



MINUTES

The City of Beaufort
PARK & TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday, May 22nd, 2025 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 Isaiah Martinez, Joe Macdermant, Shay Mikell, City Staff Adam Wellins.
- II. Minutes for the April 24th meeting was approved with an amendment made to correct a statement made by Joe Macdermant, the changes made were to state "That Joe Macdermant had made a motion to make recommendations to City Council for a possible bike trail on the Bay St Bluff"
- III. The second item on the agenda was tabled due to the newest member being out of the country.
- IV. Old Business was opened with the first item being the driftwood project, which Adam Wellins updated the committee that he had contacted Certified Arborist Michael Murphy to look at the Palm tree to give his written assessment if it can be transplanted, he stated during the phone conversation that its more than likely the tree would not survive and that we should focus on creating a memorial for the tree moving forward, but he would still provide his written assessment. Adam Wellins went into the possible issues with underground utilities and SCDOT right of ways. Barbara Farris asked if we had an idea of any local artist, we would use to help preserve the piece of art and location of memorial, which discussions were then had of contacting USCB and getting

involved with some of their students and locations of the Waterfront Park and nearby parks along walking tours would be an ideal location due to foot traffic (Secessions Park, Horse Through, Morrall Park Ect) Adam Wellins also said once a location and memorial was selected the proposal would have to go before the City Manager/Council for approval. Which could put the project out a few months. Next item of new business was Community Garden at Southside Park, the committee has given its pros and cons of a community garden both for an ornamental bed and traditional herb garden style, security, upkeep, irrigation and possible cost associations have been the main issues brought up by Shay Mikell and Isaiah Martinez, but the committee enjoys the idea of community collaboration and possible educational purposes. Adam Wellins also stated that if the committee is not in favor of a community garden that could very well be their recommendations to the City Manager/Council. Third Item in old business was assessments for Mercy Cemetery, Isaiah Martinez has recommended planting Little Gem's Magnolias due to them being planted on many streetscapes and the maturity height and favorable characteristics of the tree and Shay Mikell recommended confederate jasmine that we can attach to the fence post that's already existing at the cemetery entrance.

- V. Responsibility recommendations for PTAC were amended and read during the meeting, Isaiah Martinez had brought up a question if he should make a change to state that PTAC would like to be involved in all future projects that involve City owned Parks, Right of Ways and views. Adam Wellins told him that it should be stated and PTAC has every right to be involved in the process for which it was the intention that PTAC was created for. Barbara Farris motioned a vote to approve the changes, and it was unanimously approved. Joe Macdermant brought up that if PTAC is meant to make recommendations we are missing the opportunity to do something other than playgrounds, he brought up that most people are too old to go down a slide, and that the city has not been able to provide something for all it's citizens, and that a bike trail on the Bay St bluff would be a great and addition to the City and that it's view is unmatched and can't be duplicated elsewhere. The committee went back and forth discussing why they weren't in favor of the trail because of safety concerns and losing the integrity of the park/bluff from erosion. Barbara Farris spoke that she honestly believes that the majority wouldn't go for a bike trail on the Bay St Bluff. Joe Macdermant stated the trail would be beginner level and wouldn't pose high safety issues and that we are cheating the kids and citizens out of something everyone would enjoy and use.

VI. No new business or public comment was made.

VII. Meeting was adjourned