

Parks and Parkways Commission

August 1, 2022

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Chairman Scott Discon called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

The secretary called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Scott Discon, Will Afton, Brien Croff, Lee Frederick, Anne Marie Fargason

Absent: None

Staff Present: Cara Bartholomew, Planning Director; Catherine Casanova, City Arborist; Alex Weiner, Secretary

Minutes

Ms. Frederick made a motion to adopt the minutes from the June 6 meeting, Ms. Fargason seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business:

Pollinator Event

Ms. Bartholomew said that because Eric McQuiston was heading the event, this year's event would be canceled and would be rescheduled for next year. She also said that the commission would schedule next year's meetings and set preliminary event dates at the September meeting.

Marigny Avenue Public Meeting

Ms. Bartholomew said that she wanted to have another meeting to gather more public input about the project, as depending on what was wanted, that would depend on if it was classified as a capital project or not.

Mr. Discon said that there was a great turnout and said that there was not a lot of pushback on the idea of curbing the area.

Ms. Frederick said that the area is coming along great.

Ms. Bartholomew said that as part of the discussion next time, each block could showcase examples of different types of planting while still maintaining a cohesive look.

Ms. Frederick said that there were some suggestions of adding a path in the median, but was not sure it would be big enough for that. Ms. Bartholomew said that the best course of action for that may be to look at the entire right of way and maybe do some sidewalk improvements.

Ms. Fargason asked about the community garden by the church on Kleber St., Ms. Bartholomew said there was some money in next year's budget for improvements. Ms. Frederick commented that it was beautifully planted and much appreciated by the community.

Pocket Park Discussion

Ms. Bartholomew said that the Mayor has put aside some money to review public spaces that the City wants to look at for park locations, and recommended holding off on the pocket parks until the areas have been identified.

Mr. Discon said they would wait for the final budget to see what the options are, and would keep expenses low for more locations. Ms. Bartholomew said that the City still has not been reimbursed for expenses during hurricane Ida, so they were trying to keep expenses low until the reimbursement started.

Commission Discussion

Mr. Discon said that there were three applicants for the openings, Ms. Bartholomew said there were two openings and they were on the next City Council agenda. Mr. Discon asked if the

commissioners would be appointed before the next meeting, Ms. Bartholomew said they should be.

Hwy 190 Phase II

Ms. Bartholomew said that the project was taken out of the project, as they can always add it back when they are ready to move forward.

Mr. Discon asked if the City was waiting on the reimbursement, Ms. Bartholomew replied they were, or if the commission was wanting to move forward they could do more smaller phases.

Ms. Frederick mentioned that the black eyed susan looks nice, Ms. Bartholomew said that plans can be discussed without a budget.

Mr. Afton said he was curious as to what they would look like when they stopped flowering, but they look nice now.

Ms. Frederick asked if they would be deadheaded for maintenance, Ms. Casanova replied they would, they are just waiting for them to stop blooming first.

Ms. Fargason commented that the flowers on the corner of Monroe and Causeway looked good and asked what budget they were under. Ms. Bartholomew said that once a project is concluded it is added to the maintenance budget.

Mr. Discon asked if those were planted quarterly, Ms. Casanova said they were planted twice a year, usually in the spring and fall

Causeway Underpass Phase II

Ms. Bartholomew said she would follow up with Franklin Kyle. The plan was to mimic what is on the south side of Monroe St. to go on the north side.

Mr. Discon said the master plan would be done by Franklin Kyle to mimic what is in place.

Ms. Bartholomew said the palm tree is on the schedule for Public Works to remove, Mr. Afton added that is very dead.

Budget Projects 2022-23 Final

Ms. Bartholomew said they were keeping projects to a minimum until the reimbursement comes through. Ms. Frederick asked if that would be anytime soon, Ms. Bartholomew replied that there are different categories so hopefully it should be soon. She said that the whole reimbursement does not need to come in, they just need to know its starting.

Staff Update

Ms. Casanova said the spring street tree plantings were pushed back to fall due to budget reasons.

Ms. Frederick said there are lots of trees to plant.

Mr. Afton asked if there was a shortage issue, Ms. Casanova said there is a sourcing issue, the trees are bought upfront but they had to go out of state to get them.

Ms. Bartholomew said this attempt was a bit too much, but they have learned for next time. It will be limited to \$30,000 so the project would not have to go to bid.

Ms. Frederick said that it was for a good reason as Ida took out a lot of trees, Ms. Bartholomew agreed that it was for a good reason, but said that it was just too much. Mr. Afton said that he has heard lots of positive comments about it.

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Ms. Bartholomew said that because there were three new commissioners joining, that she would set up some meetings to go over the role of the commission and how to move forward. She said that this commission was a good way to get public comments.

Public Comment

Robert Luke, 652 Pierce Dr: Said he was here about the tree giveaway. Ms. Bartholomew said the street tree giveaway is in the fall and spring, and you could receive two trees to be planted in the City Right of Way on your property. For hurricane Ida the City went to three plantings and four trees, two of which did not have to be planted in the Right of Way. There is also the seedling giveaway which is done in February for arbor day.

Mr. Discon also mentioned the project on Hwy 190 where oak trees were planted if permission was received, as the trees had to be planted on private property. Ms. Bartholomew said that there was no money allocated right now for that, but it could be added in the future as a subcategory to the street tree program.

