

Parks and Parkways Commission
March 11, 2019

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

Present: Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, Marilyn Osborne; Eric McQuiston and Karin Crosby

Absent: Nancy Clark and Anne Marie Fargason

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector and Will Afton, Commission
Appointee

New Business:

Caladium Bulb Sale

Ms. Casanova said only two companies had caladium bulbs and they were more expensive with the rainy weather. Ms. Frederick said it had been previously discussed to include lily bulbs as well as the caladium bulbs. It was suggested to price the Asiatic, crinum, and day lilies. A tentative sale date would be May 4th and any extra bulbs would be sold at the Lange House for Mother's Day. It was decided to order 200 caladium bulbs of each color as well as lily bulbs. Ms. Casanova would email the commission any information. Any extra bulbs could be planted by the lakefront fountain.

Florida Street Streetscape Plantings

Ms. Casanova said the interim Post Master did not want to do any planting. The staff suggested waiting until a permanent Post Master was appointed who would have pride in his or her building.

Ms. Frederick asked about the planting of the live oak trees by the Trace Tunnel. Ms. Casanova said the trees were on the list for ordering and planting. Ms. Osborne said she would follow up with Pelican Athletic Club. Mr. Discon said there were a few trees to be replanted. Ms. Crosby said there was a dead tree in the Wildflower Garden. It was decided not to replant this tree. At this time, the trees have received water with the rains, but summer watering will depend on the weather. Ms. Frederick asked about planting a live oak tree by the apartments on Monroe Street which would be far enough from the sight triangle. Ms. Casanova was concerned about someone watering the tree.

Marigny Avenue Edible Forest

Cleco cut the trees to a safe level and Ms. Casanova was waiting for the bids to cut them to the ground level. Grinding would be part of the contract. The 100, 500 and 800 were the chosen blocks which did not have many trees to be removed. Ms. Crosby said people were ready to volunteer. Ms. Casanova said many people were excited for the kids to learn about fruit.

The Tyler Thomas Park would be bid at the same time as Marigny Avenue. Mr. Afton asked how many trees would be planted and it was estimated to be 15-20. Ms. Casanova had contacted Becnel's. Mr. Afton suggested contacting Langridge Plant Sales in Belle Chasse for citrus. Bracy's had Meyer lemon trees. There might have to be some substitution to get the project planted.

Ms. Crosby asked about a burn for the Wildflower Garden. Mr. Afton said it had not been good weather for burning. Mr. Pastoreck will usually contact the City.

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Pottery Hill

Ms. Casanova said the marker had arrived and a flag was placed for a potential replacement. The commission was requested to review and comment on the site. Mr. Discon requested trimming by the bollards and the remainder of the property to be natural. There was a small path defined because people had used it. Ms. Casanova said there was a concern with it being a park that people would dig the site and it would be compromised with areas being wetlands. Ms. Crosby said it would be a great educational aspect of why it was a wetlands, what grew in that area, and separate the wetlands for people protection with dead trees. There was a concern about the neighbor encroaching into the area with his chairs. If it was a more defined park, the chairs might not be an issue. The City wanted to encourage more people, but there was no parking in the curve. Ms. Crosby said parking was available on Lakeshore Drive. It was decided to rope off the wetlands and let the science teachers know about the site. The dead trees would remain for the birds. A Corps of Engineers approval would be required to remove the trees. Mr. Discon said the marker would make a difference. It was decided to place a natural rope and bollards to delineate the City property with a small sign delineating the wetland protected area. It was suggested to send information to the teachers about the wetlands, flora and fauna in the area for field trips with some small signage of what was in the wetlands and why it was good for the environment.

Gardens between East Causeway Approach and Greenleaves Subdivision

This was the median area on Highway 190 toward Pelican Athletic Club and the post office. The medians had some weeds and was sparsely planted. Ms. Casanova said she had ordered grasses after receiving DOTD approval. Mr. Discon said Mayor Villere had said this area should be placed under contract. The Indian Hawthorne shrubs adjacent to the sidewalks needed trimming and weeding. Ms. Crosby suggested planting parsley hawthorne.

Update List of Approved Trees

Ms. Casanova presented the approved tree list, but some of the trees on the existing list were not available in the nurseries. There were also inconsistencies in the list and she suggested restructuring the list.

Ms. Osborne suggested adding Drake, Chinese and American elms, but there was a concern with the Dutch Elm disease. Mr. McQuiston asked why the Sweet Bay was listed as a Class A tree when it should be classified as a Class B trees. Ms. Crosby said Lowe's carried a Chinese Chestnut that was resistant to blight and could grow as tall as a pecan and hickory, but they must cross pollenate.

Ms. Casanova requested the commission review and add to the list, and determine if there should be a change to a different category. She asked the commission to email any comments for review at the next meeting. Ms. Frederick asked for the trees to be easy to grow and was disease resistant.

Staff Update

- Inventory of open space – Mr. Endres was out of the office and Ms. Casanova would get the map when he returned.
- Lakefront garden – it would be fertilized and mulched.
- Main entrance on Monroe Street – it was asked what could be planted in this shady area. It was suggested to plant cast iron, asphedridras with color, or indigo to keep it a loose planting.

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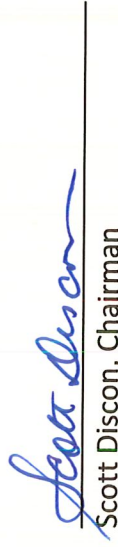
Mr. McQuiston asked if the Monroe Street roundabout was dead and it was answered that there was not enough room.

- The Highway 22 overpass hill was half planted and the commission suggested planting grasses to duplicate the planted area. It was decided to include this planting in next year's budget.
- Update on Highway 22 – no update at this time.
- Highway 190 (Florida Street) suicide lane - no updates yet. The revision will be curbed to allow planting.
- Lange House – review the landscape plan and replant the camellias.
- Place the notice of Street Tree planting in the September water bill.

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



Lori Spranley, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

