

Minutes
Biloxi Beautification Commission
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
11 a.m.
Biloxi City Hall, City Council room

In attendance

- **Commissioners:** Ward 1, Susan Cain; Ward 2, James McLendon; Ward 4 and chair, Lara Bernich Alley; and Ward 5 and secretary, Vincent Creel. Roll taken by Chair Alley; quorum established.
- **Others present:** Geneva Dummer, Heritage Trails Partnership of the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and John Majure, Public Affairs Specialist for City of Biloxi.

Agenda approved, properly motioned, seconded, 4-0 vote.

Minutes from April 15, 2026 reviewed and approved, properly motioned, seconded, 4-0 vote.

Comments from commissioners

Chair Alley recognized two guests:

- **Geneva Dummer** said Heritage Trails Partnership stands ready to serve as a resource to help the Commission accomplish beautification goals. Among the topics mentioned:
 - the need to hold property owners accountable for adhering to city codes regarding care and maintenance of their property.
 - HTP has considered finding funding for a “Last Mile” Sidewalk Repair Project and could include Biloxi as part of the proposed service area.
 - The need for the city to update its decades-old comprehensive plan, which includes beautification components that could develop a more specific beautification plan.
 - MSU and Main Street are gathering previous studies and plans for distribution to the Beautification Commission members.
 - Funding for tree planting endeavors as a component of beautification could be available in the Tree Mitigation Fund (about \$80,000 currently earmarked for tree plantings on city rights-of-way).
 - More information about the Heritage Trails Partnership and its program of work can be found at gulfoasttrails.org.
- **John Majure**, who discussed the role of the Public Affairs Division and its efforts in assisting the commission’s outreach efforts through the city BNews Monthly newsletter and social media shares. Majure reported that 90 percent of the respondents to the latest city poll have requested that the newsletter continue to be mailed citywide each month. The City Council, Beautification Commission and Tree

Committee also have unanimously requested that the city continue postal delivery of the monthly newsletter.

Comments from Public

None.

Business/updates

- **Fred Haise Landing:** Fred Haise was contacted telephonically during the meeting to confirm his attendance. Fred chose Saturday, June 27 at 1300 hours for the dedication of Fred Haise Landing and unveiling of the restored Moonwalk. Commissioner Creel noted that City Contracts Manager Rachel Quave is working with the sponsoring Mississippi Gulf Coast Heritage Area to finalize official notification of the \$5,000 commitment to underwrite the project. Artist Lucinda Perniciaro L'Enfant will begin the work to restore the 144-plus-foot Moonwalk mural – a two-week process -- once given the OK by city. It was suggested to John Majure that Public Affairs assist with promoting and planning the June 27 event.
- **The adoption process:** Commissioner Creel, at the suggestion of CAO Rick Weaver, proposed that the adoption expectations and process be agreed upon by those proposing to adopt an area and appropriate city staff. One coordinated, the measure would appear on the City Council agenda for confirmation and public notice. The Legal Department has submitted a suggested form, including a hold-harmless agreement. The commission also reviewed the two existing adoption agreements executed fb the city (attached), as well as a form originally suggested by the commission. The goal: To keep the process and forms clear and simple.

Meeting adjourned 12:10 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, May 20, 11 a.m., Biloxi City Hall, second floor. All meetings are open to the public.

See agendas, minutes and background on Beautification Commission online at <https://biloxi.ms.us/biloxi-beautification-commission/>