

Parks and Parkways Commission

April 4, 2022

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Chairman Scott Discon called the meeting to order at 6:15pm

The secretary called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Scott Discon, Eric McQuiston, Will Afton, and Leslie Marcello

Absent: Anne Marie Fargason, and Lee Frederick

Staff Present: Alex Weiner, Secretary

Minutes:

Mr. McQuiston motioned to adopt the minutes from the March 7th meeting, Mr. Afton seconded, and all were in favor

Brien Croff, 2254 Relacher Dr: Interested in being involved with the Commission, wanted to see how the meetings were like.

Mr. McQuiston asked if Mr. Croff had any specialized experience, Mr. Croff answered that he was a Civil Engineer by profession, and the only related experience he can recall is that he designed and managed a rain garden project at the university he attended in Ohio.

New Business:

Remaining Budgeted Items for 2021-2022

Mr. Discon said that the Commission had not spent half of the money that they had spent with this administration in previous administrations and commended this administration on working with the Commission on funding projects.

Mr. Discon said that they would be replacing the dead trees on East and West Causeway. Mr. McQuiston asked if those were the trees in the median, Mr. Discon replied that they were.

Ms. Marcello asked if that would take place between now and July, Mr. Discon said that it would.

Mr. Discon brought up that they added lots of maintenance and edging.

Mr. Discon brought up that the sign coming off of the Causeway needed some attention and suggested adding a hedge of some sort. Mr. McQuiston said he worked on that sign with "Keep Mandeville Beautiful" and asked what the timeline would be. Mr. Discon answered in the next 30 days hopefully.

Mr. Discon suggested that the Commission do the landscape for the wildflower garden, that way they have total control over the look and what goes into it.

Mr. Discon said that they are adding lights to the second island of Monroe St.

Ms. Marcello asked if water bags would be used for the replacement trees on East and West Causeway. Mr. Discon said that the street is under contract, and he would talk with Ms. Casanova about any watering that would be needed.

Ms. Marcello suggested putting information out on the City Facebook page to try and get some volunteers and get a conversation going between the Commission and the residents.

Pollinator Week Celebration

Mr. McQuiston and Mr. Afton will be speaking at the event, and Ms. Casanova is looking into other speakers. Mr. McQuiston suggested talking to Ms. Casanova and getting confirmation on the other speakers, Mr. Discon said he would.

2022-2023 proposed Projects

Mr. Discon said that they Planning Department looked at the projects done last year vs the ones for this year and came up with a list to shoot for. He brought up that sunset point will be unable to be done due to Hurricane Ida.

Mr. McQuiston suggested doing sunset point as a complete project and not do any isolated planting.

Mr. Discon said that the public response to the Causeway Underpass project was so great that the City wants to do phase two of the project, the final phase of Hwy 190 and Florida St. also incorporate all of Old Mandeville under the same plan.

Mr. Discon said that for the next street tree program it would move back to two trees, and there would only be two plantings as anything else is too much of a workload to handle.

Mr. Discon said that the four corners project, the Causeway crossing over Hwy 190, would all match in presentation.

Mr. Discon brought up doing something outside of the Perlis store, Mr. Afton asked if Buck Abbey put something together for that location.

Ms. Marcello asked about the fencing as the DOTD would not let them take it down. Mr. Discon said that he and Ms. Lenfant met with the DOTD, and they would allow the takedown if the City paid for the black fence replacement, and there are currently talks in progress.

Mr. Discon reminded everyone that June 22nd is the special joint meeting with the City Council to discuss the Marigny Landscaping project.

Mr. Afton reminded everyone that June 25th is the day for the pollinator event celebration.

Ms. Marcello asked if all the previous projects that Mr. Discon was talking about were all proposed projects, Mr. Discon replied that they were.

Public Comment

Mr. Afton said that April 22nd and 23rd is the Northshore Garden Show and Plant Sale. It has a \$5 admission fee and he recommended that people attend as it is a great event.

Dr. Kreller asked when the next meeting would take place and if that was when the chair would be voted on, Mr. Weiner said that it would be on May 2nd and confirmed that the chair will be voted on at that meeting.

Mr. Afton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:56p.m., seconded by Ms. Marcello and was unanimously approved.



Alex Weiner, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission