

May 2025 Minutes

In Person Attendance

Cowan Hunter, Ed Croom, Hume Bryant, James Hirsch, Tympel Harrison, Mark Levy, Nick Matthews

Not in Attendance

Ben Requet, Jaclyn Colameta, Hollis Green, Mary Hartwell Howorth

1. Call to Order.

Commissioner Cowan Hunter called the meeting to order at 11:03 A.M.

2. Approval of Agenda.

Commissioner Hunter motioned to approve the May 2025 agenda, Commissioner Bryant Hume seconded; all aye.

3. Approval of April 2025 Minutes

4. Commissioner Hunter motioned to approve the April 2025 minutes, Commissioner Ed Croom seconded; all aye.

5. Departmental Issues and Reports

1. Building and Grounds

- a. Public assistance requests and responses re trees

Nick Mathews from the Building and Grounds Department informed the Tree Board of a tree on Jefferson that turned out to be a private matter. Nick indicated that a Pecan Tree in Stone Park had to be cut down due to its state on the inside. There was further discussion.

- b. FY26 budget plans re tree planting, maintenance, etc.

Nick relayed to the Tree Board that as of right now there are no updates for new planting but that the FY26 budget will be used to start reassessments.

2. Planning

- a. Updates re current or pending development tree issues, plans, etc.

Ben Requet, Director of Planning was not in attendance for this meeting.

3. Special Projects, Engineering

- a. Update re current FY project regarding tree plans, planting, etc.

Mark Levy, Director of Special Projects informed the Tree Board that all projects are on schedule i.e. the City Swimming Pool, New Development Services Building and City Hall. There was further discussion.

- b. Discussion re potential project recommendations for FY26 budget.
Mark indicated that for the FY26 budget he plans to work on the Pickleball Courts and the Softball fields as far as planting new trees and adding mitigation. There was further discussion.

4. Business

- a. Report on April 15, 2025 update to Board of Alderman
Commissioner Hunter informed the Tree Board of his attendance in the Board of Alderman Meeting where he discussed past events i.e. Arbor Day and his plans for future collaborations for new projects. There was further discussion.
- b. Update from MFC re Tree Plotter webinar etc.
Tympel Harrison, Urban Forester for Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC), enlightened the Tree Board that the Tree Plotter Webinar would be held on teams, Friday May 9th. There was further discussion.
- c. Update and discussion re reassessment/review of projects.
Tympel reminded the Tree Board of Saluting Branches that will be held at the Veterans Home in Oxford on September 17th in order to plant new trees. Tympel indicated the need for volunteers in order to make this project possible. There was further discussion.

6. Move to adjourn

Commissioner Hunter motioned to approve the meeting at 11:38 A.M., Commissioner Hume seconded; all aye.