

Southport Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes – 11 July 2023

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm. In attendance were members Scott A. Len, Roxie Smith, Bif Bream, Marianne Huntley, Dina Rousset, and Fred Fiss. Travis Henley and Chris Martin represented City Staff, and Karen Mosteller and Lowe Davis represented the Board of Alderman.

1. June minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. Ordinance/ permits – Maureen Meehan has requested a comprehensive review of planning ordinances. Tree ordinance will be included. Further input may be requested from the committee. Historic Preservation committee has some items they'd like help with regarding trees. Scott is in contact with Rick Pukenas. Committee will meet July 19th @ 1pm @ Indian Trail.
3. Michael reported that all trees at Taylor Field are now staked and will remain so at least through the end of hurricane season. Parks & Rec covered cost and these can be reused as needed.
4. Fred reported on some overmulched trees near post office. Michael to check and correct as needed.
5. Scott will f/u with Mo regarding a large tree on Ryan Johnson's property that was cut down on a Sunday to see if permit was pulled.
6. Lowe Davis advised she was contacted by a citizen about a tree being removed. It was noted that it was a safety issue due to line of sight issues. Lowe also raised that contractor working adjacent to her home was unaware of ordinance and also that some parts are not applicable on smaller lots. It was noted that an amendment was in the works to address such issues.
7. Scott brought to committees attention that an arborist in CA has developed a monitoring device for trees (eplant.com). Not applicable now but could be interesting in future.
8. Tuesday, July 18th tree selection and availability webinar that could be of interest to members.
9. Live Oak Society updates. – advertising is ongoing. 12 applications now submitted. Goal remains for committee to submit to LO Society in late fall.
10. Tree Champion – it is now on the web. No submittals yet. Presentation of first is on agenda for August alderman meeting.

11. Heather, Biff and Scott prepared display for the case at Fort Johnson. Annual planting of trees, tree champion and Live Oak Society are featured themes.
12. Roxie will interview Ally and prepare a newspaper article.
13. Sean (Never Stumped) prepared and submitted a bid to clean up 32 trees in Franklin Park. While Sean's bid will likely be higher committee felt it could be a good investment to have work done by an arborist.
14. Green Swamp Fire was discussed. Swamp is thriving following the burn.
15. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Dina Rousset - Committee Member.