

Approved December 19, 2019

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2017 - 5:30 P.M.

PARKS AND RECREATION HEADQUARTERS

MEMBERS:

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

STAFF:

	Parks and Recreation	Matthew Capps
X	Parks and Recreation	Gerard McCants
X	Forestry	Peter Toler
X	Alabama Power	Eric Garrett
X	Planning & Zoning	Richard Olsen
X	Legal	Melissa Mutert

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:33 P.M. and noted that the number of members present represented a quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rooks presented the Treasurer's Report with an ending balance of \$20,354.57, after donations of \$400.00 each from 1252 Government and 3151 Dauphin Street.

A motion was made by Mr. McDaniel, with second by Mr. Plauche, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

PERMIT REQUESTS:

P-2017-6

**Michael Blankenship
1307 Spring Hill Ave
(South side of Spring Hill Ave, ' West of Ann St)
Removal of two (2) trees**

Michael Blankenship, 1307 Springhill Avenue, Mobile, AL, spoke on his own behalf and stated that ALDOT was requiring that they eliminate two oak trees to make a one-in, one-out drive and install drains. They were also told that they must replace the trees with five three inch caliper trees. ALDOT will not allow the trees to be replaced in the ROW, but they are planting nine trees on private property. He circulated plans for Commission members to review.

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Mr. Olsen stated that ALDOT has adopted a new access management plan in the last five years that applies to properties being redeveloped, or with significant development, especially involving parking or circulation, that required that the site be brought into compliance with this new plan. The new plan applied to state roads only.

Mr. McCants stated that Urban Forestry would take the trees down.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rooks, with second by Mr. Plauche, to approve the above referenced request, subject to the following:

1. All work in the right-of-way requires a right-of-way permit;
2. Donation of Four (4) trees to the Tree Commission tree bank, per the two for one replacement policy of the Tree Commission. Donation to be in the form of a check made out to the Mobile Tree Commission in the amount of \$800.00 (\$200.00 per tree X 4 = \$800.00.)

The motion carried unanimously.

P-2017-7

Nick Amberger for City of Mobile

Various locations on McGregor Avenue

Removal of three (3) trees, a 24" Magnolia, and 2 16" water oaks

Shawn Estes, McCrory and Williams, 3207 International Drive, Mobile, AL, spoke on behalf of the applicant and stated that the trees in their request needed to be removed (or had already been removed), for the following reasons: 1) the 24" magnolia needed to be removed so they could reset the guard rail closer to the curb and brick fence to build the sidewalk; 2) 16" water oak west of curve needed to be removed to change the slope around the curve to improve the line of site and put up a guard rail; 3) the second 16" water oak had already been removed by Alabama Power when they relocated some lines; 4) they wished to add another tree, a pine, to the request because he had worked under the assumption that it was not a protected species of pine tree. The curb and gutter that would be constructed would affect the roots of the pine tree.

Mr. Olsen stated that the decision was made at the last meeting that no pines were protected except long-leaf pines.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Mr. Rooks, to approve the request, subject to the following conditions:

1. All work in the right-of-way requires a right-of-way permit;
2. Donation of Four (4) trees to the Tree Commission tree bank, per the two for one replacement policy of the Tree Commission for the Magnolia, and a one for one replacement for the Oaks. Donation to be in the form of a check made out to the Mobile Tree Commission in the amount of \$800 (\$200 per tree X 4 = \$800.)

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The motion carried unanimously.

