

TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA

TREE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 22, 2018

A regular meeting of the Town of Sullivan's Island Tree Commission was held on the above date at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 2056 Middle Street. All requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied. Present were Commission members Ken Spicer, Nat Robb, and Adele Tobin.

Staff members present: Joe Henderson and Jessica Gress

- I. **Call to Order:** Ken Spicer, Chairman, called the meeting to order and stated that the press and public were duly notified pursuant to State Law and all Commissioners present. There were no members of the public or media present.
- II. **Approval of Agenda – Commission made no changes to the Agenda**
- III. **Approval of Minutes:** Nat Robb stated that he would like to see more detail in future minutes especially for those that could not attend the meetings. Nat Robb made a motion to approve the minutes. Adele Tobin seconded that motion.

IV. TREE REMOVAL REQUESTS

1. 2302 Middle Street: Patrick Marr, applicant, requests approval to remove one Category 1 live oak of 17" dbh (diameter at breast height) per Zoning Ordinance Section 21-162. B. (Application for relocation, or removal and replacement) (TMS# 519-06-00-019)

Joe Henderson stated that this application has been deferred to next months meeting per the applicant's request.

2. 2714 Jasper Boulevard: Jerry Benoit, applicant, requests approval to remove one codominant Category 1 live oak, stem diameters of 17" and 20" dbh (diameter at breast height) per Zoning Ordinance Section 21-162. B. (Application for relocation, or removal and replacement) (TMS# 519-06-00-059)

Jerry Benoit, applicant, briefly stated that codominant trees are trees that twin trunk trees with codominant limbs. There is a lack of protection zone when two trees are seen together because a single tree has a layer of protection that keeps insects and pathogens out. Every tree that is codominant like this will not always fail but he cannot tell you when or if they will fail. They will fail when the bark inside and the growth of each other pushes them apart. The failure tends to happen during aggressive growing season. Codominant trees tend to push each other apart during excessive growth. If we do lose one half of the tree you will lose the other half of the tree because the protective bark area that is removed will open up an area for anything to attack the wound. If it fails, there could be potential property or human damage. Mr. Benoit believes this tree is hazardous. Joe Henderson stated the proposal for the removal of this tree because it has

been deemed hazardous. Mr. Henderson stated that when he examined this tree he noticed it is a huge part of the canopy and it does have codominance and included bark. However, he would like to point out the likelihood of tree failure. Nat Robb asked if the only reason we were removing this tree was due to it being hazardous? This tree is being asked to be removed because it is just hazardous. No other plans have been submitted. Ken Spicer stated that this tree has been around a for long time and still hasn't split so what would be the likelihood of it splitting in the future? Mr. Benoit stated that it could be around for years or it could fail tomorrow. There is no way of knowing for certain; it varies between species and growth. Mr. Henderson stated that in Jerry Benoit's letter, if a new structure, driveway or patio is to be constructed near this tree, it should be considered hazardous. Mr. Benoit stated that the tree only becomes hazardous when the new structures are present. Adele Tobin stated she does not understand why the homeowner cannot work around the tree. She believes the tree is one of the most beautiful things on this lot. Why would the homeowner buy this property without the consideration of this tree? Mr. Benoit stated as far as the tree is concerned, it will have a structural defect. **Nat Robb made a motion to deny removal of this tree because they cannot identify any immediate hazard. Adele Tobin seconded the motion.**

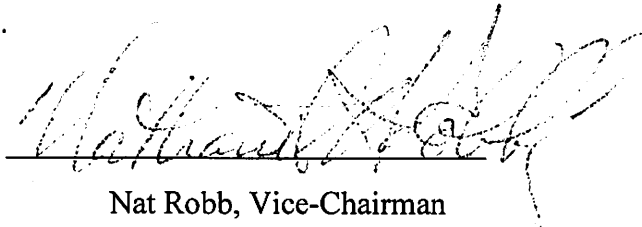
V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Tree Fund Projects: Final review and approval of Stith Park maintenance project and estimated expenses for landscaping and irrigation improvements in accordance with Z.O. Section 21-166 (Use of Tree Funds)

Mr. Henderson stated that Town Council has reviewed and approved the landscape improvement and tree maintenance project. The Tree Commission approved ten thousand dollars for landscaping improvements and tree pruning. The landscape project will be completed by Bill Watson who put together the assessment presented. Town Council added two viburnums, two hundred and fifty square feet of centipede sod, boxwoods and holly ferns. The town will remove the Indian hawthorns that are diseased and replace with different planting material. Also, we will be tapping into Town Hall's irrigation system and run lines adjacent to Middle Street and around the bandstand for irrigation. We will be removing the roses around the bandstand as well. The Board members are concerned about the boxwoods. The Board believes they will not do well in that location and are proposing something different. **Nat Robb made a motion to approve as final with the reconsideration of the boxwoods. This motion passed with a unanimous vote.**

Mark Howard, Councilmember, wanted to thank the Tree Commission for the allocation of funds for the palm tree planting along the crossway. Mr. Henderson stated that the Mayor suggested posting a sign stating that the funds for this project were from the Tree Commission budget and not tax payer's money. The Board agreed that a sign should be posted on site.

Nat Robb adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.



Nat Robb, Vice-Chairman