

Parks and Parkways Commission

December 5, 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, Lee Frederick, Will Afton, Shelley Winstead, Brien Croff, and Christy Kervin (absent at roll call, present at 6:03)

Absent: Anne Marie Fargason

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

Minutes

Ms. Winstead made a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 7 meeting, Ms. Frederick seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business:

Spring Education Event Update

Ms. Winstead said that Mr. Afton had a conflict with the proposed date so she suggested moving it to the rain date.

Ms. Fuselier asked what the conflict was, Mr. Afton said that the Garden Show was scheduled for that date and would most likely be a conflict for the speakers.

Ms. Frederick asked if Mr. Afton knew where the list of speakers he gave to Ms. Fuselier was, Mr. Afton said that he would resend it.

Ms. Winstead suggested moving the rain date to the following Saturday.

Ms. Fuselier said the date would be April 29th with the rain date as May 6th.

Ms. Frederick asked what other speakers would be there, Ms. Kervin suggested Patricia Zebrick.

Mr. Discon asked what Mr. Afton's topic would be, Mr. Afton said it would probably be native insect pollinators.

Patricia Zebrick, 370 Moss Lane: Said that she could do a talk on homegrown national parks. Doug Tallamy from Delaware talks about how native plants bring native insects and that you need to get native plants on private property.

Ms. Kervin said that one more speaker was needed, Ms. Winstead said that she knew someone if needed.

Ms. Frederick said that she would speak with a beekeeper with the St. Joseph Abbey to see if he could speak and possibly sell honey.

Mr. Afton said that he could provide some additional names. Jim Bates and Barry Pierce are good second options. Ms. Frederick asked if they would act as vendors, Mr. Afton said they would be presenters.

Ms. Winstead said that she considers vendors as people who are selling things, Ms. Fuselier said that last time they did both. There were tabletop presenters and people who were selling things.

Ms. Zebrick asked if Barry Pierce could maybe do a children's presentation

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Ms. Kervin suggested using the stage area where the market is and putting the presenters on the stage with the audience in the green space in front of the stage. She said that a closed in room is not conducive to presentations for parents with small children to attend.

Mr. Discon asked if they would need permission from Alia to do that, Ms. Fuselier said that she would check with Alia.

Ms. Frederick said past presenters had slides and visuals that went along with their presentations, so there are pros and cons to holding it outside.

Mr. Afton suggested talking with Alia and then going from there, and to check both dates for the stage availability.

Ms. Zebrick said that if they could not do it this year then maybe plan for it the following year.

Ms. Fuselier said that they could do presenters both inside and outside for more options.

Ms. Kervin suggested possibly doing a honey tasting contest. Ms. Fuselier said that something with honey could be done.

Ms. Kervin asked if the Parks and Parkways commission could raise funds. Ms. Fuselier said that they cannot make money off of events, they can only break even or take a loss but she would look into it.

Mr. Discon asked if the commission could get t-shirts, Ms. Fuselier said she would look into it.

Ms. Frederick said that she called the NOLA bug lady and that she had retired on October 1st, she also left a message on her cell phone.

Mr. Afton asked if there could be plant vendors, Mr. Discon said yes.

Ms. Zebrick said that chickadee native is a good website.

Mr. Discon said they could put vendors by the room to build hype.

Florida St. Water Bag Pickup recap

Mr. Afton said that Mr. Discon, himself and Mr. Weiner went and picked up water bags on the north side of 190. None were salvageable and there were about 35 bags removed.

Ms. Frederick asked if there were any leaning trees, Mr. Afton said he could not recall anything, but the soil was poor. Ms. Frederick said that mulch could help.

Ms. Fuselier said that if a mulch program was implemented Tree City could give them an award.

Mr. Afton asked if the mulch pile by City Hall is still there, Ms. Fuselier said it was.

Mr. Discon said that Mr. Afton, Mr. Croff and himself would work on the mulch program.

Bonnie Abbey, 1129 Villere: Asked if the mulch pile at City Hall could be put on the website, Ms. Fuselier said it could.

