

MINUTES
CITY OF BEAUFORT TREE BOARD
September 26, 2012, 2:00 pm
Planning Conference Room, City Hall – 1911 Boundary Street
Beaufort, South Carolina

In accordance with South Carolina Code of laws, 1976, Section 30-480(d), as amended, local media were duly notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting.

Members present

Barb Farrior, Chairman
Jim Arnett
William Waskiewicz
Derrick Wells

Staff present

Eliza Hill, Planning Department

Chairman Farrior called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

REVIEW MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2012 AND AUGUST 23, 2012

Mr. Arnett made a motion, second by Mr. Waskiewicz, to approve the minutes of both meetings as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

LETTER TO COUNCIL RE: TREE FUND

Chairman Farrior said the meeting with council was very positive in regard to the Tree Fund, and Ms. Hill had been asked to write a resolution. Chairman Farrior said the money will be spent for maintenance and new trees. Chairman Farrior said council was very enthusiastic about the idea of a tree nursery in Southside Park.

Chairman Farrior said that **Scott Dadson** had asked Ms. Hill to establish in the resolution how fees would be raised and a plan and costs for starting the tree nursery. He asked for a five-year plan: the number of trees to be planted initially, the number of trees to be replanted in subsequent years, and what stage they should grow to.

Ms. Hill asked, if the fees for tree removal go up, if it's less cost per tree if more trees are taken out as opposed to fewer. There was a discussion of the fees being absorbed into the estimates by the tree removers. Mr. Arnett said getting the difference from the permit fees is not worth much, maybe \$1000 a year. There was agreement that they should ask for the whole amount of the fees.

Mr. Wells asked if fines and impact fees were included in Tree Fund sources. Ms. Hill said they didn't discuss it. She felt council wanted the Tree Fund to have a continual revenue stream and that wouldn't be the case with fines. There was discussion about the amount of the fees and how they should be determined. Mr. Wells suggested that the current fees be doubled, and there was general agreement.

Ms. Hill said Southside Park has its own fund for a nursery; they received a grant and BJWSA was going to irrigate it. Some in-kind services were rendered, and some money was left on the table. They would initially put out little liner trees. The master plan for Southside Park includes ball fields, etc. which will happen one day, but that will cost a couple million dollars.

Ms. Hill diagrammed the park and suggested places that the nursery could go. Mr. Waskiewicz said some species might need shade and also suggested that some pruning could be done to let in more light. The trees need to be 2-2.5" caliper trees. There was agreement that seedlings would grow to 2.5" caliper trees in three years. The liners would need to be 10' apart. If they're in 45 gallon perforated liners or grow bags, there's very little digging, Mr. Wells said. It makes a good root mass and they're easy to transplant, Mr. Wells said. Mr. Arnett said they might want to go 12' apart.

Ms. Hill said the Parks Department might mow between the trees if they're that far apart. Ms. Hill said they could avoid that if they go in and spray and plow, plan the liners, mulch it, and keep the whole area mulched. Chairman Farior asked if a space is planted with 50 trees initially, if 50 will be planted the next year, and Ms. Hill said yes. Mr. Arnett said he's planted a couple hundred trees at a time, and it can be difficult to find space to plant that many once they're ready for transplant. Ms. Hill suggested there could be 7' between trees, and then 25 trees per year could be taken out and transplanted, with room in the aisle between them large enough for equipment to go through. Mr. Arnett said it would be good to have trees to replace hazard trees in town.

Mr. Wells recommended ten each of five different local species. The Forestry Department could help determine types, he said. Proposed were live oak, tupelo, Eastern or Southern red oak, elm, hickory, magnolia, willow oak, trident maple, Florida sugar maple, swamp red maple, bald cypress, tulip poplar, basswood, green ash, dogwood, red bud, loquat, tuffbamalia, allee, American holly, and any plum.

Ms. Hill said a well will need to be drilled. There was a discussion about the mulch source and the need for good soil. Mr. Arnett said they would need 4 – 5 loads for the plot. It was determined that the well would be the biggest expense. Ms. Hill said they had looked at using gray water, but it's not yet available.

ARBOR DAY PLANS

The nursery could be established on Arbor Day, Chairman Farrior said. They could spray and till the land and have the ceremony there. Some trees could be planted by the public.

PARKING LOT TREE ISLANDS

Chairman Farrior asked if this is about making the islands larger; Ms. Hill said it is. The ordinance is presently a minimum 6' width for the island, Ms. Hill said. The new Publix has big tree islands but the parking lot is designed with nothing but asphalt. So it was decided that islands will be staggered. The ordinance says an over-story tree has to be within 55' of any parking space. Now the big islands have been taken out, and they are making traditional little islands. Mr. Wells said Grayco Hardware on Lady's Island does it right by using long planters, he feels. They have pre-existing live oaks and have big enough islands to support the trees, and the whole parking lot is shaded.

Mr. Arnett said it would be nice to do it so people don't have to walk with or against the traffic when they get out in the parking lot. Ideally, you could walk from the front of the car to a sidewalk.

There was a general discussion of the new Publix, Family Dollar and Dollar General and their parking lots and plantings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Arnett made a motion, second by Mr. Waskiewicz to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:29 pm.