

Parks and Parkways Commission
March 5, 2018

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

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

Absent: Marilyn Osborne

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of February 5, 2018, seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

Ms. Crosby said after meeting with Ms. Scott, Ms. Casanova and Cleco about removing the topped trees on Marigny Avenue, she had discussed the edible garden with a Marigny neighbor. Alex Balducci, 636 Marigny Avenue, had attended the meeting to discuss Marigny Avenue. Mr. Balducci said there were many shrubs along Marigny Avenue that needed pruning to make the street look better. Ms. Crosby said she had also discussed the project with a neighbor in the 200 block who felt the project was inviting more people to come to that area with an edible garden that could be harvested. There would be a discussion with the neighbors to present a positive light of the project. Mr. Balducci said he was in agreement for all beautification.

1. Live Oak Tree Registry Update

Mr. Adamiak was unable to attend the meeting, but provided an update in an email stating that Phase 2 of the registry would begin in April. If the commission wanted to create plaques identifying the tree name and its age, it should be included in the next budget year. Ms. Clark said Madisonville used granite that survived weather, storms, and maintenance. Ms. Casanova suggested placing the plaques in the mulched area where people should not be walking and they could be seen. Ms. Frederick also suggested selecting a few of the oldest trees for identification so there would not be as many plaques at one time. The remainder of the certificates could be framed and displayed at City Hall. It was discussed to create a brochure with a map of the tree locations and their names. The brochure could be placed at the Kierr Garden, Trailhead, and City Hall discussing the registry, history and live oak tree names. The brochure could create a street stroll for the live oak trees which would be a good educational product.

Ms. Clark said Dennis Wilkins with Pro Graphics printed the annual Mother's Day brochure. Susan Ericson created the brochure that only cost a few hundred dollars for the design. It was requested to place this item on the April agenda.

2. Update Florida Street Streetscape Planting

Mr. Discon said he was meeting with Dry Cleaning by Louis as the tenant to finalize a planting agreement. There were 8 trees proposed for the site and if they were not all planted the extra trees could be planted at the post office where there was room for 13 trees. The total number of trees planted was approximately 80. Ms. Crosby was concerned about some of the tree placement and Cleco cutting them in the future. Ms. Clark said the trees were trimmed around the lines. Ms. Frederick said most areas would not have power lines around the trees. Ms. Crosby asked if it could be requested in writing that Cleco would agree to trim around the lines and not top the trees as they grew. Ms. Casanova said she would make the request, but it was not hopeful that they would agree in writing. They followed the best practices of pruning around the lines. Ms. Clark suggested requesting Cleco provide their best practices of tree

trimming. Ms. Casanova said the City had no control over Cleco and the power lines, but she had a copy for the book that was kept with the tree trimmers.

Mr. Discon asked about signage for a Florida Greenway that could be designed to enhance the roadway. It was discussed that the commission should formulate the definitions of a greenway. Ms. Casanova presented the idea of entering into a third party contract for the trimming of the specific live oak trees. Lagniappe Tree Company employed one person that held a utility tree trimmer license. The board was in agreement to pursue this option. It was requested to place the Florida Greenway on the April agenda.

Adam Perkins was preparing a contract for the Florida Street grasses. He had presented areas that could be used for grasses or shrubs, but a specific plan was required by DOTD. Mr. Perkins could calculate how many plants and their planting locations from Jackson Avenue to the curve at Walmart that would tie into the wildflower garden. Ms. Casanova was researching the plantings in Texas and Nevada as they had their own ecosystem that was dry and hot.

Ms. Crosby asked about the shrubs dying back along the Highway 190 extension. The planting was the purview of the highway department. The City had weeded the garden in front of Chenier. The remainder of the gardens was located outside of the City limits.

The water bags had been received for the Florida Street trees and they would be installed by Mr. Brumfield and mulching would be placed around the trees. This would be the wrap up of the tree planting for this time of year.

