

Parks and Parkways Commission
March 2, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Discon and the secretary called roll.

Present: Scott Discon, Karin Crosby, Lee Frederick, Anne Marie Fargason, Will Afton, Eric McQuiston, and Leslie Marcello

Absent: None

Also Present: Catherine Fuselier, City Arborist and Council Member Laure' Sica

Adoption of the minutes were deferred until the next meeting.

New Business:

1. Follow up on tree Giveaway

The tree giveaway was successful with all trees having been given away.

2. Discussion of plants for spring sale

It was discussed to contact Donna Beakley at the Trailhead to hold a plant clinic on June 27th at 10 a.m. with a plant sale similar to the tree giveaway. Mr. McQuiston would supply a suggested list of plants to purchase. The Pollinator Partnership website contained graphics that could be used. Ms. Fuselier asked to make the program a Pollinator Week like Arbor Day with a proclamation. Ms. Crosby moved to proceed with event on June 27th, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved. Ms. Crosby asked if Turk's Cap could also be a species for sale. Mr. McQuiston said he would check with Bracy's if they had the dwarf species, possibly the pink variety.

3. Tree City USA Growth Award discussion

Ms. Fuselier said the City annually obtains the Tree City Award, but had only received the Growth Award five times. It was discussed that the edible garden, Highway 190 live oak and street tree program would be applicable for the Award Grant. The Street Tree Program was expanded by offering trees to the businesses. Tyler Thomas Park might be included in the grant. Mr. McQuiston said the City needed 10 points to be eligible and the projects could be used to apply for next year's award. Municipal funding was worth 8 points so only two points were needed. It was discussed to determine if the wildflower garden and plantings in the median on East and West Causeway Approaches were eligible.

4. Marigny Avenue Edible Forest Planting/Tyler Thomas Park planting

The plants were ordered and the contractor was waiting for this week's weather to pass. These projects could be used in the Growth Planting Award next year.

5. Florida Street grass planting

This project was waiting for a contract signature and City Council approval.

6. Lakefront fountain garden

Red and pink Turk's Cap would require less watering and would be a different planting. It was also discussed to plant milkweed, retain the boxwoods and remove the roses. The commission decided to retain and supplement the roses with a dwarf species.

It was agreed that the gazebo needed additional planting. Mr. McQuiston suggested planting dwarf lantana and pentas for butterflies and texture. The planting should be contracted rather than the originally planned board planting.

7. Monroe Street flower beds

Ms. Crosby said the road plans showed the Monroe Street median containing the sign would be scaled back by half to install an additional turning lane to the Causeway. With the live oak tree located in the second median by Antibes West, it seemed to be a bottleneck of the curve. She requested consideration to reduce that curbing.

Ms. Crosby asked if Dr. Guidry could look at a consideration to take back 3'. Ms. Fuselier said different options were discussed, but she did not know what was decided. Ms. Crosby said she understood the first bay would be moved back with the lift station in the middle of the median. The marquis sign would need to be moved and the City would lose all of the green space and crepe myrtles. If the trees were to be moved, they should be transplanted to a City property. Mr. Discon said the last time there was work in this area, the trees were removed and nothing was replanted. Mr. McQuiston suggested distributing the plans for discussion at the next meeting. Council Member Laure' Sica said this project would not be discussed until the new City Council took office.

8. Monroe Street bike path

There was a discussion to request the bike path be installed on the East Causeway Approach since it was decided that it would not be constructed on the West Causeway Approach. Ms. Crosby moved to adopt a resolution requesting the City Council to fund the construction of sidewalks on the east side of the City rather than creating the west connectivity, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved. This may not be possible since the west side connectivity was through a grant.

9. Review revised contracted maintenance for 2020

The contract was on Mayor Villere's desk for signature.

10. Mulch for East and West Causeway Approaches and Monroe Street

Ms. Fuselier said she would have a contractor install the mulch since the Public Works Department was short staffed. Ms. Crosby suggested contracting with Gomez Pine Straw since we would be purchasing the mulch. There was a discussion that in all future RFPs must include the removal of the tree staking after one year.

11. Benches for children's playgrounds

Ms. Fuselier would check with the Public Works Department since there was no grass cutting this week.

Ms. Crosby moved to open the agenda to discuss the trees on the Service Road by Times Bar and Grill, second by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

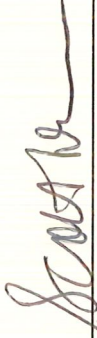
There were 4-5 dead trees dead possibly from pine beetles. Ms. Fuselier would have a contractor cut it down since the Causeway Commission stated it was not one of their trees. Replanting was suggested with a tall tree.

Mr. McQuiston said he would email a concept video plan for the wildflower meadow making it more friendly.

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Mr. McQuiston moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.



Lori Spranley, Secretary

Scott Discon, Chairman
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