

Parks and Parkways Commission
May 7, 2018

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

Present: Scott Discon, Marilyn Osborne, Lee Frederick, Anne Marie Fargason, Eric McQuiston and Nancy Clark

Absent: Karin Crosby

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

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

Ms. Fargason moved to open the agenda to discuss the Kierr Garden – Butterfly Garden, Palm Tree on the lakefront, Palm Tree at the Causeway Overpass, Monroe Street Drainage Project, and the West Beach Parkway Median Planting Project, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

West Beach Parkway Planting Project

Leslie Patterson, 301 West Beach Parkway, had read an article about the Marigny Avenue median project and was requesting a median project be considered on West Beach Parkway. She thought West Beach Parkway and Marigny Avenue were signature streets in Old Mandeville with beautiful oak trees and they should be better maintained. Her suggestion for her neighborhood was to replace the plantings on the corners using repeating species and tidy up the median. General maintenance between the street and the sidewalk was needed since many of the neighbors did not cut that area. Council Member Pulaski had explained that the City had maintenance contracts for certain areas in the City and this was not part of the contract. The commission discussed that the median area was lower by 16-18” so no soil could be added, but there were planting opportunities using native plants. Ms. Fargason said she had been contacted by a neighbor about a leaning live oak tree that was pulling up the sidewalk. The commission suggested including this project in the 2019 budget for professional input.

Monroe Street Drainage Project

Rich Adamiak, 2336 Mathis Street speaking as a citizen, discussed the culvert installation on Monroe Street. There was a live oak trees adjacent to 3316 Monroe Street and he was concerned about the project cutting the roots. Ms. Casanova said the project was between Massena and Kleber Street and would not extend to the live oak tree. Mr. Adamiak asked if a sidewalk would be installed. Ms. Casanova said the area would be replanted with trees, but she did not know about the sidewalk.

Mr. Adamiak asked why the culvert was removed. Mr. Discon said it was a Public Works project. Ms. Clark asked if the project was for future development. Ms. Casanova said there was no scheduled work for an extension. Ms. Clark requested a copy of the plans for the next meeting. Mr. Adamiak suggested if there was a sidewalk that it would be a meandering sidewalk to allow for the trees.

The commission requested a copy of the adopted resolution requesting open ditches instead of culverts. Ms. Casanova said she had walked the area to determine what trees could be saved.

Ms. Clark said there was a Monroe Street tree planting plan, and the commission agreed they should be given the opportunity to review the project and make recommendations. Ms. Casanova said three crepe myrtles would be dug up to allow work under the street and they would be replanted.

Caladium Bulb Sale Update

It was announced that all of the bulbs had been sold.

Update Florida Street Streetscape Planting

It was agreed that the trees looked good, especially with the pine straw. Mr. Discon reported that an oak tree by Marigny Avenue was down and a tree by Lurline Smith was leaning. Ms. Clark asked about refilling the water bags. It was discussed that watering was the responsibility of the property

owner, but it was agreed that the commission members would meet with the owners to fill their water bags.

Causeway Underpass Update

Ms. Casanova said there was a meeting with Dana Brown in the last week and she would finalize two plans to present to the commission at the next meeting. Ms. Frederick asked if the commission could request modifications and that would be part of the presentation. It was suggested to invite the City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and the Causeway Commission.

The commission agreed that the mulch looked good and asked to continue the mulch to cover the patches of clay that was visible. Ms. Casanova said she would continue to stockpile the mulch until there was enough for the area because there was not enough money in the mulch line item.

Marigny Avenue Update

Ms. Casanova said Cleco were in agreement with the plan, but they were worried about the maintenance and liability near the power lines. The biggest issue was the maintenance contract which would include 35 services per year and a non-chemical herbicide for a preliminary annual quote of \$54,025. She stated that RCI's complete budget for the City was that cost.

Ms. Clark said the first phase would be for Cleco to remove the trees. Ms. Casanova said Cleco was willing to perform the tree removal. The commission was in agreement that the maintenance estimate was high and suggested reducing the amount of planting to lower the maintenance cost. It was decided to hold a work session with the drawings and have the maintenance cost re-quoted on a revised plan. With a similar project anticipated on the West Beach Parkways median, it was requested to ask Ms. Patterson and Ms. Hardin to participate in the work session. The commission discussed holding the meeting on May 21st at 6:00 p.m. if the advertisement could be met.

Discussion of additional tree species protection

The commission was concerned about protecting the sizes and species of trees beyond the live oak trees. Ms. Casanova said she and Ms. Scott would meet with tree professionals for their input, re-draft the language, and she asked the commission to provide a protected species list. She presented there was a backlash from the Mayor, the City Council and mostly from the homeowners regarding the new landscape changes being unfair. The staff wanted to refine the wording to be more definitive and create a streamlined process. The requirement for established home sites without the minimum number of trees was that that number must be planted per setback. If the homeowner removed a required tree, they must plant to be in compliance.

Discussion of project for LNPS Grant Application

Ms. Clark moved to not submit an application, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved.

Kierr Garden – Butterfly Garden.

Ms. Clark said the butterfly garden was initially part of the Kierr Garden plan. A private donor had paid for the butterfly garden and maintenance. The Parks and Parkways Commission had decided to expand the garden with additional plants. There were two volunteers at the Lang House and with the Jane Austin Festival that were weeding the garden. Ms. Clark asked when would the plants from the list be planted because the garden needed planting, mulching, and for the irrigation system to be turned on since it was off since the winter freezes. Mr. McQuiston and Ms. Frederick said they would work on the plant list and Ms. Casanova would order the plants. Ms. Frederick suggested planting citrus around the benches, and the commission decided to plant those during the fall planting season checking for irrigation in this area.

Palm tree on the lakefront

Ms. Casanova said the tree was moved to the Claiborne Street parking lot.

Palm tree at Causeway Overpass

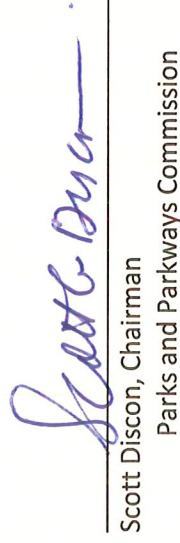
There were citizens reporting the tree being as tall as the overpass and the commission asked if it could be transplanted between the two bridges. It was decided to ask Ms. Brown if this could be included into the project.

Staff update

- The water bags were installed on the Florida Street live oak trees.
- It was discussed to include Monroe Street planting in the new budget.
- Place Tyler Thomas Park on the next agenda.

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



Lori Spranley, Secretary

Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

