

Parks and Parkways Commission May 6, 2019

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

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

Absent: Marilyn Osborne

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Minutes

Ms. Crosby moved to approve the minutes of April 1, 2019, seconded by Mr. McQuiston and was unanimously approved.

New Business:

1. Caladium Bulb Sale Follow Up
With the rain on Saturday, the commission rescheduled the sale for May 11th.

2. Florida Streetscape plantings

The additional planting should begin in the next week with bags on the trees. The owners should be reminded to water the trees.

Mr. Discon said the City was informed two weeks ago that the grasses being grown for the City were sold to someone else. He had wanted to have it planted for the Council to see the concept before the budget hearings. Ms. Casanova said the local vendors had some grasses, but it was being determined how much they would be willing to sell. Mr. Afton said he found 40 plants and he was pursuing how many would be available for sale. The area did not have any irrigation. Mr. McQuiston said this was not the best time for planting, and this project should be put under contract.

3. Marigny Avenue Edible Forest

Ms. Casanova was meeting with Mr. Brumfield to begin planting the next week. The oak trees would be planted on the corners, and they would have bags on the trees.

4. Lange House planting

Ms. Casanova said the commission was to make suggestions on the plan. Ms. Crosby said she would forward species suggestions. It was discussed to:

- Remove some of the pine trees because it was too dense.
- Replant the camellias.
- Plant citrus trees by the sitting area to attract tiger swallowtails.

It was also discussed there was a push for pollinator plants commercially and Mr. McQuiston suggested promoting them as a sale similar to the caladium bulbs. Clover should also be planted in the medians. This should be incorporated into the budget, and call it the Pollinator Gateway.

Ms. Frederick suggested planting wildflowers on the unplanted portion of the overpass. Several members thought the existing planting was too conservative and the area should contain plants and not grasses. Ms. Casanova said the sign side was the only area under contract and the commission suggested all four sides be placed under contract.

Ms. Crosby moved to open the agenda to discuss Marc Pastoreck, seconded by Mr. McQuiston and was unanimously approved. Ms. Frederick said she asked Mr. Pastoreck to compose a flyer describing the purpose of the wildflower garden, and he said he had

provided information to the City. She requested the information be forwarded to the commission for the creation of a Wildflower Conservation area flyer.

On another updated topic, Ms. Crosby said Mayor Villere had given the indication that he did not want the commission to use a billboard at the Trailhead

5. Parking Lot Maintenance at Girod/Claiborne Streets
Mr. Discon said the area looked clear cut with tall weeds. It appeared that the Trailhead and the Park and Ride areas were not being maintained. Ms. Casanova said Franklin Kyle was designing a plan for the parking lot. Grass cutting at the parking lot was requested.

6. Landscape Plan for the 4 Corners at Highway 190
This was previously discussed.

7. Budget Projects for 2019

List of projects to be submitted:

1. Highway 190 Overpass – verbiage for plans including a lower rain garden and a no mow zone
2. Wildflowers – Mr. McQuiston’s concern was about cars hitting the butterflies he suggested the wildflowers should be planted on the Trace or at the cemetery. Promotion of pollinator plants should be included as a budget item and address the potential of identifying locations.
3. Lange House
4. Cemetery – Franklin Kyle was preparing a plan. The commission had originally suggested planting a rose garden, but another mausoleum was added and the plan changed to a scatter garden. The pile of dirt was removed, but had come back.
5. Tyler Thomas Park – Mr. Brumfield would provide a timeline when he could plant and Ms. Casanova would ask for irrigation. Mr. McQuiston said a hose and a timer would work just as well
6. Expansion of the Edible Forest – Mr. Discon said the City Council told him to move forward
7. Causeway Underpass planting or spread mulch where it was bare ground.
8. Open Space at Pottery Hill
9. Monroe Street Entrance Garden – it was discussed providing more shade plants and possibly indigo.
10. Sunset Point – this needs maintenance and the commissions suggested new plantings like an African Iris that could survive in the concrete area. There were concerns about the lime in the concrete so the site conditions should be evaluated.

Ms. Fargason asked the West Beach Parkway garden may not need flowers. Ms. Casanova said the plan had been approved to provide planting on the end caps with perennials and shrubs. Ms. Fargason said her complaint was the mud against the trees. Mr. McQuiston said he and Dr. Malcolm Guidry had suggested the aeration, but did not think the mud would be harmful to the trees. He suggested creating a Citywide consistency with materials. The commission requested to see the revised plan.

11. Benches

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Staff Update

The commission had requested to plant wydelia in the medians with the grasses and if it worked that would be the planting for the entire Highway 190 area. There was a discussion about getting a new purchase order for the grasses from another nursery.

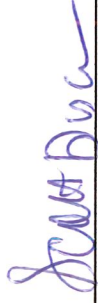
Buck Abbey was present in the audience and stated he had been living in Mandeville on the weekends for the past 20 years. While working with LSU, his eyes were training for the potential and he had ideas that he would share at a future date.

Ms. Frederick asked for the maps for the next meeting.

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



Lori Spranley, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

