



MINUTES

The City of Beaufort
PARK & TREE ADVISORY COMMISSION
Thursday, October 23rd, 2025 at 3:30pm
City Hall Planning Conference Room
1911 Boundary St, Beaufort, SC

- I. The Meeting was called to order at 3:30p.m. by PTAC Chair Barbara Farris, in attendance was PTAC members, Joe Macdermant, Shay Mikell, and Michael Andersen, as well as City Staff Adam Wellins, and Raul Dominguez.
- II. Minutes for September 25th were approved
- III. Old Business opened about the responsibility changes for PTAC to go before council, and Adam Wellins notified the group that they will be put on the agenda for the work session on the 18th of November. Michael Andersen said he was still available to attend to represent PTAC.
- IV. New Business opened with a discussion led by Capital Improvement Program Director, Raul Dominguez. He informed the committee he was in charge of the drainage project downtown, and they started doing exploratory digging inside the contemplative garden inside the waterfront park, come the beginning of that project they will be coming off the seawall and working there way towards the Charles St intersection of Bay St. His main reason for meeting with the committee was to talk about the Oak Tree inside the median at the Charles St Extension entryway. He stated the tree is going to be taken out, and it was scheduled to be taken out later in the week, but it was already Thursday so he said it might be pushed until next week. He stated they will be looking into how to replace that Oak Tree through Mitigation once the project is complete, but they would

have to find a new home for the trees to make up the circumference of the Oak Tree being taken out. Barbara Farris asked how big the tree was; Mr. Dominguez said he didn't have the measurements on hand, but it is a large tree. Mr. Dominguez wanted to bring it to PTAC's Attention and answer any questions they may have had. Michael Andersen asked if nothing could go back in that location due to where that pipe was located? Mr. Dominguez said that was correct. Barbara Farris asked that the tree would have to be mitigated elsewhere. Mr. Dominguez said that was correct, but he doesn't think that would be possible in the downtown area and that the most suitable area for the mitigation would be Southside Park once they get through that. Barbara Farris said we could possibly find somewhere else. Michael Andersen said possibly the little green space surrounded by the marina parking lot at the front of Bay St. Mr. Dominguez stated that every location will be looked at and will work with PTAC on choosing a location once the project comes to completion. Shay Mikell had asked to confirm that the intersection was going to be closed for three weeks in January, and Mr. Dominguez confirmed that to be correct, and a detour plan will be put into place once that time comes and to please share with friends and neighbors that downtown will still be open for business. Mr. Dominguez stated that from his perspective the interference will be down before we get into the busy festival season, and it will move up Charles St. Barbara Farris asked Adam Wellins if the city had planted trees up along Charles St since she knew that we had planted trees along other streets like Bladen St, Adam Wellins answered no. That concluded the discussion of the tree removal on the Charles St Extension.

- V. Discussions of Arbor Day were opened by Adam Wellins, who stated he wanted to utilize the remainder of the median of the meeting to the planning of the Arbor Day Celebration since it's the first Friday in December and the November meeting being at the end of the month wouldn't give the committee enough time to secure a tree and get everything in place. Barbara Farris stated Hermitage Rd Median could use a understory tree and has multiple dead or declining dogwoods. Adam Wellins added to Ms. Farris's point by stating we could remove those dead trees and possibly plant an Eastern Redbud or another dogwood. Adam Wellins said he would have to investigate if the median fell into SCDOT jurisdiction because that could prolong the process if we needed to submit an encroachment permit to plant the trees. Mr. Wellins said if the encroachment permit would hold us up would the committee still be good with moving forward with Wilson Park being the location for arbor day, they agreed it would be good for an understory tree but also adding a coral bark Japanese maple to Cuthbert Park to the other side where the Japanese Bloodgood Maples were planted. Michael Andersen stated he believes if we are going to celebrate arbor day we should try and plant a native tree. Shay Mikell asked about the liberty tree and why we couldn't plant that for arbor day, Adam Wellins answered by stating the city is still looking for the perfect park for that tree due to its historical value. Michael Andersen said that the liberty tree is a tulip poplar and doesn't do well with salt air and maybe we should plant trees around it that can cut out the salt air like the species Ginko. Adam Wellins stated that we should

probably go with Wilson and Cuthbert as the locations for arbor day because we can control those decisions versus the SCDOT encroachment permit. Barbara Farrow asked about the fence around the trees on Hermitage and Adam Wellins stated it will be on the schedule for installation next week. Adam Wellins asked the committee if that had to choose where the celebration would be held at Wilson or Cuthbert and the committee selected Cuthbert to start at 10am, but Adam Wellins said we could still plant the Redbud inside Wilson Park it just wouldn't hold the celebration. Adam Wellins also stated the proclamation for Arbor Day will be signed on the day they present to council on the 18th of November and they can accept it during the regular council meeting.

- VI. New Business and Public Comment opened with no public comments but Michael Andersen asked about the progress with the issue with the company parking on top of the trees planted on prince st in the old commons neighborhood, Adam Wellins said he will work with code enforcement and the old commons neighborhood to find a solution to parking in that area and possibly use the churches parking lot to keep the equipment away from the trees. Barbara Farrow brought up that a company was trying to reach out to public works for assistance and they sent a letter in the mail and Adam Wellins said he will get with his director Nathan Farrow and see if they can locate the letter.
- VII. Meeting was adjourned