



MINUTES

The City of Beaufort
PARK & TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday, July 20th, 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 Farior, in attendance was PTAC members Gordon Fritz, Victoria Bergesen, Tamala Conner, Brad Hill, Parks Supervisor Adam Wellins and Public Works Director Nathan Farrow.
- II. Minutes from the June 22nd ,2023 meeting was approved.
- III. Barbara Farior opened discussions on the Bartlett Tree Quote, Parks Supervisor Adam Wellins informed the group that the quote had been taken in front of the City Manager Scott Marshall, he approved and signed off on the work to be done for the Magnolias along Palmetto St. Barbara Farior asked what the city planned to do with the dead trees along the streetscape, Adam Wellins stated that he had spoken with his director Nathan Farrow and agreed they would look into it and bring in a certified arborist to look into if those species were the right fit before they replaced them with the same type. Barbara asked if instead of looking into it would we have an answer before the next meeting to which Director Nathan Farrow replied we could put it on the agenda for the next meeting if the committee wanted to name suggestions for possible replacements. He also said all work would still need to be signed off by the city manager and that the money would be pulled from a different fund outside of public works and that he would get the exact amount for the committee.

- IV. Gordon Fritz brought up issues of citizens bringing up questions or concerns about clear cutting and development concerns throughout the city, the committee would like to have the right information on who the citizens could contact for answers and Nathan Farrow said he would gladly provide the correct information and point of contact for those issues. Gordon Fritz also brought up that the fines need to be more severe for companies clear cutting throughout the city and Nathan Farrow said that everything gets brought before the city council and mayor and that any citizen is more than welcome to attend meetings and have their concerns heard.
- V. Nathan Farrow led discussions of the PTAC responsibilities and concerns from the committee, he said that main responsibilities of the committee is to advise and assist with all the cities owned parks and right of ways, it is not the committee's responsibility to oversee projects on private property or that is brought through the planning department. He did state that the committee should have been made aware of the development plans for the upgrades made at Southside Park and will gladly make sure that the committee will have the plans made available for them at the next meeting. Nathan Farrow also stated that even though PTAC is an advisory committee, the city still believes that the committee is a huge asset and wants their voices to be heard, he brings up the point that when the city wanted to make the changes to the palms out at Waterfront Park, they listened to the concerns of the committee and ultimately decided to go with the committee's recommendations of the sable palm. Nathan Farrow stated that he knows there are certain responsibilities that the committee doesn't have access to, like the tree city USA information and says he will gladly sit down with the committee and show them the process and information that is included to stay tree city USA certified. Victoria Bergesen said that the group is required to be involved and plan arbor day and that they have been left out in recent years. Nathan Farrow said that he agrees the group should have a say in planning for arbor day and that he welcomes any ideas and implores people to want to plant trees throughout the city. Adam Wellins also added that the September meeting should be when to start planning for arbor day due to how much goes into it. Nathan said he also would love for the group to be at the council meeting to accept the proclamation for arbor day. Gordon Fritz brought up the issue of only having five members, and Victoria Bergesen stated there is a lot the group could do with more members, Nathan Farrow said he spoke with the city manager and they both agreed that five members was more than acceptable for an advisory meeting, and that the city has been amenable to changing meetings, and possibly looking into changing it back to every month. Gordon Fritz asked what the reasoning was for keeping it at five members, and Nathan Farrow answered that they had to make massive changes just for the committee to fill seats in the committee, he also asked if five members had problems making a quorum what makes them think that having seven or nine members will make it easier to make a quorum. Brad Hill stated it gives better odds to meet a quorum to which Nathan Farrow replied why wouldn't one of you give up your spots for someone who wants to attend the meetings and make a quorum. Barbra Farrior stated that the group had made commitments for August, and which is why they

wanted to have a July meeting so that they could make up for a missed meeting. Nathan Farrow said he would sit down with the city manager again about the possibility of adding more members. Gordon Fritz says more members would better help the city accomplish more goals. The committee asked why there was such resistance to adding more members, Nathan Farrow said the history shows that there have been more missed meetings than meetings had, and that he doesn't believe adding more members will help with that issue.

- VI. Barbara moved discussions forward to the vegetation blind for dominion on the Spanish Moss Trail. Adam Wellins said that dominion had given their donation for the project, but it cannot be on their property, which will move the location of the blind onto the city's property. Adam Wellins said the city is looking into piping in the ditch line to gather more space for the blind and that the city will provide a quote for the plants to the group at the next meeting. The committee asked if the quote went over the budget of what dominion had donated would the city provide funds to cover the rest and Nathan Farrow said that the city would see what the quote was first and then explore avenues to assist if needed.
- VII. Victoria Bergesen and Tamala Conner opened discussions on their walkthrough of pigeon point park and the native plant project, they provided deep detail on the state of the park and how there could be many improvements made to beautify the area, they gave a detailed list of plants to incorporate into the native plant projects designs, they also brought up the option of removing a dying cherry tree at the very front entrance of the park and planting an Eastern Redbud Tree (*Cercis Canadensis*) in its place. Victoria Bergesen also brought up bringing up educational signage into the park for the plants, that many schools and kids utilize the park and would make a great opportunity to educate the youth and citizens about native plants.
- VIII. Meeting was adjourned