

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

JUNE 21, 2016 - 5:30 P.M.

PARKS AND RECREATION HEADQUARTERS

MEMBERS

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

STAFF

| | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|
| X | Urban Forestry | Gerard McCants |
| X | Alabama Power | Blake Jarrett |
| X | Planning & Zoning | Richard Olsen |
| X | Legal | Melissa Mutert |

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:31 P.M. He noted that there was a quorum present.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Mr. Rooks read the Treasurer’s Report with an ending balance of \$14,454.57. A motion was made by Mr. Formwalt to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pfeiffer. The motion carried unanimously.

PERMIT REQUESTS:

WITHDRAWN

Application was received late and was incomplete. Upon receiving more information, it was determined the tree was in fact on private property, and thus not under the purview of the Tree Commission.

CERTIFICATIONS:

[111 S Royal St and 65 Government St](#)

Acknowledgement of receipt of Certifications by Mayor Stimpson and issuance of permits for removal of eight live oak trees in front of the History Museum at 111 South Royal Street, two live oak trees on the south side of the History Museum on Church Street, and seven live oak trees on the north side of the Gulf Coast Exploreum along Government Street.

Colby Cooper, Chief of Staff for the City of Mobile, 205 Government Street, Mobile, AL, represented the Mayor’s Certification. Mr. Cooper stated that the request for removal was necessary because the trees were damaging the sidewalks causing a safety hazard for those

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using the sidewalks as well as damaging utility infrastructure located underneath the sidewalks. He stated that Cart Blackwell, the City's Architectural Historian, would lead a group to put appropriate trees in appropriate spaces to maintain the beauty of the City. They may re-plant trees in the same wells, but that had not been determined.

The Commission acknowledged the Mayor's Certification.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Olsen referred to the ongoing process of reviewing suggested By-Law changes and suggested that if they did not review all of them at that time they might at a minimum address the conflicts with State Code and combining the Secretary and Treasurer positions.

Mr. Rooks asked if Mr. Cummings would be replaced on the Commission.

Mr. Olsen replied that Councilman Daves had asked for recommendations and that the person may or may not live in the district.

Mr. McDaniel stated that he was in favor of bringing their By-Laws in line with State Code.

Mr. Olsen discussed recommended revisions to Article V that included membership, terms of service and vacancies.

Mr. Rooks asked if changing the number of members would affect the number required for a quorum.

Mr. Olsen replied that it should or could.

Ms. Mutert noted that the wording was a majority of the number of members.

Mr. Rooks commented on tree protection by saying that he would make a recommendation about requests regarding nuisance trees be put in the By-Laws.

Mr. Olsen commented that removal of nuisance trees such as, but not limited to, water oaks, camphor or popcorn trees should always be done by an arborist, not a citizen.

Mr. Rooks made a motion, seconded by Dr. Pfeiffer to accept the changes to Articles V and VI.

The motion carried.

Members and staff discussed the conflicts in the State Code regarding Mayoral Certifications about the difference in an application which require a vote to approve or

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deny a request versus language stating that Commissioners “shall approve” certifications.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Holt announced that a member did have a new addition.

Mr. McDaniel stated that his second child, a baby girl, was born six days ago.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 P.M.