025
San Luis Investments	745 Barrett Rd	1 Oak		Southern Tree Surgery LLC	7/31/2025
David Morrison	9721 W Oaklawn Rd	1 Oak		Owner	7/24/2025

