

Parks and Parkways Commission
December 3, 2018

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

Present: Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, Eric McQuiston, Karin Crosby, Anne Marie Fargason and Nancy Clark

Absent: Marilyn Osborne

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Opening of Agenda:

Ms. Clark moved to open the agenda to approve the seedling species selection and date for the Arbor Day Tree Giveaway, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Seedling order

Ms. Casanova submitted a list including pignut hickory, fringe trees, red bay, cherry laurel, shrining sumac and elderberry that was ordered for availability. Ms. Crosby was concerned about the root spread for the elderberry tree. Ms. Clark suggested providing a notification about the tree. It was agreed to check February 2's availability at the Trailhead for distribution.

New Business:

Adoption of 2019 meeting dates

It was requested to move the July meeting to July 8th and the September meeting to September 9. Ms. Crosby moved to approve the meeting dates based on the two amended dates, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

Florida Street Streetscape plantings

Mr. Discon said he will work on a list of new tree orders. Ms. Casanova was continuing to attempt to make contact with the Post Master. She said the grasses had been ordered for the Chenier neutral ground and would be ready for delivery in February with DOTD's approval of the Australian grass. Mr. Discon said the area around the Tammany Trace Tunnel could also be planted while waiting for the decision on the Florida Street suicide lane change. Ms. Scott said the project was moving forward, but she did not have any other update.

Ms. Crosby asked about the Highway 22 widening. Ms. Scott said she had heard that the project was moving forward.

Marigny Avenue Edible Forest

Ms. Scott presented that the plan forwarded to Cleco was denied. The staff had requested an explanation of the denial and a meeting was scheduled on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. The City planned to move forward on the corners live oak trees on Marigny Avenue with every corner being available for planting. Mr. McQuiston said if Cleco would provide some direction on suggested plantings. Ms. Scott said the City would not move forward on any tree removal until there was some approval from Cleco.

Staff Update

1. Chenier – mulched and cleaned
2. Rose garden fountain – Mr. McQuiston said he had researched native plants since fountains were usually a more formal design. The best alternative with the salt spray would be dwarf yaupon holly which could grow to 5' tall. Boxwood decline was a

significant problem at this time. Dr. Sing at the LSU Ag Center said there was nothing that could be done since it would spread and lived in the soil.

Several species suggestions were:

- Rudolph
- Perennials and blue eyed grass. Mr. McQuiston said native species were not formal. Ms. Clark said the garden was a teaching tool.
- Southern lady
- A hedge of dwarf yaupon and fill in with coreopsis and perennials providing access.
- Pyracantha, but everyone agreed it was too spiky.
- Florida Anise, but it could get large.
- Purple coneflower.
- Don't plant any species wanting full sun.
- Dwarf susanquas
- Gaillardia
- Use the Louisiana Growers list for salt tolerant plants

It was suggested to move roses to city hall gazebo.

It was agreed that the next step was that Mr. McQuiston had volunteered to prepare a sketch to determine the number of plants needed. Ms. Frederick suggested counting the existing number of boxwoods and replace plantings with the same number. Ms. Clark liked the formal boundary with the yaupons and repeated color. Ms. Scott said the needed to be as maintain free as possible.

3. Lakefront tree pruning bids were due the previous week. The City had awarded the contract for the pathways trimming for a height clearance of 8' and 1' on each side. Ms. Casanova was working on the tree trimming bids.
4. West Beach Parkway – Ms. Casanova had received correspondence from Franklin Kyle stating he would have a plan in two weeks.
5. Pottery Oak – Ms. Casanova was waiting on the quote for the marker. The new rope had been installed. Ms. Clark asked about weed eating around the posts to create a definition.

Mr. Discon said he had heard there might be a petition to purchase some of the land by the Pottery Oak. Ms. Scott said she had heard a citizen would like to purchase a portion of the land adjacent to his property which would be a decision of the City Council. The property owner was meeting individually with the City Council members to determine if there was any support. Ms. Scott said just because some was asking did not mean it would happen.

Ms. Crosby asked the size of the original mound. Ms. Scott said in the archeological dig there was an area of shards that was a small area. The whole site was listed on the National Register, and it could not be de-registered. She did not know if there was interest by the City Council. Ms. Clark said back to the time of the Tchefuncte people, the area was an active clay source by the colonials in the 1840s and last closed in the 1940s.

Ms. Scott encouraged the commission to discuss the issue with the City Council members. Ms. Fargason suggested looking for grants to fund future archeological digs.


6. Butterfly Garden – the area was cleaned up, mulched, and rye grass was added. There would be planting in the early spring.

**Parks and Parkways Commission
December 3, 2018
Page 3**


Ms. Clark asked to have the hollies reshaped.

Ms. Clark said the lakefront live oak tree plaque was misspelled stating Park and Parkways and suggested checking all of the plaques. The commission decided to allow the verbiage to remain.

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



Lori Sprahley, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