P-2017-8

Joe Asarisi for Virginia Behlen and Harold Hawkins

3213 Dauphin St

(Southeast corner of Dauphin St and Midtown Park W)

Remove a 20” live oak and an unhealthy 12” live oak

Joe Asarisi, Asarisi and Associates, 6348 Piccadilly Square Drive, Suite 215, Mobile, AL, spoke on behalf of the property owners. He stated that the site is being redeveloped for a new Bojangles, and ALDOT was requiring a right-out only drive to lessen traffic congestion. The site would be landscaped in compliance with City standards. He further stated that the radius could not extend onto the adjacent property due to an existing storm drain. He presented the tree and landscape plan for the site for review. He noted that there is no landscaping currently on the site, only asphalt and a building.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rooks, seconded by Mr. McDaniel, to approve the request, subject to the following conditions:

- The request to remove the tree in the Midtown Park West right of way is approved.
- The applicant is to request permission for the curb cut radius on the Dauphin St Service Road to extend beyond the east property line and encroach into the frontage of the adjacent property to the east from that property owner.
- If there is an agreement, the drive way shall shift to the east to provide area around the tree in the Dauphin St Service Road right of way.
- If an agreement cannot be reached, the permit is approved, subject to the following conditions:
 1. Submission of documentation that the adjacent property owner did not grant permission for the radius to extend in front of their property;
 2. Donation of two (2) live oaks to be planted at another location in City of Mobile right-of-way by Urban Forestry. Donation to be in the form of a check for \$200.00 per tree (\$400.00 total) to the Mobile Tree Commission, with a subsequent check from the Commission for \$400.00 then written to Urban Forestry.

The motion carried with Mr. Plauche recused.

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P-2017-9

Jay Eubanks Tree Service for Pam Koch

112 Levert Ave

(Southeast corner of Levert Ave and DeLeon Ave)

Trim seven (7) live oaks, 44”+

Jay Eubanks, Jay Eubanks Tree Service, 7341 Zeigler Boulevard, Mobile, AL, spoke on behalf of the property owner and stated that the request was to deadwood and raise the canopies.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Formwalt, with second by Mr. Plauche, to approve the request.

The motion carried unanimously.

P-2017-10

Jay Eubanks Tree Service for Jerry Bramlett

151 Levert Ave

(West side of Levert Ave, at the terminus of DeLeon Ave)

Trim one (1) live oak, 44”+

Jay Eubanks, Jay Eubanks Tree Service, 7341 Zeigler Boulevard, Mobile, AL, spoke on behalf of the property owner and stated that the request was to deadwood and raise the canopies.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Formwalt, with second by Mr. Plauche, to approve the request.

The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Dr. Holt addressed the change in time and venue for future meetings of the Tree Commission and asked Mr. Olsen to discuss.

Mr. Olsen stated that Parks and Rec needed the space and noted that there was insufficient space in the meeting room for the current meeting. He stated that the Pre-Council Room in Government Plaza was better set up for such meetings. He addressed that the time needed to be moved up due to no overtime in the budget for building security that would be required to meet after hours. He also noted that no other City board or commission meets off-campus; this venue required more time for staff to set-up. He advised Commission members that they would be provided with parking placards for their convenience.

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A motion was made by Mr. McDaniel to amend the standing rules to reflect a change in the meeting time to 4:00 P.M. effective April, 2017. The motion was seconded by Mr. Formwalt.

The motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. McDaniel asked a question about the communication between the Forestry Department and the Tree Commission members regarding trees in the ROW that were removed by City staff. He stated that he had received a call from a resident asking about a large tree that had been removed.

Mr. McCants replied that if they had to notify the Commission members about every tree that they touch, it would require another staff member to track and notify them.

Mr. Toler stated that, as an example, just today, their staff trimmed 52 trees that day and removed two.

Mr. Rooks stated that he received similar calls, and they did need a channel to quickly get information when citizens call Commissioners with complaints about tree removals.

Mr. McCants advised Commissioners that they should email him with any concerns, and he would provide them with the information they needed as quickly as possible.

- Mr. Rooks, Mr. McCants and Mr. Toler discussed the removal of the bald cypress trees at the entrance to Ridgefield Subdivision. Mr. Rooks stated that he would discuss possible replacement options with the residents and come back to the Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr. McCants and Mr. Olsen discussed changes in the organizational chart and how the changes affect the Urban Forestry Department and the Build Mobile Department.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 P.M.