Ms. Frederick asked if that mulch was used for the lakefront, Ms. Fuselier said it was used for Chenier.

Mr. Discon asked if they could mulch the oaks on the lakefront, Ms. Fuselier said that it would depend on pricing, and if they were able to, it would only be a small area.

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Mr. Afton asked if Ms. Fuselier could get some numbers on the mulch used that he could look at for the program, she said she would look into it.

Ms. Frederick said that mulch was good for the environment as well.

North Causeway Service Road Landscape Enhancement project and Fence

Mr. Discon said that he was working on it and would be speaking with Trilby tomorrow.

Lakefront Gazebo

Ms. Fuselier said that plans have been submitted.

Ms. Kervin asked how they were supposed to be an advisory committee if they did not get a chance to advise, Ms. Fuselier said the plans were approved while she was out so she does not know what happened.

Ms. Kervin asked why they would want to shield the view of the playground and provide a place for crime to occur and make it so kids are not visible. Ms. Fuselier said it was to prevent kids from running into traffic as Public Works was not putting up a fence.

Mr. Discon suggested adding some trees for shade, possibly oaks or cypress. There needs to be benches and trees for the parks.

Ms. Kervin said that Dwarf Palmetto and Japanese Yew will grow up and block the view. There are also no yew trees on the lakefront. Dwarf palmetto gets 10ft-12ft tall and there is nothing in front of the gazebo. Ms. Fuselier said they want to keep the area open for events in the gazebo and the plan is to have engraved brickwork around the front.

Ms. Kervin asked why they were planting in the rootzone of the live oak canopy, Ms. Fuselier said that existing shrubs were being swapped out.

Ms. Kervin said that could be good in some situations but not if you want a view of the lake as the view would be blocked. Ms. Fuselier asked what she would like instead, Ms. Kervin said she would have to give it some thought.

Ms. Kervin questioned the use of Salvia under the live oak, Ms. Fuselier replied that is was to create more of a garden bed area. Ms. Kervin suggested that the area just be mulch.

Mr. Discon suggested maybe putting Asian Jasmine under the oaks.

Mr. Afton suggested just doing mulch. Ms. Fuselier said that was an option.

Mr. Afton asked what the original shrubs were, Ms. Fuselier said they were knockout roses.

Ms. Kervin said that she would like to see more ornamental grasses at the gazebo area.

Mr. Discon said that the park at Westbeach is a good model. Magnolias are good trees, but oaks would be better for consistency and shade. Cypress would also be a good pick.

Ms. Frederick said to move the oaks from the wildflower garden to the park areas

Staff Update

Mr. Afton asked if Franklin Kyle was the same architect for Florida St., Mr. Discon said that was Adam Perkins. Ms. Fuselier added that the installers did not follow the plans so their contract was cancelled and a new contract was gotten. The area never lost service.

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Mr. Discon asked if the grasses along Florida could be cut less as they are located on a slope. Ms. Fuselier said it was a sightline issue, people could not see over the grasses when leaving the business due to the slope.

Ms. Kervin asked if there was an inspector for QA/QC, Ms. Fuselier replied that the install was done in one day and the installers never called.

Mr. Afton said they should cut back on the different types of plants as it has a hodge podge look, Ms. Fuselier agreed and added that it was mostly a test block to see what would work.

Ms. Fuselier said that the street trees were ordered for the first spring planting. There are 400 trees that will be split in half for two plantings. There will not be any new trees given out until the next budget year.

Mr. Discon clarified that there would be nothing until fall of 2023, Ms. Fuselier said they may open in spring for fall.

Ms. Frederick asked if there was anything new on the Savanna sign. Ms. Fuselier said she had heard nothing.

Ms. Kervin said it looked like there were two signs there, Mr. Afton said that one was an old sign.

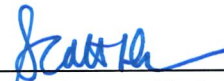
Public Comment

None

Ms. Winstead motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm, seconded by Mr. Afton and was unanimously approved.



Alex Weiner, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission