

Parks and Parkways Commission

November 7, 2022

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Chairman Scott Discon called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

The secretary called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Scott Discon, Anne Marie Fargason, Lee Frederick, Will Afton, and Christy Kervin (absent at roll call, present at 6:03)

Absent: Brien Croff and Shelley Winstead

Staff Present: Catherine Fuselier, City Arborist; Alex Weiner, Secretary

Minutes

Mr. Afton made a motion to adopt the minutes from the October 3rd meeting, Ms. Frederick seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business:

Appointment of Vice Chair

Ms. Frederick nominated Mr. Afton to be the vice chair.

Mr. Afton asked what the obligations would be. Ms. Fuselier replied that the vice chair acts as a backup for the chairman, if the chairman was unavailable then the vice chair would call the meetings to order.

Ms. Kervin seconded the nomination of Mr. Afton, and everyone was in favor.

Spring Education Event Update

Ms. Kervin said that they were unable to meet in October but hoped to get together this month. She did a trial run of the seed bombs with the Folsom Elementary 1st graders and the kids loved it, however it was very messy so there may need to be a wash station at the event. The recipe for the seed bombs is solid.

Ms. Frederick suggested having some buckets of water on site to help with washing off. She also said that she has some Mexican sunflower pods that she can donate for the seed bombs.

Ms. Frederick said that she talked with a gentleman who build birdhouses and keeps bees and that he was interested in having a table at the event.

Mr. Discon gave a brief overview of the event for Ms. Fargason and said that it would be taking place on April 22nd at the Mandeville Trailhead.

Florida St. Water Bag Pickup recap

Mr. Discon said the pickup was postponed due to weather, however the Green Guerillas did pick up the bags on the south side of Highway 190, so all that is left is the north side.

Mr. Discon suggested the week after Thanksgiving for the new date, Ms. Fuselier asked why not do it this weekend or next while we have an idea of the weather.

Mr. Discon suggested the new date of November 19th and meeting at 8:30am at the Book and the Bean at 235 Girod St.

Ms. Kervin made a motion to approve the new date of November 19th, Ms. Frederick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

North Causeway Service Road Landscape Enhancement project

Ms. Fuselier said this area is located by Perlis and Salad Station, and asked how the commission wanted to landscape the area.

Mr. Discon asked if Ms. Kervin could do a sketch.

Ms. Kervin said she could do that and asked what the deadline would be. Ms. Fuselier said by next September. There is currently nothing budgeted for the project and discussions would have to be done with DOTD so there is no rush.

Mr. Discon said that Ms. Kervin could get with Mr. Afton for recommendations on plant material to use.

Ms. Fargason asked if this was the ditch area, Mr. Discon said that this would be the entire median in front of Perlis.

Mr. Discon said the original idea was to keep it natural looking and mimic what is across the street.

Mr. Afton asked if the chain-link fence was part of it. Mr. Discon said it was the second part of it. DOTD is allowing the fence to be replaced if the City pays for a new one. Right now the focus is on landscaping the area.

Ms. Fuselier said they would have to limit whatever is planted to something small due to the powerlines in the area.

Ms. Frederick suggested either wildflowers or fringtrees if the DOTD would not cut the area. She added that this would be a good area to try the larger plantings of wildflowers that had been discussed in the past. Ms. Fuselier said it would go under a maintenance contract so the DOTD would not cut anything.

Mr. Afton asked if the new fence could be of natural plant material, Ms. Fuselier said the type of fence used would have to already be in place along a state highway. They could possibly vine the fence however.

Ms. Fuselier said the best course of action is to put something on a plan and then discuss with DOTD.

Ms. Kervin asked what the procedure was for dealing with the powerlines, Ms. Frederick said that you would have to work with DOTD.

Staff Update

Ms. Fuselier said there is a Planning and Zoning case about a live oak removal and recommended going over the material on the website. Mr. Afton asked when the meeting would be held, Mr. Weiner said it would be tomorrow, at 6:00pm in the same location as this meeting.

Ms. Frederick asked if there was an update on the longleaf sign. Ms. Fuselier said she is still looking into it and has not gotten a definitive response from anyone.

Skelly Kreller: Spoke with Trilby and it was on the paper that was submitted to the sign company so they should pay for the correction. Ms. Fuselier said that the proofs that were submitted did not have "Savanna" on them, so the issue is who approved the proofs.

Mr. Discon asked what the sign cost, Ms. Fuselier said \$7,000.

Mr. Kreller said he would check with Trilby to see if she has any backdoors to check who approved the proof. He said if he brought it up at a council meeting then someone would have to defend it.

