

Minutes
Biloxi Beautification Commission
Wednesday, July 1, 2026
11 a.m.
Biloxi City Hall, City Council room

In attendance

- **Commissioners:** Ward 1, Susan Cain; Ward 2, James McClendon; Ward 3, Stacey Eleuterius Barber; Ward 4 and Chair Lara Bernich Alley; Ward 5, Vincent Creel; Ward 6, Rhett Taylor; Ward 7, Rocquel Ransonet Hays. Chair Alley took roll and declared a quorum exists, the first commission meeting with all seven commissioners.
- **Others present:** City Councilmen Anthony Marshall (Ward 2), Jamie Creel (Ward 4), and Paul Tisdale (Ward 5). Chief Administrative Officer Rick Weaver, Contracts Manager Rachel Quave, and Vernon Mangum of Ward 5.

Order of agenda, properly amended, moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote. The amendment was addition of Vernon Mangum and application for “area adoption” under new businesses.

Approval of minutes from June 17 meeting. Properly moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioners comments.

- **Chair Alley** thanked commissioners for the teamwork on Saturday at the hugely successful Fred Haise Landing Dedication and unveiling of the restored Moonwalk. This success, she said, is a launching pad for future projects already in the works. Chair Alley also welcomed new Ward 6 Commissioner Rhett Taylor, who has attended meetings for months and was appointed to fill the vacancy created with the resignation of Connie Rockco, who provided valuable input and context to the commission during her tenure. Chair Alley also noted that this is the first full meeting, with all seven wards represented by commissioners.
- **Commissioner McClendon** thanked Marshall for being at the meeting. Commissioner McClendon said a tree on Division Street near Forrest Avenue appeared to be in danger of falling into the street. A call for BConnect.
- **Commissioner Creel** thanked commissioners for the assistance with the successful Fred Haise Landing event. Commissioner Taylor said the live streaming was must-see viewing. (The city has also posted the video of the ceremony on its YouTube page .) Commissioner Creel also noted that assistance from all city departments helped make the event a success, and especially thanked Contracts Manager Rachel Quave for ensuring the Mississippi Gulf Coast National Heritage Grant was properly facilitated.

Citizens comments

- **CAO Rick Weaver** congratulated commissioners on the Fred Haise Landing project. He also made commissioner aware of two city functions celebrating the Fourth of July. At the Seafood Museum on the July 3 and on the Town Green July 4, before the fireworks show.

- **Councilman Jamie Creel** congratulated commissioners on the Fred Haise Landing project. He also noted the importance of the city having a comprehensive beautification plan enacted, especially to foster adoption programs.
- **Councilman Paul Tisdale** congratulated commissioners on the Fred Haise Landing ceremony. He also suggested that commissioners provide an update or report to council during a council meeting, perhaps three times a year. He also touted the value of the city's BConnect service.
- **Vernon Mangum of Ward 5** presented commissioners with a completed "Adopt-An-Area" agreement that proposed to have the Deacon Mr. Johnnie Lee Mangum Memorial Scholarship Fund organization adopt the corner of Briarfield Lane & Mercury Lane, a swatch of public right of way that is directly west of the Coliseum parking lot. Mangum proposed the organization would maintain the property, primarily cutting the grass. No gloves or bags would be needed, he said. Contracts Manager Rachel Quave, who coordinates contracts involving maintenance of city right-of-way and property, said the commission could approve the agreement, if it so desired. The agreement was approved unanimously, making this the first commission-approved adoption agreement. Commissioner Creel cautioned members that coordination with Quave was key to the program succeeding, and all adoptions should flow through the Beautification Commission. Appropriate signage is in the works for the Mangum adoption, as outlined in the agreement.

Business/updates

- **Regarding Fred Haise Landing:** Commissioner Creel reported that Harrison County Supervisor Dan Cuevas says sand will be removed from the from the Fred Haise Landing sign and attractive, hearty, low-maintenance landscaping would be installed. Artist Lucinda L'Enfant, who created and restored the Moonwalk, said a protective coating should be applied yearly. Commissioner Barber had previously suggested pole banners for the site. Commissioner Creel noted that Fred Haise's birthday is Nov. 14.
- **Paint-a-can.** Commissioners voted unanimously to appoint Rocquel Ransonet Hays as chair of a project where litter cans on the beach in Biloxi would be painted as part of a community project. Date and details to be announced.
- **Traffic control boxes.** Commissioner Creel suggested a project to apply artwork to traffic control boxes at high-profile signalized intersections throughout the city. He would follow-up with appropriate representatives for guidance.
- **Comprehensive Beautification Plan update.** Commissioner Creel suggested that new commissioners review the plan and recommend appropriate revisions/additions at next beautification meeting. It could then be updated, formatted in a visually appealing fashion, and re-presented to the City Council with the request that the plan becomes city policy, which would also formalize the process for adoptions.
- **New projects update: Commissioner Barber** suggested an event be considered, such as at Hiller Park, with informational booths to cover such topics as Recycling, Adopt-a-median, tree-planting ideas, public art installations, and volunteer opportunities.

Adjournment

Chair Alley called for further business. There being none reported, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, July 15, 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/>

The Biloxi Beautification Commission, July 1, 2026



From left: Ward 7, Rocquel Ransonet Hays; Ward 6, Rhett Taylor; Ward 5, Vincent Creel; Ward 4 and Chair Lara Bernich Alley; Ward 3, Stacey Eleuterius Barber; Ward 2, James McClendon; and Ward 1, Susan Cain.