



MINUTES

The City of Beaufort
PARK & TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday, February 23rd, 2023 at 3:00pm
City Hall Executive Conference Room 2
1911 Boundary St, Beaufort, SC

- I. The Meeting was called to order at 3p.m. by PTAC Chair Barbara Farris, in attendance was PTAC members Gordon Fritz, Victoria Bergesen, Tamala Conner, Parks Supervisor Adam Wellins and Public attendee.
- II. Minutes from the September 22nd, 2022 meeting were approved.
- III. Barbara Farris opened discussions on Bartlett Tree quote and what care plan would be accomplished for the Magnolias on Palmetto St. Adam Wellins stated he had spoken with his Public Works Director, Nathan Farrow, about spending money from the tree fund and was told it would have to be unanimously approved by each member of PTAC before moving forward. Barbara Farris mentioned that a few of the Magnolias were dead and brought to question if the City would look into purchasing their replacements, which Adam Wellins noted he would look for answers to that proposal. Barbara Farris stated she was still waiting on confirmation from Bartlett Tree on which species of Magnolias we located on Palmetto St. Adam Wellins and Tamala Conner brought up the point that depending on the species the scope of work could change and that waiting for confirmation before voting would be the best course of action, so it was tabled until further notice. Tamala Conner asked if there was a way to push a vote forward without the need for waiting until the next meeting which are scheduled every other month, and Adam Wellins brought up the point that we could host an emergency meeting if a vote needed to take place.

- IV. Discussions opened about the Spanish Moss Trail vegetation blind, targeting the area between Depot Rd and Fraser Dr. Public Attendee Jeanne Dunn showed pictures of ideas for a vegetation blind to block off Dominions Power Sub-Station. Adam Wellins mentioned that the trees in the pictures might not fall in line with Dominions Powerline Code, and that we would need to contact them about what their guidelines are regarding their powerline clearance. Jeanne Dunn stated she would like to have a mixture of Arborvitae and shrubs and Victoria Bergesen confirmed that prior discussions were had about having multiple species integrated to the design so that way if one needed to be replaced, we would have options to fill back the space. Discussions were had about piping in the ditch line to gain space if we couldn't plant the vegetation blind along Dominions Fence line.
- V. Adam Wellins started discussions about starting the native plant beds at Pigeon Point Park. Victoria Bergesen mentioned there could be difficulty working it around the playground and that it would need a well thought out plan and space to make it work. Tamala Conner stated that layering the bed with smaller native plants and shrubs would bode better, so we didn't compete with the aspect of the Live Oaks that line the park and street scape of Pigeon Point Rd. Victoria Bergesen said she could provide the group and Adam Wellins with a book that has specific native plants and shrubs for Beaufort County. Adam Wellins asked if all recommendations could be submitted to him by at least the next meeting.
- VI. Mrs. Farrior opened for ideas to new business. Gordon Fritz brought up the option of purchasing new tree guards for the trees planted along Highway 21 but since it is not in City Jurisdiction, there is a possibility that no city funds will be used. Gordon Fritz and Barbara Farrior brought up the concerns of the Boundary St Medians and Streetscape, Adam Wellins assured them that the city had just gotten a shipment of Rosemary to replace the ones killed off by freeze or other reasons and fill in the empty gaps of the landscape along the medians. He also assured them that the City is looking into replacing the dead Muhly Grass and Trees that are in the medians. Barbara Farrior spoke about the City and PTAC visiting the medians in Mt Pleasant, to gather ideas of what makes their medians look great. Victoria Bergesen asked what ever came of the decision for the replacements for the dead palm trees inside of Waterfront Park, Adam Wellins stated that the City intended to move forward with the Sylvester Palm, which PTAC advised against due to it not being native, and not made for our climate along with other concerns, Adam Wellins said he would bring their concerns up to his director Nathan Farrow. Tamala Conner mentioned that maybe the City should just elect to go with a Cabbage Palm or the South Carolina State Tree, to help keep Beaufort unique and have its own identity. Tamala Conner asked a question regarding the clear cutting of trees that are located on a subdivision and if there was a way to protect the landmark trees from being cut down, Adam Wellins said that the Planning department would be better equipped to answer that question and he would inquire trying to get a representative from that department to attend our next meeting.

VII. Meeting was adjourned.