

City of Galveston Tree Committee Meeting

May 27, 2025
11:00 am

(409) 797-3700

Minutes

I. Call Meeting to Order

Nancy Greenfield called to order the regular meeting of the City of Galveston Tree Committee at 11:00 am on May 27, 2025.

II. Roll Call

Committee members present: Nancy Greenfield, Vicki Blythe, Alice Anne O'Donell, Matt Hannon, Weez Doherty, and John Campbell.

Others present: Priscilla Files (Galveston Island Tree Conservancy), Boone Holladay (County Horticultural Agent), Daniel Thomas (Superintendent of Parks, City of Galveston), and Arnes Purdy (TxDOT) via Zoom.

III. Review and Approve Minutes

The minutes from the April 22nd meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

IV. Discussion and/or Action

A. TxDOT Landscaping Update - Arnes Purdy stated that the Corps of Engineers has approved removal of the palms on the end of the Seawall. However, the County must now approve it before TxDOT can commence. TxDOT might be the ones moving the palms.

Arnes said that Gabby Craft is the wildflower person at TxDOT. He will ask her to look into a project to plant wildflowers in the fall. They have to put out bids to order seeds.

There will be another stakeholders meeting after the dead oak trees are replaced. Westwood was the contractor that evaluated those trees on Broadway.

B. Tree City USA Update - Some members of the Tree Committee and GITC took a picture with the new Tree City USA flag at the City Council meeting on May 22nd.

Nancy Greenfield told Daniel Thomas that it would be good if the City would plant wildflower seeds in certain areas around town.

C. Galveston Island Tree Conservancy update - Priscilla Files said that they are getting after TxDOT to replace the trees on Broadway that died. She said they were mostly oaks, not palms.

Priscilla said that Joanie Steinhaus from Turtle Restoration Network had a table at the Tourism Summit. She had some literature from GITC on her table.

GITC also had a table at the OLLI Gardening Symposium.

Priscilla gave an online presentation about tree sculptures to the garden club in Rogers, Arkansas. They have lost trees.

Priscilla will have a meeting for the Ball St. Live Oaks. She has a grant to plant the oaks.

She said that Steven Protz from the Mary Moody Northern Foundation told her that they bought land on Broadway next to the Moody Mansion to make a small park and event place with parking. The park will have a lot of green spaces.

GITC has money for trees.

Priscilla said that Galveston's Own Farmers Market might move to the old Satori building.

John Campbell facilitated the project for the Broadway trees due to a \$250,000 donation from the estate of Ola Mae St. Germain. The money will go to GITC and Rosenberg Park.

D. Other - Daniel or Priscilla will check to see if the Montezuma Bald Cypress trees planted by the soccer fields on 7 Mile Road are dead or alive. Live Oaks would probably be better.

Boone Holladay said that David Creech, a professor at Stephen F. Austin University, has developed a Montezuma Cypress hybrid (LA406) that might work in the climate of the soccer fields. It stays green, and is resistant to blight. There are some planted at the west dog park, and they are used as a windbreak in College Station. Margaret Canavan wrote an article in the newspaper about these trees. Other possible trees there are Sugar Pine, Pomegranate, Sycamore, Live Oak, Acacia, Serviceberry, or Retama. Priscilla said that money is needed for those.

Vicki Blythe said that on the Back Garden Tour, there was a Live Oak in the yard at 2505 Oak that was purported to be 240 years old! We don't know how that age was determined.

Alice Anne and Nancy proposed that the committee send a thank you card to Julie Ann Brown, who is retiring after 13 years of heading the Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council. Julie Ann was one of the people working on the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, and she did a lot of work on wildflowers before this committee got involved. The card will be sent.

Priscilla said that the sign is ready for the tree honoring Kathrine McGovern in the dog park.

V. Public/Guests - None

VI. Nest Meeting - The next meeting will be on June 24, 2025 at 11 am.

VII. Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned by Nancy Greenfield at 12:03 pm.

Minutes by Vicki Blythe