



MINUTES

The City of Beaufort
PARK & TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday, June 26th, 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 Farior, in attendance was PTAC members Isaiah Martinez, Joe Macdermant, Shay Mikell, Michael Anderson City Staff Adam Wellins and Public Works Director Nathan Farrow.
- II. The minutes for the May 22nd meeting were approved.
- III. The meeting began with an introduction of its newest member, Michael Anderson.
- IV. Barbara Farior opened discussions on old business, and the first subject was the Driftwood Project. Adam Wellins spoke to the committee about certified arborist Micheal Murphys tree assessment and how he believed that the tree would not likely survive if transplanted. Adam Wellins did mention to the committee that Southside Park has a dead palm tree of the same species and could be a good location to try transplanting it if the committee felt that was a good choice and that as long as Palms on the Parkway would move it for free like that had previously offered we could attempt transplanting the tree. Barbara Farior brought up that the committee had thought that the best direction to go was just memorialize the part of the tree with the art. Nathan Farrow mentioned that he felt the park was a good location if the committee wanted to attempt to transplant the tree due to its location which is city property and we can have freedom to do what we want when it comes to the memorial and having an irrigation system already in place to help give the tree it's best chance of survival. Shay Mikell is in

favor of it if it is free to move the tree but if the cost is too much it might not be worth moving forward. Joe Macdermant mentioned the percentage Adam Wellins had previously mentioned in past meetings that the tree had to survive, and Adam Wellins stated that with the location and the irrigation the timings would come on during the evenings or early morning to make sure the tree would get adequate water without the issue of evaporating like it would have if we had to water the tree in by hand during working hours. Isaiah Martinez brought up his concern if Palms on Parkway has had experience of transplanting a tree of this size from a streetscape and what would happen if any utilities were damaged in the process, which Adam Wellins and Nathan Farrow had brought up that he had moved some trees for the city in the past that dealt with the streetscapes and had a lot of underground utilities to work around such as fiberoptics, sewer, and irrigation. Micheal Anderson asked city staff some questions about the palm tree and the first was what the current age of the palm tree? after discussions of timelines of when the art was created the tree had to be in between the range of 55-65 years old. What was the lifespan of this type of palm tree? the committee researched and answered up to 150 years. What is the cost of a new palm tree? Which Adam Wellins answered depending on size anywhere from \$700-\$1000. What time of year would be the best time to transplant a palm tree? Adam Wellins answered late fall to winter. Nathan Farrow said we could reach out to Palms on Parkway to make sure he would still move the tree for free and if not we could move forward with the original plan of making the art into a memorial and he apologized for this information coming late but we had just completed a walkthrough of southside park that week and thought that it was a good opportunity to try to transplant the tree. Michael Anderson asked does the city know how many accidents there have been in that location on boundary that have struck palm trees or light poles? Nathan Farrow said that within his 8 years with the City of Beaufort that along Boundary St that he has responded to excluding fire, police, EMS has been 5-10, so almost once per year. Isaiah Martinez said that Southside could work due to the location and irrigation system being available, and would city staff be able to keep an eye on it? Nathan Farrow said due to maintenance and equipment being stored at Southside City Employees are at Southside Park 3-4 times a week and it would be well looked after. The second item in old business was the responsibility changes for PTAC, Adam Wellins stated that the committee has approved the recommended changes and would be put before council to present them, Nathan Farrow says that realistically August work session would be the first reading and if everything goes through without changes the September Regular Council Meeting is when they vote on it. Nathan Farrow has just asked that once the Approved changes are sent to him from PTAC he will submit them to the City Manager and then they can get them on the agenda for August.

- V. Barbara Farrow opened new business by talking about the Liberty Tree and that the city has been selected for the sapling. The Mayor had sent the committee a backstory of the

history of the liberty tree and its historical significance, and it is up to PTAC to determine where it will be planted. Michael Anderson asked if it was going to be the tulip poplar or the elm tree? Nathan Farrow answered that he believed it was going to be the tulip poplar. The committee talked briefly about possible locations, Nathan Farrow said due to the tree's size it would need a lot of open space. Whitehall and Southside were brought up as possibilities. Nathan Farrow said Whitehall would be a good location for its size but due to the Park being under three entities being City, Beaufort County and Open Land Trust, it may not be the best location because the City can't make a choice for the tree without all approving. Barbara Farrow brought up the Japanese Maple Trees for the Leadership Beaufort Class at Cuthbert Park, Nathan Farrow said it was approved and is just waiting for the correct time to plant the trees due to the summer conditions. Michael Anderson asked if the type of Maples would survive in our climate and Barbara Farrow stated she has two that are alive and thriving in the same ecoclimate that Cuthbert has since she lives off the bluff.

VI. Meeting was adjourned.