

## Tree Committee Meeting

**Location:** Community Development Conference Room

**Minutes**

**January 7, 2026**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members present: Debra Carr (1), Jeremy Herring (7), Pamela Manners (5), Susan Peterson (4).

Excused: Doug Deluca (6) (called in), Jamie Tamburo (2).

City Council or Staff present: Mr. Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development, Brad Manus, City contracted arborist, Paul Tisdale, Ward 5 representative.

- II. **Minutes:** December 2025 minutes were approved.

- III. **Public Comment:** Before the Public Comment Susan Peterson welcomed the guests for attending and reminded them to sign-in. This sign-in sheet will be attached to the January minutes. She reminded the public that there is only 10 minutes for public comment and that the comments should only have to do with "trees." Since we have a new Tree Committee member she went over the purpose of the City of Biloxi Tree Committee: The general purpose of the Tree Committee is to promote the preservation and repleshment of historic, Protected (Bald Cypress, Live Oaks, and Southern Magnolias.) Protecting our natural heritage will make Biloxi a healhier, safer, and more beautiful place to live, work and lay for everyone.

The Tree Committee is charged with using its best efforts to balance public goals with public needs for economic development while respecting the rights of individuals to develop their property in a meaningful yet responsible way.

There was no public comment.

- IV. **Ongoing Business:**

Updates / Arborist Report:

- A. Mr. Creel let us know the City of Biloxi still is actively looking for a City Arborist and the job is still posted on the City web site. He presented the List of Trees removed. There were only 14 trees and each Tree Committee member received a copy. No healthy protected trees were removed. All trees have been documented with photos. If there were any questionable trees he would have contacted Brad Manus, City

contracted arborist. None of the trees were owned by the City. The List of Trees will be attached to the January 2026 minutes.

He also made an announcement about Chick fil A. It will progress in March or April timeframe.

He asked for all the City of Biloxi Majestic Tree applications to be forwarded to him for the City Council meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> for approval.

B. Site Visits and Recommendations: There were none.

C. Committee Reports:

- DRC Attendance: Susan Peterson attended these DRC meetings: December 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. There wasn't a DRC meeting on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Additionally she attended then DRC meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- PRC / Communications: An article was written by Susan Peterson for the January BNews on the relighting of Edgewater Park live oak tree. She tanked Jamie Lee< Parks and Rec for taking care of this repair.
- COB Majestic Tree Applications: We have no new City of Biloxi Tree Applications.
- Majestic Tree Program: Still waiting for the Howard Avenue paperwork from the Societe Des Arbres.

V. Current Business:

- Tree Committee Member Comments: None
- Chairperson / Secretary Comments: Susan Peterson returned in person Isabele Kesler's photos of her Lopez trees from our last Tree Committee meeting for the Tree Committee to vote on making them COB Majestic Trees. Additionally, she delivered a written letter letting her know her trees were accepted and the COB Majestic Tree process.
- Reports to the City: None

VI. Old Business / New Business:

A. Susan Peterson is working on the Arbor Day giveaway and currently waiting on information from the MS Forestry and Jamie Lee, City of Biloxi Parks and Rec. It will be coordinated with the Tree Committee, Parks and Rec and the City of Biloxi Relations. More information will follow once it becomes available.

B. Tidelands Heritage Trust tree giveaway to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This is open to all Biloxi residents. Flyer was sent out to all Tree Committee members and Ward Representatives and also passed around at the meeting.

VII. Meeting Adjournment: 4:40 p.m.

- Next City of Biloxi Tree Committee Meeting is March 4, 2026.





**City of Biloxi  
Tree Committee Meeting**

**Date Jan 7, 2026**

**Guest Sign-In**

**(Please print and you may provide an email?)**

Wendy Lally

lally731@gmail.com

Paul L. Tisdale

ptisdale1@yahoo.com