



MINUTES

The City of Beaufort
PARK & TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday, September 28th, 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 Farrow, in attendance was PTAC members Gordon Fritz, Victoria Bergesen, Tamala Conner, Brad Hill, Parks Supervisor Adam Wellins, Downtown Operations Director Linda Roper, Downtown Operations Event Coordinator Ashley Brandon, and Public Works Director Nathan Farrow
- II. Minutes from the July 20th ,2023 meeting was revised and approved.
- III. Linda Roper presented to the Committee the master plan and phase one of the Southside Park renovations, She touched on the planning, design, and location of the new playground being built on the Southside Blvd side of the park and the pavilion being built just outside of the playground area. The committee had asked if any landmark trees were being removed during the project, and Linda Roper clarified that no landmark trees were being removed, only Pine and Gum Trees would need to be removed from the area to complete the playground. The committee asked if they could also see the ongoing plans for Washington St Playground and Linda assured them that she would come back during a future meeting to show them the master plans.
- IV. Barabra opened up discussions about Bartlett Tree updates, Adam Wellins told the committee that the city was working on getting an arborist on site to assess the dead little gem trees and to check if they were the right fit for the area of space and if a better option was available, Barabra asked who oversees the tree care throughout the

city, Adam Wellins stated that most of the tree work and planting is done in house by Public Works, they maintain them and keep them on a proper watering schedule, they go through annual treatment and care all under the Public Works Department.

- V. Barabra continued the meeting with talking about the Vegetation Quotes, Adam Wellins told the committee that Public Works would be donating and installing the pipe through the ditch line along the trail to help create more space for the blind, the quote was approved by the committee and Adam Wellins said the next step would be to pipe in the ditch line and plant the ornamentals after. Brad Hill wanted to clarify the spacing was the same as previously agreed in previous meetings at the 4-5ft mark and Adam Wellins assured them that it was still the spacing they would use moving forward.

- VI. The meeting moved on to the questions from PTAC committee during the July Meeting, Nathan Farrow and the City Manager, Scott Marshall, discussed and agreed that the committee will continue with five members, but they agreed that the meetings will move back to every month, they were changed to bi-monthly previously and the committee had requested it go back to monthly meetings so it could have more opportunities to meet and help the city do great things. Victoria Bergesen and Tamala Conner brought up the fact that it was upsetting that the city website was showing that the committee was meeting every month when they were on a bi-monthly basis, and it was unfair that the other meetings were being marked as canceled when there wasn't supposed to be a meeting those set dates. Adam Wellins and Nate Farrow said they would discuss with the City Clerk to see about getting those records changed, to reflect the true schedule. Tamala Conner brought up the training she inquired about regarding Tree City USA paperwork and it was her understanding the committee wouldn't be required to maintain those records moving forward, Adam Wellins clarified that the city was moving forward with a new system in See Click Fix program, that will automatically document all tree work throughout the city, but it doesn't exclude the committee from submitting the paper work for Tree City USA, but that the city would be able to supply the information that the committee needs to be able to complete the proper documentation, Adam Wellins said that he acknowledges that the committee doesn't have access to the information and the city would gladly provide the information and walk the committee through the paperwork process at it's next meeting. Victoria Bergesen asked about the Dowling Duck Pond, and if there were any updates about the duck boxes the Beaufort Garden Club purchased to be installed, Adam Wellins told her that Nathan Farrow was going to try and sit down with the City Manager again and discuss it, and hopefully a decision will be made soon. The committee also asked about the tidal level for the pond and Adam Wellins and Nathan Farrow explain that the flap gates off the Spanish Moss Trail were working as designed, and the water was flowing out as expected.

- VII. Victoria Bergesen asked during new business if we could start planning for Arbor Day at the next meeting and Adam Wellins said he will make sure that it would be on the agenda next month.
- VIII. Meeting was adjourned.