

Tree Committee Meeting

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes

April 1, 2026

I. The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

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

Excused: Doug Deluca (6).

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

II. **Minutes:** March 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 April 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 were comments made by Chase Glisson, Coastal Solutions, LLC about the additional trees at Hawk Creek Phase 2.

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. He presented the List of Trees removed.

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 April 2026 minutes.

B. Site Visits and Recommendations: None

C. Committee Reports:

- DRC Attendance: Susan Peterson attended these DRC meetings: March 11th, 18th, and April 1, 2026. There was no meeting on March 25th.
- PRC / Communications: An article was written by Susan Peterson for the April BNews on the Threatened Long Leaf Pine Trees.

- COB Majestic Tree Program:
- A resolution was made to allow the City of Biloxi to trim and remove the dead tree branches and limbs from the Edgewater Park COB Majestic Tree. Brad Manus, City of Biloxi Contracted arborist, confirmed the tree needed to be cleaned up so it would survive. The Tree Committee voted to allow the tree work to be done according to Brad's Manus's recommendations.
- We have a City of Biloxi Majestic Tree application for the 1044 Lafayette Street tree from John Brauchle that all the tree committee members were forwarded from our last month's Tree Committee meeting. This has given the arborist and tree committee members time to access the requests the City contracted arborist spoke to the owner on. The owner has completed the requests from the arborist. The Tree Committee voted to accept his tree as a COB Majestic Tree. Paperwork will be forwarded to Mr. Creel for approval and then forwarded to the City Council for approval. He will be informed after the meeting that his tree has been accepted.
- Additionally, a COB Majestic Tree application has been submitted for approval for the 2450 W Shore Drive majestic tree owned by Thomas and Linda Zakkak.
- Their documentation had been forwarded to all the Tree Committee members before today's meeting. This tree has also been voted on by the Tree Committee and accepted as a COB Majestic Tree. Paperwork will be forwarded to Mr. Creel for approval and forwarded to the City Council for approval. Susan Peterson will let both families know their tree has been accepted. She additionally will let their Ward representatives know and when it comes before the City Council, she will forward that information to the owners in case they want to attend the City Council meeting.
- Majestic Tree Program: Still waiting for the Howard Avenue paperwork from the Societe Des Arbres.

V. Current Business:

- Tree Committee Member Comments: Jamie Tombero presented a request for our COB Tree Committee to copy the request the Beautification Committee sent to the City of Biloxi to keep the BNews to be printed each month through the rest of this year. It has been budgeted. The Tree Committee voted to accept her request and a letter will be will be forwarded

to the Mayor, CAO, Cecilia Dobbs, Walton, John Majuire (PR), and all the Ward Representatives stating we would like to continue the BNews as a mailed out printed copy.

- Chairperson / Secretary Comments: Susan Peterson advised Sara Guice of the Tidelands Trust that a request needed to be forwarded to Mr. Creel so the 20 live oak trees the Okeefe family wants to have planted and donated to the City of Biloxi for approval. Their group will plant and manage the trees for watering.
- Reports to the City: Hawk Creek phase 2.

VI. Old Business / New Business: None

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

