

**TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MARCH 15, 2016 - 5:30 P.M.**

**PARKS AND RECREATION HEADQUARTERS**

**MEMBERS**

X	Dr. Maurice Holt, Chair
X	Terry Plauche, Vice-Chair
	William Rooks, Treasurer
X	Dr. Rip Pfeiffer
X	Cleve Formwalt
X	Jesse McDaniel

**STAFF**

	Parks & Recreation	Matthew Capps
X	Urban Forestry	Gerard McCants
X	Alabama Power	Blake Jarrett
X	Planning & Zoning	Richard Olsen
X	Legal	Melissa Mutert

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and noted that there was a quorum.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

A motion was made by Mr. McDaniel, with second by Mr. Plauche to approve the Treasurer’s report showing a balance of \$10,454.37 with no activity.

The motion passed unanimously.

**PERMIT REQUESTS:**

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>P-2016-002</u></b> Rose Green 558 Charles Street (West side of Charles Street, 135’ North of New Jersey Street) Remove a 42” live oak.</p> <p>Rose Green, the applicant, 558 Charles Street, stated that there is an oak tree at the corner of her driveway that she is seeking permission to remove. It is pushing against the power pole, and the wires are tangled in the tree. She can’t put her trash out due to the sidewalk being so broken up. She has to take her garbage across the street for pickup. She is having foundation problems with her house, and the steps have shifted. She has already had the sidewalk repaired once.</p>
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Mr. McCants explained the process of putting in a Service Request Order for trimming trees, and although the City does maintain the trees for garbage pickup, they currently have 60 requests to trim trees for garbage pickup.

Mrs. Green stated that if the tree is only trimmed and not removed it will continue to grow and cause problems. There is a water main nearby, and a root lies right next to the meter.

Mr. Jarrett stated that this tree is an ongoing problem for Alabama Power due to problems with tangled wires and the transformer.

Mrs. Green stated that she has had to spend more than \$800.00 for plumbing repairs due to damage the roots have caused.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that if allowed to take it down, there is a requirement of a 2:1 ratio for replacement. The trees wouldn't have to be replaced in the same area.

Mr. McCants stated that this is not a good planting area. He said there are planting projects all around town.

Mr. Jarrett stated that if a tree was planted, it should be able to mature. Proximity to utilities and homes should be considered, and it should be the right tree for the right place. There is currently a big project to remove damaged/diseased trees from the parks.

Dr. Pfeiffer stated that he is only talking about replacement in the right-of-way, not in the parks. He continued to say that there won't be any overstory trees planted in the right-of-way.

Mr. McCants replied that isn't true; there are currently overstory trees being planted on Dauphin Street right now. The trees being planted are pond cypress which is an approved tree for downtown.

The Chair noted that the request was recommended by staff for denial.

Mr. Plauche stated that he disagreed with the staff recommendations. The tree needs to come down and be replaced.

Mr. McCants reiterated that the standard for replacement is 2:1.

Dr. Pfeiffer made a motion to approve removal of the tree with it being replaced by two overstory trees.

Mr. Jarrett stated that Alabama Power would remove the limbs from around

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	<p>the power lines.</p> <p>Mr. McCants stated that the City would then remove the tree.</p> <p>After discussion regarding setting time limits for applicants to make donations to the tree bank when requests for removal are approved, consequences if applicants did not make donations as agreed and the appeals process for Tree Commission applications, Dr. Pfeiffer withdrew his motion.</p> <p>Mr. McDaniel made a motion to allow Alabama Power and the City of Mobile to coordinate removal of the tree with the applicant paying \$400.00 into the tree bank prior to removal.</p> <p>The motion was seconded by Mr. Plauche.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b><u>P-2016-003</u></b> Springhill and Davenport, LLC 2825 Spring Hill Avenue (Southeast corner of Spring Hill Avenue and Davenport Street) Remove one live oak and four crepe myrtles</p> <p>Lee Rambo of Jade Consulting, 208 N. Greeno Road, Fairhope, AL, spoke on behalf of the applicant and stated that they were requesting approval to remove one live oak and four crepe myrtles off McLean Avenue. The proposed development will include commercial/retail and a fire station.</p> <p>Dr. Pfeiffer asked if the development would meet the tree and landscape ordinance as far as greenspace and tree planting.</p> <p>Mr. McCants replied that it would.</p> <p>Mr. Rambo stated that the placement of the driveway is dictated by the location of the trees and presented a copy of the landscape plan that had been submitted for the development. He stated that nine live oaks will go back on Lot 2 only. Some of the trees are on private property and not all are in the right-of-way.</p> <p>Mr. McDaniel asked for confirmation that the driveway is placed where it is to be able to save two other trees on the site.</p> <p>Mr. Rambo stated that was correct.</p> <p>Dr. Pfeiffer made a motion to approve removal of the trees with replacement</p>

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	<p>at a 2:1 ratio for the live oak or a donation of \$200 per tree in a 2:1 ratio shall be made to the tree bank by the applicant for a total donation of \$400.</p> <p>The motion was seconded by Mr. Plauche.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>P-2016-004</u></b> Joel T Daves IV 21 Drury Lane (West side of Drury Lane, 500'± North of Wimbledon Drive.) Remove one water oak</p> <p>Joel T. Daves, IV, 21 Drury Lane, stated that he was before the Commission previously and got permission to remove a diseased magnolia. He now wants to remove a water oak and replace it with a gingko tree.</p> <p>After review of the site plan, Mr. Formwalt made a motion to remove the water oak with the provision of two replacement trees of the gingko species, to serve as replacements for the subject water oak and the 19" magnolia approved for removal at the November 17, 2015 meeting.</p> <p>The motion was seconded by Mr. Plauche.</p> <p>The motion carried unanimously.</p>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. McCants announced that in honor of Arbor Day on April 14, 2016, they will be cleaning up Maitre Park off Halls Mill Road by removing about 20 bad live oaks and some sweet gums that have fallen or have cracked trunks. The City will also be installing some new light poles.

The Chair states that he thought that they should put a time period in the By-Laws for payments that should be made to the tree bank when trees are approved for removal.

Ms. Mutert stated that should go in the Standing Rules. As far as enforcement, if the time period had elapsed and the funds had not been paid, one option would be to draft an agreement to be signed where the City could record a judgment as consequences for failure to contribute.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Commission, the Chair made a motion to adjourn.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Formwalt, and the meeting was adjourned.