

Parks and Parkways Commission July 2, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairwoman Karin Crosby and the secretary called roll.

Present: Nancy Clark, Karin Crosby, Eric McQuiston and Marilyn Osborne

Absent: Scott Discon, Lee Frederick and Anne Marie Fargason

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of April 2 and May 7, 2018, seconded by Ms. Osborne and was unanimously approved.

1. Short Term Work Program

It was decided to defer the discussion of the Short Term Work Program priorities until the next meeting when all members would be present. The projects that were outlined for the budget included the Marigny Avenue Edible Garden, Cemetery, maintenance of the East and West Causeway plants for one more year, and planting the West Beach Parkway medians.

Ms. Osborne said Mr. McQuiston had mentioned the Living with Water list of recommendations for building infrastructure in areas with water. She asked for a copy to be emailed to the commission and to discuss recommendations to the City Council for Public Works to implement. Ms. Crosby said the commission had made CLURO recommendations that anything south of Monroe Street be pervious surfacing, and the recommendation was rebutted.

Mr. McQuiston said he had written an article about rainwater management including vegetated swales and recharged basins. Some of the problems were that developers did not care and money. The commission asked him to begin building a program to learn from. Ms. Osborne said it was a huge issue for Old Mandeville. Ms. Crosby said there was a rain garden planted at City Hall. Mr. McQuiston said the new commercial New Orleans regulations required the site to hold 1 ½ inch on site for 48 hours.

It was discussed to jump off Mr. McQuiston findings for a fall educational program. Ms. Osborne said New Orleans painted their electrical boxes, and suggested a contest with the high schools focusing on water. It would be a way to create public art. Cleco should be asked for a list of the box locations and if they would allow them to be painted.

2. Updates on Florida Street Streetscape plantings

Ms. Casanova said the interns were watering the trees twice a week. With two inches of rain this week they would skip watering this week. They were doing scratch tests to determine the health of the tree.

Adam Perkins had prepared an estimate which was similar to the original costs which were too high per the City Council. He was determining ways to decrease the cost for the second phase of ornamental grasses. Mr. Perkins would contact DOTD about the types of grasses that were drought tolerant and allowed close to the roadway.

Staff Update

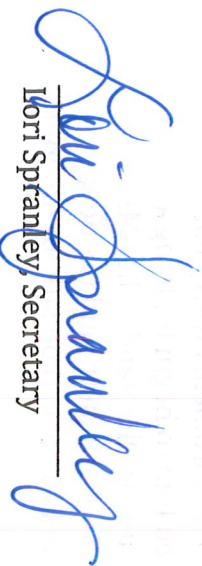
- Monroe at Girod Streets planting was Phase 3. The dead plants were being removed and were being replaced with a better species similar to the planting south of Monroe Street. The Indian Hawthorne was alive, but it did not look well. Some of the sago palms would be removed.

Parks and Parkways Commission
July 2, 2018

Page 2

- Causeway Project - Ms. Casanova anticipated final drawings before the budget was adopted to be able to include an amount. The commission requested to determine a timeline. Mr. McQuiston asked for an opinion of probable cause from Ms. Brown for the budget.
- West Beach Parkway - live oak tree was removed as an emergency. It was leaning and in the last month had dropped 2' and was at a 40 degree lean. The roots were uprooting with a void. It was removed because of the 4th of July celebration and fireworks as well as the rain, the City did not want a hazard.
- West Beach Parkway Median – Public Works was placing 1" of dirt in the median. The dirt was being piled until it was spread. The mud was good ditch dirt and it was understood that only 1" could be placed.
- Signs for lakefront – discuss with Ms. Scott.
- East Street Live Oak Tree Variance - Ms. Clark was concerned since the City promoted the preservation of live oak trees. The remnant live oak was alive and was growing suckers. She felt if there was not enough room to replant live oak trees then the applicant should donate to the Street Tree Program. She said the Street Tree Program was providing the planting of two live oak trees. Ms. Casanova said that was not on a normal basis. Ms. Clark said it was not a beautiful live oak tree, but it was not dead.

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


Lori Spranley, Secretary


Karin Lorenz Crosby, Acting Chairwoman
Parks and Parkways Commission