Ms. Kervin suggested hanging savanna from some chains on the bottom of the sign.

Public Comment

Mr. Afton said that the household hazardous waste disposal put on by the Parish has been postponed until springtime. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry are doing a pesticide disposal event on Wednesday November 9th. This is just for agriculture pesticides not for household hazardous waste. Mr. Discon asked if that was being held in Franklinton and Mr. Afton replied it was.

Ms. Fuselier added that the event was advertised on the City Facebook page.

Ms. Kervin asked what breakaway trees were chosen at the last meeting for East Causeway. Mr. Discon said that it was vitex and crape myrtles.

Ms. Frederick suggested using oleanders, Mr. Discon said that they were too much of a sight issue. Mr. Afton also added that they were a tropical plant and to keep that in mind.

Mr. Discon said they were putting the lights on the gazebo at the lakefront and that there needs to be some plants. Ms. Fuselier said that Franklin Kyle is putting a plan together. Mr. Discon said that the area looks naked.

Mr. Kreller asked who approved the plans for the gazebo, Mr. Discon said it was public works.

Ms. Kervin asked if the gazebo was historic, Ms. Fuselier said it technically is. They do not have the original gazebo, but there has always been a gazebo located there but it always suffers from hurricane damage.

Mr. Kreller said there is no place to sit and it is horrible.

Mr. Discon asked if the plan could be sped up, Ms. Fuselier said she would look into it when she gets back next week. Mr. Discon said they could just add some grasses and keep it natural looking, there is no need for bushes. Ms. Fuselier said the administration wants it a bit formal as there will be memorial bricks placed there.

Patricia Zebrick, 370 Moss Lane: Suggested Rattlesnake Master as it is a formal looking plant.

Buck Abbey, 1129 Villere: Public and Private landscaping holds a City together. Landscaping is a critical system. Mandeville has the Parks and Parkways Commission to hold the system together along with a couple of City employees. The Parks and Parkways Commission has the opportunity to take some leadership and move past crape myrtles, wildflowers, and rattlesnake masters by taking a stance publicly. Landscape attracts people to this town, specifically the landscape code. The code is a tool to develop the green system. He spoke with the Mayor about holding a landscape summit. 90% of the green system in Mandeville is on private property. There is a responsibility to teach people about the benefits of a green system. The Mayor agreed to the summit in late January, no specific date yet. This is the chance for the Commission to be the supporting party behind the summit. The goal is to hear from the citizens and to look at the comprehensive plan that was published in 2007. He wants to concentrate on the idea of stability. This is a liberal subject and he does not particularly like liberal subjects, but this is an important one. The re-leaf program is a good start, but he is not sure it is well organized. Part of the job of the commission is to speak up on the issues in the community. Landscaping makes the town interesting.

Ms. Fargason said the City should have multiple representatives at the meeting, not just one. Mr. Abbey said he assumes that there will be a couple of representatives present at the meeting.

Ms. Kervin asked if she could see a copy of the comprehensive plan, Mr. Weiner said that he would send a copy of the plan to the commission.

Ms. Kervin asked if there was a landscape masterplan, Ms. Fuselier said that there is one in progress.

Mr. Abbey said that if the city is putting one together that is great, but he has not heard about it.

Ms. Kervin said she would like a masterplan to reference for any future projects.

Ms. Fuselier said she has been asking and the Mayor has said he is putting something together.

Mr. Discon said there was no master plan, but the idea is to go with something more natural.

Ms. Frederick asked what the focus of the summit would be and what would be stressed. Would it be about native plants, the canopy, or explaining the benefit to the public. Mr. Abbey said it would be about private land, what to do and how to do it. It would be the type of meeting to talk and generate ideas. More focused on listening.

Ms. Fuselier said there is a master plan for the lakefront, Mr. Abbey said she should show it at the next meeting.

Mr. Kreller said that the Commission does not realize the kind of influence it can have if it brought things before the council.

Ms. Frederick asked why not formulate a statement from the Commission and present it to the council.

Mr. Kreller said the canopy needs to be brought back and their needs to be education given to people about the type of trees to plant.

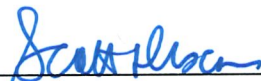
Patricia Zebrick, 370 Moss Lane: There is momentum building for the native plants. A group was started and met in October. They want to return native plants to the landscape. Ms. Frederick suggested they speak at the landscape summit.

Ms. Kervin asked about the progress on the tree inventory. Ms. Fuselier replied that it is in progress. It will take about three years to complete and they are still waiting on some equipment.

Mr. Afton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:07pm, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.



Alex Weiner, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission