

City Of Belle Isle
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Tree advisory Board
April 18, 2024
6:30 PM

Location of Meeting:

Belle Isle City Hall
1600 Nela Ave
Belle Isle, Florida 32809

Present at Meeting: Richard Weinsier

Christopher Stalder
Douglas DeYoung
Sue Nielsen

The regular meeting of the Tree advisory Board of City Of Belle Isle was called to order at 6:33 PM on April 18, 2024 at Belle Isle City Hall by Richard Weinsier.

I. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was distributed and unanimously approved.

II. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

III. Consideration of Open Issues

1. Appointment Of New Chair

Rick Rudometkin

With the initiation of the new City of Belle Isle tree board, the committee had to elect new chair , vice chair and secretary. City manager Rick Rudometkin , attended the first meeting, to help facilitate the elections and help navigate through the new tree boards first meeting.

Doug DeYoung nominated Richard Weinsier as chair and Sue Nielson second. Richard was unanimously voted in.

Sue Nielson nominated Chris Stalder as vice chair and Doug DeYoung second. Chris was unanimously voted in.

Chris Stalder nominated Doug DeYoung as secretary. Richard Weinsier second. Doug was unanimously voted in.

2. Arbor Day / Centennial Tree Planting In Venetian Park.

Douglas DeYoung

The board discussed the dedication of a existing tree which is over 100 years old within the park and the planting of a new tree in the same park. The board , in conjunction with the specials events committee will be holding a tree planting

ceremony along with a dedication to a centennial tree on May 4th. Plaque quotes ideas for both plaques was discussed. The board agreed on " 100years of Belle Isle. A century of beauty, history and community 1924-2024". For the new tree for the next 100 years , " Rooted in beauty, planting the future of Belle Isle 6/04/2024".

3. New Board Update

Rick Rudometkin

Rick reviewed the current tree boards position. He discussed the departure of Holly Bobrowski as board chair due to her new position as city council member.

Stated that the total number of tree board members was reduced from 7 to 5 .

He emphasized the board needs to follow the set forth agenda and follow as written to adhere to rules of meeting decorum.

Richard Weinsier asked Rich to send out a e alert for the need to fill the last board position.

Richard also reminded the new board concerning we are not allowed to miss more than 3 unexcused meetings in a year.

4. Tree Ordinance And Permits

Richard Weinsier

The board in conjunction with Rick Rudometkin, discussed the current state of our tree protection policy.

Discussion of the unauthorized clearing of the lot by Nela bridge, the potential removal of some heritage trees for the building of a home and the general removal of trees throughout the city weather approved or not.

The board discussed the states current statute 163.045(2) which overrides city tree code. The board discussed ways to strengthen our policy and stance helping to curtail the removal of trees in the city .

The board will review other cities policies. Potential ideas will be to implement a Tree City USA info packet which will accompany home sales in Belle isle as a educational tool.

The board discussed mapping the legacy trees of Belle Isle as a map for the residence to see and to recognize them.

Instill the need to build around trees if possible as apposed to removal.

Richard suggested to raise the fine for unauthorized removal to go from \$5000 to \$50,000.

Suggested to have any person wanting to remove a tree using the states statute to come before the board to justify .

Increase the permit fee from \$25 to \$50 .

City to unofficially recognize and adopt heritage trees on personal property as informative to the community as to there existence.

5. City Hall

Douglas DeYoung

Landscaping of City Hall to include possible new trees in the park at the end of city hall to replace existing declining Laurel Oaks. Removal and installation of existing ornamentals around city hall.

The reintroduction of the possible pollinator garden at city hall.

6. New Board Meeting Time

Richard Weinsier

Richard suggested moving meetings to the second Thursday of the month at 6:30.

Doug DeYoung motioned for the new time and date, Sue Nielson second and the board unanimously agreed.

IV. Consideration of New Business

1. Meeting Discussion

Richard Weinsier

Beings this is the first meeting of the new board, there were no unfinished business and all discussion was new business.

V. Agenda and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on May 09, 2024 at:

Belle Isle City Hall

1600 Nela Ave

Belle Isle, Florida 32809

The agenda for the next meeting is as follows:

Review and recommended changes to the city Tree Ordinance.

Upcoming tree dedication ceremony in Venetian park

The boards position and responsibilities for the city

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM by Richard Weinsier.

Minutes submitted by: Douglas DeYoung

Minutes approved by: The Tree Board