

Tree Committee Meeting

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

May 6, 2026

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM.

Members present: Debra Carr (1), Doug Deluca (6), Jeremy Herring (7), Susan Peterson (4), Jamie Tamburo (2).

Excused: Pamela Manners (5).

City Council or Staff present: Mr. Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development, Brad Manus, City contracted arborist.

II. **Minutes:** April 1, 2026 minutes were approved.

III. **Public Comment:** There were no guests or comments.

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. The City is also currently looking to fill the Ward 3 Tree representative position. He presented the List of Trees removed for the month. 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 May 6, 2026 minutes.

B. Site Visits and Recommendations: None. Hawk Creek Phase 2 paperwork including the Tree Permit was forwarded to all Tree Committee members before today's meeting. The Tree Committee voted on their recommendation for the upcoming Tree Hearing on May 7, 2026. The Tree Committee voted 4 for approval, 1 Tree Committee member was not present and Jamie Tamburo abstained. The Tree Recommendation will be forwarded to the Planning Commission Tree Hearing.

C. Committee Reports:

- DRC Attendance: Susan Peterson attended these DRC meetings: April 15th, and 22nd. No one attended on April 8th, April 29th and May 6th.
- PRC / Communications: An article was written by Susan Peterson for the May BNews on the “Vanishing Spanish Moss.”
- COB Majestic Tree Program:
- A Motion was made to allow the COB Majestic live oak tree located at 2450 W Shore Drive, owned by Linda and Thomas Zakkak, to be cabled and trimmed. Brad Manus has been out and accessed the COB live oak tree and agrees with the Tree Permit work order. Tree Committee members asked questions and then voted to let the Tree Permit workorder be granted.
- Majestic Tree Program: None.
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V. Current Business:

- Tree Committee Member Comments: A question was brought up about new trees being planted by the Ohr Okeefe Museum. These are the trees the Okeefe family has donated to the City through the Tidelands Heritage Trust (Sara Guice).
- Chairperson / Secretary Comments: None.
- Reports to the City:

VI. Old Business / New Business: None.

VII. Meeting Adjournment: 4:01 p.m.

- A reminder that the City of Biloxi Tree Committee meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 PM at the Community Development Conference Room.