

## Tree Committee Meeting

**Location:** Community Development Conference Room

**Minutes**

**February 4, 2026**

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

Members present: Debra Carr (1), Jeremy Herring (7) virtually, Pamela Manners (5), Susan Peterson (4), Jamie Tamburo (2)

Excused: Doug Deluca (6).

City Council or Staff present: Mr. Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development, Brad Manus, City contracted arborist. Lara Bernich Alley and Stacey Eleuterius Barber from the City of Biloxi Beautification Committee attended.

II. **Minutes:** January 2026 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 February 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 replenishment of historic, Protected (Bald Cypress, Live Oaks, and Southern Magnolias.) Protecting our natural heritage will make Biloxi a healthier, 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 other than to introduce the two City of Biloxi Beautification Committee members that were in attendance.

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 or trimmed. Each Tree Committee member received a copy of the list. Fulgham's was

hired to take care of the health of the Old Brick House and Danny Guice live oak and the Querens Magnolia tree.

There were only 10 properties on the list 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 February 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: January 7<sup>th</sup> , 14<sup>th</sup> , and 21<sup>st</sup>. No one attended the DRC meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and February 4<sup>th</sup>. There were no trees on the agenda.
- PRC / Communications: An article was written by Susan Peterson for the February BNews on Arbor Day and the Wallace Live Oak tree.
- Susan Peterson attended the City of Biloxi Youth Council meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Planning Office auditorium and presented a program on the City of Biloxi Majestic Tree Program and answered questions.
- Susan Peterson along with Jana Landers and Susan Hunt (both who have COB Majestic Trees did a WLOX interview for their trees for the COB Majestic Tree Program which was aired on January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Susan Peterson attended the City of Biloxi City Council meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>. All of the City of Biloxi Majestic Tree were approved that were submitted. Many of the applicants attended. It was nice to get to meet a few of the applicants I had not met before in person. I contacted all the COB applications owners by phone, email or text to let them know their trees had been approved. It was a great day for the COB Majestic Tree Program. After the WLOX news article many more citizens have reached out and we should expect more applications. The COB Planning Office will keep an up to date list of the approved COB Majestic Trees.

- The City of Biloxi B Connects has reached out and this request was initiated by Wendy Lally for a Mrs. Harper that wanted the City of Biloxi to register a live oak tree at Thrower Park at their playground. I forwarded the reply which was: the property are owned by the Federal Government and all their trees are tagged and gps'd. I also included a copy of the November B News which goes into detail about the 8,000 trees at Keesler and their arborist. The City of Biloxi has no control over Keesler property.
- Another copy of the BConnects was forwarded that was instigated by the new POA, Mike Lally of Edgewater Estates about some city owned trees that they would like checked and removed. Mr. Creel will have them looked at and removed if they are dead.
- COB Majestic Tree Program: 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 Isabelle Kessler's photos of her Lopez trees from our last Tree Committee meeting for the Tree Committee 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.
- Arbor Day Tree City USA paperwork has been completed for the City of Biloxi 42<sup>nd</sup> year.
- 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. Tideland's 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: 3:58 p.m.**

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



**City of Biloxi  
Tree Committee Meeting**

Date Feb 4, 2026

**Guest Sign-In**

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

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(City of Biloxi Beautification Comm)

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Biloxi, MS 39531

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