

Tree Committee Meeting

Location: Community Development Conference Room

Minutes June 3, 2026

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

Members present: Doug Deluca, Jeremy Herring (7), Pamela Manners (5), Susan Peterson (4), Tamburo (2)

Excused: Debra Carr (1).

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

II. **Minutes:** May 6, 2026 minutes were approved.

III. **Public Comment:** Wendy Lally is recording the meeting. 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 June 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 a couple of questions but they were directed to Mr. Creel.

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 and that he has personally contacted the Ward 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. There were no questions or comments from the Tree Committee members. The List of Trees will be attached to the June 2026 minutes.

Mr. Creel showed us the Tree City USA flag that Loren Erickson, MS Forestry Commission Urban and Community Partnership Coordinator delivered to him the day before during their meeting along with other Arbor Day presentations. Two Large Tree City USA signs will also be delivered. He also shared that the City of Biloxi will be able

to apply for some of the grants for having trees planted along our roads and more. That grant paperwork will be forwarded to Mr. Creel.

B. Site Visits and Recommendations: None

C. Committee Reports:

- **DRC Attendance:** Susan Peterson attended these DRC meetings: May 18th, May 13th, and May 27th. No one attended the May 20th DRC meeting. Pamela Manners and Susan Peterson attended the DRC meeting on June 3rd.
- **PRC / Communications:** Susan Peterson wrote an article on “Hurricane Season-Are Your Trees Ready for a Hurricane?” for the June BNews.
- **COB Majestic Tree Program:** None
- **Majestic Tree Program:** None

V. Current Business:

- **Tree Committee Member Comments:** Jamie Tombero presented a request for our COB Tree Committee by text before today’s meeting asking if it would be possible to make the Gorenflo live oak tree a Majestic Tree since Fred Haise (while he attended the school) and later his children and grandchildren have climbed that tree. After research the tree belongs to the Biloxi School System and they will have to make application. It was suggested that this could be handled also by their PTO. This will all be on hold until school resumes and the principal can be contacted.
- Discussion was made on moving forward with working on spending some of the Tree Mitigation funds for planting new protected live oak trees.
- A motion was made to plant 5 live oak trees at the Eagle Point Park (Ward 7). The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Paperwork will be forwarded to the City. Some more discussion about where else to plant was held. Rather than guess locations it was decided that all the tree committee members should check the list on the City of Biloxi Web page for where trees may be planted. They should visit and make sure there is water available close by. We were all reminded that the arborist will also have to check out our recommendations. Recommendations should be brought to our next Tree Committee meeting. We will hold all recommendations that have been voted on until after we have all the recommendations. The Tree Committee was made aware of the City process for spending the Mitigation funds.

- Additionally, Doug Deluca reminded the Tree Committee members that 2 trees are owed by a past developer. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to plant those two protected live oak trees at Eagle Point Park. A separate written recommendation will be forwarded to the Mayor since these two trees do not require Mitigation funds.
- Chairperson / Secretary Comment: The 20 live oak trees donated by the Okeefe family are still waiting for the City of Biloxi for approval and sign-off on the location of infrastructure work. The Tidelands Heritage Trust (Sara Guice) will plant and manage the trees for watering. The Biloxi Bay Area Chamber has purchased a tree through the Tidelands Heritage Trust as a gift to honor members. They will arrange all of the paperwork needed. At this time the recipients (Ed and Jane Shambre) have requested their tree to be planted at Miramar Park.
- Reports to the City: None

VI. Old Business / New Business:

Tree Committee LDO's will be on the Planning Commission agenda for June 18th. The Planning Commission has requested a "Workshop." So this LDO will be rescheduled.

VII. Meeting Adjournment: 3:59

Owner	Permit Number	Address	Trees removed/trimmed/pruned	Diameter	Contractor	Date issued
Wayne Graham	202600910	122 Seal Ave	remove 1 Oak- trim 1 Oak	62" & 49"	Wrights Tree Service	5/15/2026
Chick-Fil-A	202600909	2356 Pass Rd	trim 3 Oaks		Wrights Tree Service	5/14/2026
David Dawson	202600979	448 Saylor Dr	remove 1 Oak	18"	Owner	5/28/2026
Chan Griess	202600978	172 Saint Charles Ave	Trim 2 Oaks	37" & 63"	Owner	5/28/2026

City of Biloxi

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Date June 3, 2026

Guest Sign-In

(Please print and you may provide an email?)

Wendy Lally lally731@gmail.com