Ms. Bartholomew said that four projects seems like the sweet spot for the amount of projects to take on.

Mr. Luke clarified for the Hwy 190 planting, even if he got permission there was no money right now. Mr. Discon replied if he got permission to send it to the City.

Ms. Bartholomew suggested a volunteer day to go take the water bags off of the oak trees.

Buck Abbey, 1129 Villere: Agreed with the removal of the water bags from the trees. He also said that the City trimmers cut down young trees on Florida St., across from the pine savannah location. Mr. Discon asked if this was by the Waffle House, Mr. Abbey said it was. Ms. Bartholomew said she would check on who owned that property.

Mr. Abbey also brought up that there were cargo containers located in the marina in their neighborhood. Ms. Bartholomew said that Kenny Mathews, the code enforcement officer, has sent out violation letters and it is being handled.

Mr. Abbey said there was also a container by the trailhead, Ms. Bartholomew asked for the location, Mr. Abbey said it was on the corner of Lafitte. Mr. Discon said that was on residential property and was being turned into a rec shed. Mr. Abbey asked if a permit was required, Ms. Bartholomew said it would be classified as a residential accessory structure. Nothing says they cannot have it and the CLURO does not regulate the design of residential accessory structures.

Mr. Abbey said it should be screened as it looks low class and having cargo containers in Mandeville lowers the class of the City to Waveland, Mississippi. Ms. Bartholomew asked to not compare cities.

Mr. Abbey said that cargo containers belong in China picking up stuff that is needed in America.

Ms. Fargason motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38p.m., seconded by Mr. Afton and was unanimously approved.



Alex Weiner, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

Alex Weiner

From: Catherine Casanova
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 11:28 AM
To: Denis Watson; Alex Weiner
Subject: RE: Copal St Pocket Park

Mr. Watson,

Thank you for your email outlining your concerns. I have copied Alex Weiner who is the Secretary of the Parks and Parkways Commission. He will make sure it is distributed to the commission at their next meeting on August 1st.

Sincerely,

Catherine Casanova

Landscape & Urban Forestry Inspector
Department of Planning & Development
City of Mandeville
3101 E. Causeway Approach
Mandeville, LA 70448
(985) 624-3104

Applications are available on the website under the Planning Department page and can be emailed to permits@cityofmandeville.com.

From: Denis Watson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2022 5:58 PM
To: Catherine Casanova <ccasanova@cityofmandeville.com>
Subject: Copal St Pocket Park

Hello, I have lived at Copal Street and Cindy Lou Pl for 13 years. I agree with clearing the space and making a nice area that promotes nature and wildlife. The area has been overgrown for a long time. I do not agree with adding fences, a parking area, a playground, and other amenities that take away from the landscape. I am also concerned that the space will become a rest area for causeway commuters at all hours. How will security and safety be handled? I would like to see a neighborhood park rather than a bridge park.

Thank you,
Drew Weidenbacher

Alex Weiner

From: Catherine Casanova
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2022 2:10 PM
To: britt landry; Alex Weiner
Cc: Cara Bartholomew
Subject: RE: Copal St Park, Mandeville

Ms. Landry,

I am forwarding your concerns to Alex who is the secretary for the Parks and Parkways Commission for your concerns to be read at the next Parks and Parkways meeting.

Sincerely,

Catherine Casanova
Landscape & Urban Forestry Inspector
Department of Planning & Development
City of Mandeville
3101 E. Causeway Approach
Mandeville, LA 70448
(985) 624-3104

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-----Original Message-----

From: britt landry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 7, 2022 2:07 PM
To: Catherine Casanova <ccasanova@cityofmandeville.com>
Subject: Copal St Park, Mandeville

> Hello,

>

> My name is Britt Landry and I reside at 185 Live Oak St, Mandeville with my family. I have two children, ages 6 and 1.

>

> I am writing to you concerning the proposed park on Copal St in Mandeville.

>

> There has been communications about the mentioned park floating around our neighborhood and it has even been mentioned that the residents of Old Golden Shores like the park and the renderings. I am a resident with children and I do not love the idea of a park next to the causeway. I take Copal everyday on my way home and I weekly see someone using the off ramp and on ramp wrong. The added attraction of a park with parking spots worries me.

>

> 1) People that are driving their vehicles (car & golf-carts) to the park will now cause extra traffic confusion for the area.

>

> 2) What will be done with vehicles that are left overnight at this park? It could be used a parking spot for people going across the bridge.

>

> 3) What about people that are abusing the space, individuals hanging out past park hours? I welcome more MPD patrolling the neighborhood, but do we really want our MPD spending time monitoring a small city park at the base of the causeway? I feel sorry for the immediate OGS neighbors of this location.

>

> Can at least the parking spots be eliminated? You are already building sidewalks which satisfies the need for a path to the park.

>

> I truly don't want to be negative or closed minded but I do not see much added benefit here. I do hope I'm wrong.

>

> I appreciate your time and I hope that you are able to consider my concerns when deciding on the design of the space. I look forward to hearing more on the topic at the meeting on Monday, 7/11.

>

> Signed a taxpayer & concerned resident of OGS,

>

> Britt Landry

> [REDACTED]