

Tree Committee Meeting

July 26, 2018

3 p.m.

Delchamps Room

Members present: Patrick Waldrop, Skip Jones, Richard Johnson, Jo Hogan, Paul Fontenot. Absent: Harriett Gutknecht, Jay Robinson and Craig Tappan. Gayle Fogarty took minutes. Guest: Barry Gaston and James E. Smith

Paul Fontenot called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The minutes from the meeting held on April 19, 2018 were reviewed and approved, 1st motion by Patrick Waldrop and 2nd by Jo Hogan and unanimously carried.

New Business: Guest: Barry Gaston spoke to the Tree Committee, he stated that he would like to encourage the City to declare Knoll Park as a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. He added that volunteers and seeds could be obtained from the community to make this possible and the City would not incur any expense. There was general discussion among the members.

A motion was made to recommend Knoll Park be declared a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary and encourage volunteers to provide a work day to make this possible, 1st motion by Skip Jones and 2nd by Patrick Waldrop and unanimously carried. Gayle Fogarty was asked to send this motion to the City Clerk for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Richard Johnson presented a tree permitting issue to the committee. The tree discussed is a large loblolly pine located at the NW corner of a building located at 50 Green Road South, Suite B. Richard informed the committee that Paul Merchant has assessed the tree and determined it is healthy and the request to remove the tree was declined. See attached notes.

Guest: James Smith addressed the Tree Committee with his concern that the tree is so large it has become a safety hazard and requested that the tree be removed. There was general discussion among the committee regarding the pine tree. Many committee members recognize the roots have grown close to the building's foundation, and have affected the driveway, although the tree is healthy.

A motion was made to support the recommendation of Public Works Director, Richard Johnson and Horticulture Supervisor, Paul Merchant to agree that Mr. Smith has the right to remove encroaching roots into his foundation, but the city, at this time, could not approve the removal of the healthy loblolly pine, 1st motion by Patrick Waldrop and 2nd by Skip Jones and unanimously carried.

A motion was made to recommend to the City Council the appointment of Greg Wittendorfer to the Tree Committee, 1st motion by Skip Jones and 2nd by Patrick Waldrop and unanimously carried. Gayle Fogarty was asked to send this motion to the City Clerk for the upcoming City Council meeting.

Old Business: Paul Fontenot asked Richard Johnson about the tree committee reviewing landscape plans, he wanted to know what the process is to be able to see the plans prior to final approval by the City. Richard stated that he is working on this and added that the City is working on "close out documents and action plans." Paul inquired if it would be possible to hold the certificate of occupancy until the landscape requirements are approved. There was general discussion among the committee members.

Paul Fontenot also expressed his concerns on enforcing the tree ordinance to keep Fairhope set apart from other cities.

There was also general discussion among the members of what tree seedlings would be chosen for Arbor Day 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.