

MOBILE TREE COMMISSION MINUTES

MARCH 19, 2019 - 4:30 P.M.

CoM MEETING ROOM, 1ST FLOOR, GOVERNMENT PLAZA

MEMBERS

	Dr. Maurice Holt, Chair
X	Terry Plauche, Vice-Chair
X	William Rooks, Sec/Treasurer
X	Cleve Formwalt
X	Jesse McDaniel
X LATE	Evan Cox – arrived during discussion of the Fort Conde application

STAFF

X	Urban Forestry	Peter Toler
X	Alabama Power	Eric Garrett
X	Planning & Zoning	Margaret Pappas
	Planning & Zoning	Bert Hoffman
X	Planning & Zoning	Courtney Leytham

Mr. Plauche called the meeting to order and confirmed that the number of members present constituted a quorum.

APPLICATIONS

Fort Conde Restoration Venture, LLC (Nicholas H. Holmes III, agent)

113A Monroe Street

Removal of two clusters of live oaks and water oaks to allow for the construction of a new inn building and swimming pool.

MTC-034739-2019

Mr. Nick Holmes, agent for Fort Conde Restoration Venture, LLC, P. O. Box 684, Mobile, AL 36603, explained the request to remove tree clusters that would be in the footprint of the proposed new building or pool.

After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rooks, with second by Mr. Formwalt, to approve the removal of the two tree clusters subject to the following condition:

- 1) provision of a \$200 donation to the tree bank to allow for replanting of the right of way tree in another location.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Plauche noted that Mr. Cox was present at the meeting.

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William Singleton

160 Houston Street

Trimming of live oak so that it does not damage a residence.

MTC-034783-2019

William Singleton, 160 Houston Street, Mobile, AL, requested approval to trim the live oak limb that hangs over his residence as it either lays or bangs on his house during storms, and he was concerned about damage to his home.

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

- 1) Tree trimming permit be issued to a certified arborist who is licensed and bonded to work in the City of Mobile; and
- 2) All trimming to be coordinated with Urban Forestry, in compliance with ANSI A300 pruning standards.

The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bienville Square Master Plan

Downtown Parks Conservancy

William Hanes

Williams Hanes and Carol Hunter of the Downtown Parks Conservancy discussed the formation of the non-profit Conservancy and development of their Board. They raised \$30,000.00 to put lights around the fountain at Bienville Square last year, and this year they have raised \$100,000.00 to create a master plan. The idea was that the City would match funds raised for this project. Ms. Hunter presented a draft of the Master Plan to update the park and make it more usable for events that take place there throughout the year.

Ms. Pappas noted that the Master Plan was presented to the Commission for their information only due to it being a park and not within the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Conservancy will make a presentation to the public in the future.

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Mr. McDaniel thanked Mr. Hanes and Ms. Hunter for their presentation and encouraged the Conservancy to file a notice of intent with the Tree Commission two weeks prior to seeking a resolution from the City Council for removal of the trees rather than seeking authorization for the removal by the Urban Forester to prevent a firestorm from the public as has happened with removals of other trees in the right-of-way and parks.

Appointing Commissioners to standing committees

Ms. Pappas advised the Commission regarding their bylaws and the methods to populate standing committees.

After discussion, Mr. Plauche opened the floor for nominations for members to serve on the following committees:

- **Public Relations**

A motion was made by Mr. Rooks, with second by Mr. Plauche, for Mr. Rooks and Mr. McDaniel to serve on the Public Relations Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

- **Tree Care**

A motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Mr. McDaniel, for Mr. Formwalt and Mr. Plauche to serve on the Tree Care Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

- **New Trees**

A motion was made by Mr. Plauche, with second by Mr. Rooks, for Mr. Plauche and Mr. Cox to serve on the New Trees Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McDaniel noted that the Chairman of the Commission serves as ex-officio member on all committees.

Input on Proposed Zoning Ordinance

Ms. Pappas discussed the process of public outreach and adoption for the Unified Development Code and the deadline to make comments regarding the current draft on the portal.

Dr. Ralph Pfeiffer asked questions and made comments based on his review of the UDC draft. Mrs. Pappas, Mr. Toler, Mr. Formwalt, and Mr. Plauche addressed each question or comment.

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After discussion of comments submitted by Mr. McDaniel and Mr. Rooks, Mr. Rooks made a motion that he be responsible for uploading comments on behalf of the Tree Commission to the UDC Portal. The motion was seconded by Mr. Plauche and carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Mr. Plauche called for nominations for Chairman and nominated Mr. McDaniel. Mr. Rooks seconded the motion. Mr. McDaniel accepted the nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Plauche called for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. McDaniel made a motion to nominate Mr. Plauche for Vice-Chairman; the motion was seconded by Mr. Formwalt. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Plauche called for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. A motion was made by Mr. Plauche to nominate Mr. Rooks. The motion was seconded by Mr. Formwalt and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Toler discussed the meeting rotation for committees. Mr. Rooks made a motion that the Tree Care Committee will meet at 4:00 prior to the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Plauche and passed unanimously.

Mr. Toler encouraged all Commissioners to attend the Alabama Urban Forestry Association Conference in Gulf Shores in October as well as the upcoming ISA Conference in Mobile.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, a motion was made by Mr. McDaniel to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Plauche, and the meeting was adjourned.