

## **Tree Board Minutes for July 20, 2021 meeting at Waterlife Museum, 7910 Park Ave.**

Officers: Jason Serrano, chair; Diane Theriot, vice-chair, Monica Harris, secretary; Members: Barton Joffrion, Pat Gordon, Mike Niette and Wayne Simoneaux. Parish advisors: Linda Henderson, Clay Naquin, and Chris Pulaski.

Meeting was called to order at 11:41. Jason Serrano, Monica Harris, Mike Niette, and Wayne Simoneaux were present. Diane Theriot, Pat Gordon and Barton Joffrion were absent. Parish representatives Chris Pulaski and Clay Naquin were present. QUORUM MET.

**Motion to accept June minutes** was made by Mike Niette and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Monica Harris

**Financial report** We paid \$4014. To Garnier. The balance on hand is \$12,640.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Courthouse Oaks**—Bob's Tree service was the lowest quote at about \$37,000. We will send \$10,000 and the HDDC will pay the balance.

**Dularge overpass**—We are still waiting for a response from DOTD.

**Tree Donation project** – We will make a list of acceptable native trees. The donors will decide where they wish the trees to be planted, on parish-owned property, with Tree Board oversight. We will write a contract that the donor will maintain the trees until they are established and establish guidelines for use of chemicals etc. Jason is still looking for plaques.

**Sybil Guidry's Tree**—We are still deciding on a plaque, which will be similar to ones for other donated trees.

**Maintenance for Tunnel Blvd**—Clay's crew is still trimming. We are waiting for for Garnier to remove grass and lay out a mulch bed to avoid damage to plantings.

**Ethics and Diversity training**—Some members still need to complete Ethics training. There is a YouTube video of Louisiana diversity training for us to watch.

**Tree City USA**—The packet that comes with the award is still missing.

**Tree City Award and Sybil Guidry Tree**—Jason will write press releases. We suggested that Barton and Sandy Ostheimer are good sources for information on Sybil Guidry for a press release.

**Invoices/Reporting for detailed financial reports**—Jason will meet with Melissa Bourgeois from the finance department for more complete reports.

**Board member Photos**—Board members will send a head shot to Jason.

**New signs for Tree-mendous Tree Awards**-Jason is working on them.

**Tree School**—will be Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 in Metairie.

**Facebook Page**—is ready to go live.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Future Project ideas**—Courthouse Oaks and East Tunnel are on-going projects. Government Street and the EOC building on the North campus can use more trees. Chris has made some plans for the EOC building. We would like to replace the missing trees on S. Hollywood and look at the new Westside Blvd. extension, if the budget allows.

**Tree Board membership by-laws**—by-laws require members to attend meetings regularly. Jason will talk with members about excessive absences.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

David Luke is retiring Sept 15. His retirement will leave the parish without an arborist. Tree City requires a forester/arborist so when the parish puts out a RPF for a contractor they will need to include that a certified arborist will be on staff.

Next meeting will be August 17, 2021 at 11:30 at the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum.

The meeting adjourned at 12:23.

Monica Harris, secretary