

**Parks and Parkways Commission
November 13, 2018**

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

Present: Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, Eric McQuiston and Nancy Clark

Absent: Karin Crosby, Anne Marie Fargason, and Marilyn Osborne

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of September 10 and October 1, 2018, seconded by Mr. McQuiston and was unanimously approved.

New Business:

Live Oak Tree Identification

Richard Adamiak presented the post and aluminum signage vertically oriented for identification of the registered live oak trees. There would be 29 signs when completed with a concrete collar to keep the post in the ground. The identification would be at a height of 6-8" out of the ground. Each sign would have a corresponding number to the tree list to allow for annual remeasuring. The next project would be the measurement of the remaining live oak trees and they would each be assigned a number. It was suggested to install a post with the number on each tree so the identification would be ready when the tree was registered. The commission also suggested taking a video of the installation and writing a newspaper article.

Updates on Florida Street Streetscape plantings

Mr. Discon said he would provide Ms. Casanova a list of planting locations. Ms. Casanova stated she had delivered another form to the Post Office for planting. The Post Office was in agreeable to the planting, but the City needed a signed form. It was discussed to plant four trees on the corner of the Tammany Trace since there were curbs at that location.

Mr. Discon said Highway 190 intersected with the Four Corners, and the trees needed to be trimmed. This area was not in the City, but Mr. Discon said the area needed to have a good appearance.

Marigny Edible Garden

Cleco had contacted the City denying the proposal for some of the tree selections so the staff was revising the plan. Cleco was concerned that some trees would be taller than 20'. The commission suggested removing the mayhaw trees to allow the plan to move forward. Mr. Discon suggested having Mr. McQuiston be the voice for the commission. Ms. Casanova said the City was waiting for the list of the plantings that Cleco thought were problematic.

Fountain Rose Bed

Ms. Clark suggested an experiment of native plants. She had researched plants that could survive in brackish water with partial sun/partial shade. Dwarf yaupons could replace the boxwoods that would be 2' tall with pretty fall colors. Dwarf tick seed was a ground cover being yellow for color and it would be a bushing ground cover. Mr. Discon said perennials would bring color.

Mr. McQuiston said there were many species of coreopsis. Boudreaux Yaupon may not be available, but Rudolph's were smaller and had heavy berries. A native iris was being promoted that was blue. He suggested mixing species of yaupon to hold it together and then plant perennials. Ms. Clark said working with natives needs would make a big statement. Mr.

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McQuiston said plants native to North America might not be native to south Louisiana. Most perennials should be planted in the spring. Mr. McQuiston suggested not being native crazy. Ms. Clark said the commission's role was educational, and the public and school children could see the use of plants. Ms. Frederick said whatever was planted should be low maintenance with a small amount of care. The American Beauty Berry was a good choice, but might not do well on the lakefront. Star Anise could also be a good choice, but it liked to have wet feet.

It was discussed that the lakefront might be tough with it being so hot. Ms. Frederick suggested Indian Blanket, but was concerned that it might require more sun than this area provided. The intent would be to relocate the roses with the suggestion being the walkway by the monument or by the City Hall sign. The boxwood around the rose garden should be relocated by the City Hall sign. Another relocation suggestion was the lakefront gazebo and the best transplanting time would be now while it was wet. Planting at the gazebo could extend down the sidewalk to the street.

Chenier Neutral Ground/ Four Corners Planting at Trace Tunnel

Ms. Casanova said DOTD had agreed to allowing the replanting of the same planting area with the same plants. Mr. Discon asked to place pine straw in this garden. Ms. Casanova said the new planting would take place in February. The commission agreed the weeds should be removed to create a nicer appearance and the least expensive way to handle it was with mulch. Ms. Casanova said the City was pushing to install proper curbing on the revision of the suicide lanes on Florida Street to be able to plant and mulch. She would request Gomez Pine Straw place the pine straw.

The wildflower garden was constantly being reseeded. Mr. McQuiston said there was a civic responsibility to see beautiful landscaping with low maintenance that was well maintained. Ms. Clark said rose beds teach the public about a formal garden using native plants.

Mr. Discon said he has complained about the roadway edging along Highway 190 that was not being done. He was seeing 4' weeds by Chenier and a pile of weeds by Sunshine Plaza. Mr. McQuiston said Veterans Boulevard was reinvented with the beautification of the medians. There had been a significant financial return with the appearance. He agreed there was a need for the area to look like a city that cared with landscape maintenance. Mr. Discon suggested kicking off the planting grasses by Chenier and the four corners of the Trace as a test case. It was discussed that the median was not a native habitat and the native grasses were too tall for DOTD standards. The commission agreed to place the planting of the Florida grasses on hold until a decision was made on the Florida Street suicide lanes. There was a discussion about planting Wydelia along Highway 22 and West Causeway Approach.

Staff Update

Lakefront tree pruning – the staff was meeting Thursday about pruning up the trees to a height for walkers, box trucks, and cars in the parking spaces.

The cypress trees at the walking bridge needed to be trimmed to walk under.

West Beach Parkway update – Franklin Kyle working on a plan. Lucious Brumfield was on standby for dry times to re-establish the swale.

It was requested that the commissioners email a list of areas to be evaluated for spring planting. A beginning list was the Kierr Garden butterfly garden, lakefront rose bed, West Beach Parkway, and the Monroe Street garden.

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Kierr Garden Butterfly gardens – the money was appropriated for the planting. Ms. Frederick had provided a planting list.

Pottery Oak Historic Marker – the revised verbiage was emailed to Ms. Casanova. The commission was in agreement with the appearance and language to be ordered. The commission suggested planting the sign close to the tree.

The Pottery Oak ropes were to be installed the day of the meeting. Weeding was needed to keep the corner clean.

Ms. Frederick asked about the Tyler Thomas Park planting. Ms. Casanova said she had not had a chance to move forward since she had been out of the office.

Mr. Discon asked about the construction of sidewalks on the north side of West Causeway Approach. Ms. Casanova said it was a joint venture with DOTD, but the timeline was unknown.

Dana Brown – she had submitted the plan and the staff was waiting for an additional cost breakdown. The commission stated they wanted native plants included in the plan.

Mr. Discon said all of the trees at the Causeway exit ramps should be trimmed, and the pampas grass should be removed since it was covered in weeds.

Ms. Clark asked about the enforcement process on a property on Carroll Street if no permits were issued for the under brushing. Ms. Casanova said the owner would pay double the permit fee. The ordinance allowed mechanical clearing while Ms. Clark had thought it was allowed only by hand to protect the setbacks.

Mr. McQuiston said the trees on the property across the street from the Rusty Pelican were vandalized and broken. Ms. Casanova said the trees would be replaced.

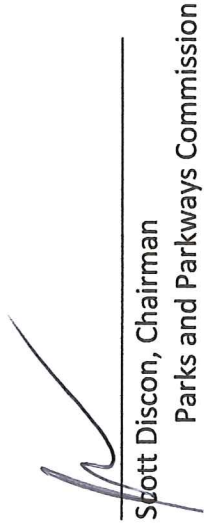
The City parking lot across from LaLou's Restaurant would have a plan drawn by Franklin Kyle and it would be replanted.

Wildflower garden – there were ideas to install parking and make it a park. This was an example of a bio swale. There was a suggestion to plant Grancy Graybeard or other small native plants. Three board members said give wildflower gardens needed time, but the edges needed to be better maintained

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



Lori Spranley, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

