

Tree Commission Minutes

March 20, 2018

PAGE 1

TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

MARCH 20, 2018 - 4:30 P.M.

CoM MEETING ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, GOVERNMENT PLAZA

MEMBERS:

STAFF:

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

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

Mr. Plauche, as Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:35 P.M. and noted that the number of members present constituted a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. McDaniel, with second by Mr. Rooks, to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

- February 16, 2016
- March 15, 2016

The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Rooks presented the Treasurer's Report with an ending balance of \$6,574.57.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

Tree Commission Minutes

March 20, 2018

PAGE 2

PERMIT REQUESTS:

MTC-016292-2018

Paul Davis

10 St Emanuel St

Remove two Chinese Elms to allow for the addition of a Gallery.

Paul Davis, 61 St. Joseph Street, Mobile, AL, represented the request as architect for the project at 10 St. Emanuel Street where they are renovating the existing buildings into residential units. They were requesting permission to remove two trees in order to install galleries. He stated that they would have to re-work the sidewalk. They would be removing the street lamp and the tree grates and returning the tree grates to the City.

Mr. Olsen added that the plans for the project had been approved by the CRC.

After discussion regarding the health of the trees, a motion was made by Mr. Daniel, with second by Mr. Rooks, to approve the request, subject to the following conditions:

1. All work to be performed under the supervision of a certified arborist;
2. The applicant or his contractor obtain the necessary right-of-way permits, if any;
3. All work to be coordinated with Urban Forestry.

The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Councilperson Bess Rich made a presentation regarding a Beautification Project for the medians in Grelot Road beginning at Cody Road and running East to University Boulevard. Her office set aside \$30,000.00 from last year for this project as a capital project and would like to match it with another \$30,000.00 this year. She hoped that the Tree Commission would help determine how her office could best utilize the funds and design the project. Ms. Rich stated that civic association for Lamplighter Woods Subdivision had agreed that a well could be put on property owned by Lamplighter Woods. She met with Mr. Carley, an arborist at USA, and he suggested that two wells be installed to water the trees they wanted to plant. Her office cannot work with contracts, so she is looking for a partnership to help contract for the work. They have used some volunteers in the past, but this is a much larger project.

Mr. Toler suggested that the Alabama Urban Forestry Association may be able to plant the trees for them.

Ms. Rich stated that she would be willing to work with MAWSS to install irrigation, but if there was a native plant that would survive and look nice without it, that would be fine.

Tree Commission Minutes

March 20, 2018

PAGE 3

Ms. Rich further stated that the City had a benchmark that it would use outside contractors if they could verify that 20,000 cars per day passed, but she can't get them to count the cars on Grelot. Therefore, they would have to have an outside contractor.

Discussion ensued regarding wells for irrigation as far as number, location, cost, and power requirements.

Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Olsen suggested that Councilperson Rich or the Tree Commission send a letter to Shayla Beaco, Executive Director of Build Mobile, to request permission for Matt Jollitt to work on this as a project, if he has times, as he is a landscape architect on the City's Staff.

Ms. Rich stated that she hoped that the Tree Commission would spearhead the project and let her office send the allocated funds to Public Works or to the Tree Commission.

Mr. Olsen replied that the Tree Commission, as long as he had been involved, had not undertaken such a project, but instead contributed funds to such projects. As a quasi-governmental body, they would need to get a legal opinion regarding the bid process, and the Commission, and the City, may be better off donating funds to another entity to hire a contractor.

Mr. Toler suggested having AUFA involved.

Mr. Olsen recommended that Ms. Rich talk to Nick Amberger about City Engineering handling the project since the medians are in the right-of-way, and Engineering would ultimately have to be involved.

Mr. McDaniel stated that the Tree Commission's By-Laws authorized them to accept contributions and expend same on their projects.

Mr. Olsen replied stated that was intended for educational projects, and they would need a legal opinion for such a project as this one. If money were to be funneled through the Tree Commission that didn't go back to a City Department, they may need a Request For Quote, or a Request For Proposal. He further stated that when he first took over working with the Tree Commission, he presented some proposed amendments to their Bylaws where they conflicted with State code and to the Standing Rules where they conflicted with the Bylaws. The recommended changes did not see much daylight other than combining the Secretary and Treasurer's position and changing the meeting date. He hoped that the Commissioners would take up review of the Bylaws again because there are things that are very problematic.

Mr. Olsen and the Commission members recommended that Councilperson Rich gather more information and come back to the Commission with more concrete information.

Tree Commission Minutes

March 20, 2018

PAGE 4

Ms. Rich agreed to come back at a later date after she consults with the City Council, Council attorney, and Mr. Amberger.

- Mr. Olsen stated that the site plan for the proposed CVS on the site bounded by University Boulevard, Airport Boulevard, and Dogwood Drive was available for their review as the Commissioners had requested seeing the site plan and landscape plan for informational purposes only, but they had no review or approval authority.

Mr. Plauche suggested that any Commission member wishing to review might do so after the meeting.

- Mr. Olsen stated that the discussion about landscaping and tree requirements in the new zoning ordinance was put on the agenda at Dr. Pfeiffer's request, and he did not know what Dr. Pfeiffer wanted to discuss.

Mr. Plauche suggested that the discussion be held over until the next meeting when Dr. Pfeiffer was in attendance.

- Due to the absences of Commission members, Mr. Plauche suggested that the Election of Officers scheduled to occur be held over until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Rooks, with second by Mr. McDaniel, to hold the election of officers over until the April meeting.

Mr. Formwalt suggested that, in the event of absences at the next meeting, a slate of officers should be prepared and presented to Commission members.

Mr. Rooks and Mr. McDaniel volunteered to work together to serve as a nominating committee to present a slate of officers at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr. Olsen announced that the current meeting would be his last as he was retiring the following week. Mr. McDaniel asked if Mr. Olsen could re-send the recommended changes to the By-Laws. Mr. Olsen stated that staff would get a current copy of the recommended changes in their books and a red-lined copy sent to them. He stated that they did need to address the changes, and Melissa Mutert of the City's Legal Department was in agreement with the recommended changes.
- Eric Garrett stated that he had received an email from the underground crew at Alabama Power regarding some pond cypress trees where the roots have infiltrated the infrastructure of their duct work along Dauphin Street north of Water Street. The trees were planted in tree wells in the 90's. The roots have left the wells, and there is probably three to four times the root system underground than what is visible above ground.

Tree Commission Minutes

March 20, 2018

PAGE 5

MAWSS seems to have some leaks in the area and roots are growing into the manholes as well. This can cause them to have to replace underground cables.

Discussion continued regarding the history of the tree plantings and tree wells on Dauphin Street, that the tree wells are too small to support and contain many types of trees long-term, and possible future use of the wells for short term plantings or planting species of trees that would not be as harmful to infrastructure in the long term.

Mr. Olsen stated that any decisions regarding future use of the tree wells needs to involve City Engineering and the Administration.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 P.M.