

Approved December 19, 2019

**TREE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 21, 2017- 4:30 P.M.**

**CITY OF MOBILE MEETING ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, SOUTH TOWER**

**MEMBERS:**

X	Dr. Maurice Holt, Chair
X	Terry Plauche, Vice-Chair
	William Rooks, Sec/Treasurer
X	Dr. Rip Pfeiffer (arrived 4:35)
X	Cleve Formwalt
X	Jesse McDaniel
	Evan Cox

**STAFF:**

X	Urban Forestry	Peter Toler
X	Alabama Power	Eric Garrett
X	Planning & Zoning	Bert Hoffman

The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted that the number of members present constituted a quorum.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Plauche presented the Treasurer's Report with an ending balance of \$16,074.57 after donation of \$700.00 to Friends of Mobile Animal Shelter. It was noted that two checks totaling \$1200.00 to the City of Mobile for planting trees in the Right of Way were outstanding.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

**PERMIT REQUESTS:**

**MTC-010843-2017**

**Battiste Tree Service for John and Laura Rutherford**

**216 Grand Boulevard**

**Remove a 28" Pecan**

Kevin Battiste, Battiste Tree Service, LLC, P. O. Box 1567, Theodore, AL, spoke on behalf of the property owners and stated that the pecan tree needs to come down due to the poor health of the trees and the proximity to power lines and pole. He stated that the recommended \$200.00 donation to the tree bank was not fair in this case as the property owners were trying to beautify the area and were doing the City a favor to remove the

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tree at their own expense.

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

1. Due to the proximity to power lines, removal is to be performed by a Certified Line Clearing Arborist, at the owner's expense;
2. Stump to be ground and neutral ground to be restored, including placement of sod;
3. Planting of an understory tree in the right-of-way in front of 216 Grand Boulevard, at the owner's expense, species and location to be coordinated with the Right Tree Right Place list and the City Arborist;
4. Donation to the tree bank in the amount of \$200.00 to defray the cost of acquisition and planting of another tree in the center median of Grand Boulevard – species and location to be determined by the City Arborist;
5. All applicable permits must be obtained, including a Right-of-Way permit, prior to removal of the tree.

The motion carried unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- The Chair presented the Proposed Application Deadline and Meeting Schedule.
- Request from the City of Mobile Architectural Engineering Department for a \$3,300 Grant for 7 Bald Cypress and 4 Sweetbay Magnolia Trees  
City of Mobile Project #PR-090-16  
Taylor Park

Kim Harden, City of Mobile Architectural Engineering Department, 205 Government Street, Mobile, AL, represented the request and stated that there is a CDBG grant to work on the drainage at the park as it becomes a pond when it rains. They wanted to add a walking trail, if funds were available. She demonstrated the need to remove a line of water oaks that had grown into a drainage pipe. The drainage pipe will need to be repaired or replaced, as needed, and they would like to replace those trees along with others that had been previously removed and add some other trees for shade along the walking trail.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Mr. Formwalt, to approve the request for a total number of 11 trees; however, the tree species was to be determined by the City Arborist, based upon site conditions.

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The motion carried unanimously.

- Request from the City of Mobile Architectural Engineering Department for a \$5,000 Grant for 5 Florida Maple, 5 “Muskogee” Crape Myrtle, and 6 Austrails Sweetbay Magnolia Trees  
City of Mobile Project # PR-115-17  
Harmon Park Playground

Kim Harden, City of Mobile Architectural Engineering Department, 205 Government Street, Mobile, AL, represented the request and demonstrated what existed in and around the site and what improvements were going to be made to the park. She noted the high level of use of the park due to the proximity to a school and community center.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. McDaniel, with second by Mr. Formwalt, to approve the request, with the City advised that the Mobile Tree Commission’s main purpose of available funding was to provide for the plantings of trees in the right-of-way, rather than for park or playground projects.

The motion carried with Dr. Pfeiffer in opposition.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr. Toler updated the Commission on the status of the widening of Zeigler Boulevard. He stated that it appeared that tree removal began on the west end of the project and was nearly to Langdon Park. Mr. Hoffman stated that actual construction was still approximately a year away, based upon information provided by the Engineering Department.
- Mr. Garrett advised the MTC members that Alabama Power was using a “tree growth regulator” liquid on smaller trees under powerlines to slow down growth. The product would usually last for about three years and reduced the amount of trimming required.
- Mr. Toler stated that he is working with Alabama Power to use “directional cutting” tree trimming procedures which will reduce stubs in trees around power lines and result in healthier trees.
- Mr. Hoffman gave a brief overview of an upcoming meeting with the Mayor regarding the proposed “Right Tree, Right Place” tree and landscape requirements in the proposed revised Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Hoffman stated that he would email copies of the information to MTC members.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 P.M.