

Tree Committee Meeting

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

March 4, 2026

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

Members present: Debra Carr (1), Doug Deluca (6), Jeremy Herring (7), Pamela Manners (5), Susan Peterson (4).

Excused: Jamie Tamburo (2).

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

II. **Minutes:** February 4, 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 March 2026 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.”

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. Each Tree Committee member received a copy. A copy will be emailed to Jamie Tamburo who was not present. 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 March 2026 minutes.

B. Site Visits and Recommendations: The Tree Committee discussed the Hawk Creek 2 resubmit. The developer had representatives available at the meeting to answer questions. They had adjusted their resubmit to include everything the Tree Committee requested in the last tree hearing recommendation in October and requested removal of 27 protected trees with a tree permit. They added their tree mitigation plan. A motion was made and seconded and voted on to accept the Hawk Creek 2 resubmit. A Tree Hearing letter for the Planning Commission will be written

stating that five tree committee members voted for the resubmit and one tree committee member was not present to vote. This recommendation will add the date of the case number and the Planning Commission Tree Hearing date when it is scheduled.

C. Committee Reports:

- DRC Attendance: Susan Peterson attended these DRC meetings: February 4th, 11th, 18th, 24th and March 4th.
- PRC / Communications: An article was written by Susan Peterson for the March BNews on Bell Kessler's Tree Grove at her Quilt Shop Piece by Piece on Howard Avenue.
- COB Majestic Tree Applications: We have three City of Biloxi Majestic Tree applications. The first one for the Old Brick House, the other for the Querens Magnolia Tree and John Brauchle live oak tree at 144 Lafayette St. A motion was made, seconded and voted on that we accept the Old Brick House Live Oak Tree. A Second motion was made to accept the Querens Magnolia as a City of Biloxi Majestic Tree. It was seconded and voted to accept the Querens Magnolia as a City of Biloxi Majestic Tree. Paperwork will be signed and forwarded to Mr. Creel to be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for approval.
- A third City of Biloxi Majestic Tree application for 144 Lafayette St was brought up and discussed. It was decided that we should have Brad Manus, acting COB contracted arborist, who will contact the owner, John Brauchle Jr, to make a health assessment before we go forward with this COB Majestic Tree application. Brad will get back with us. It will be added to the next Tree Committee meeting.
- 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 Isabelle 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 at 5600 Washington Ave. to celebrate their 25th anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 13th, 9AM to 12PM. 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 April 1, 2026.

City of Biloxi

Tree Committee Meeting

Date March 4, 2026

Guest Sign-In

(Please print and you may provide an email?)

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