3. Causeway Underpass Update

Ms. Casanova said Dana Brown was developing a plan. Ms. Crosby said there was a palm tree touching the underpass and asked if it could be transplanted or was it surviving because of the heat of the underpass. Ms. Casanova would ask a palm expert about transplanting.

4. Marigny Avenue Update

Ms. Crosby, Ms. Casanova, and Ms. Scott had reviewed the trees on each block that should be removed and the mulch would remain on site for the neighbors and City to use. The plan was modified to make sure if a tree was too tall that it could be moved to the corner and provide a canopy. The fruit trees would be planted across from the homes. The existing loquat trees would remain. It was also discussed that the lorepetalum would be trimmed. Ms. Casanova said the plan was being finalized for Cleco's approval and determine a tree removal date. The planting would take place in the fall.

Ms. Crosby asked about an update on the Tyler Thomas Park plan. Ms. Casanova said she had provided Ms. Frederick the plan to meet with the pastor for input.

Ms. Crosby asked to also mail a letter to the neighbors surrounding the Tyler Thomas Park when the letter to the Marigny Avenue residents was mailed. Ms. Casanova said she would finalize the plan before mailing the letter to the Tyler Thomas area residents. Ms. Clark asked to provide a picture of how the proposed trees looked in full bloom.

5. Caladium Bulb Sale Date

April 21st would be the sale date because it was before Jazz Fest and extra bulbs could be sold at the Mother's Day Walking Tour.

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6. Bluebird Boxes

Ms. Crosby understood Cleco would not allow the boxes on their poles. Suggested locations were on Marigny Avenue as the fruit trees were planted, the Carroll Street Park, on the fence at Our Lady of the Lake, the Wilkinson lots along the ravine, Carroll Street along the ravine, and along the Tammany Trace if the Trace Foundation was in agreement. The houses with the metal ring would be longer lasting and it was suggested to partner with the Boy Scouts to install the bird houses. Chimney sweep and chickadee boxes could also be installed. The boxes would beautify the area and the trees would provide more canopies for the birds.

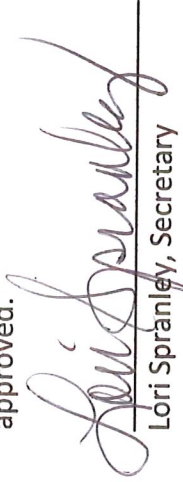
The commission requested a map of public property to determine box locations. Ms. Casanova would investigate the critical and declining bird species to pinpoint locations. The Lang House was suggested as a good location.

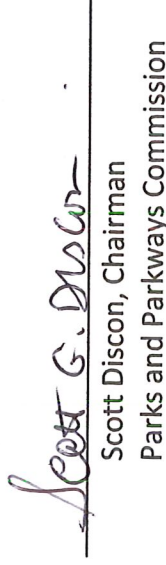
It was also discussed that Pelican Park may be taking over the Northlake Nature Center and could provide an additional entrance to the park from the back side. Ms. Crosby suggested entering into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to install bluebird boxes. The commission discussed putting a notice on the website, in the ebriefs, and on the website and Facebook about the placement of bluebird houses.

Staff Update

- Ms. Fargason said the wrought iron business located on Highway 59 man was going out of business. Since we had discussed a matching wrought iron entrance for the cemetery, the City might want to see what was available.
- The Wildflower Garden would be burned soon after the rain dried up. With an unknown date, it was suggested to post a note on the Facebook page to look for the burn of the Wildflower Garden depending on the wind.
- Ms. Clark asked about Dr. Guidry's statement on the Spanish moss. Ms. Casanova said it was being compiled with experts also providing information. The commission asked for an update when the report was received.
- Ms. Crosby said a neighbor asked about the lean of the live oak tree on Lakeshore Drive by Lafayette Street. Ms. Casanova said she would check it.
- Mr. Discon asked about the Cypress trees that were to be planted on the four corners of Girod Street/Highway 190. Ms. Casanova said if the live tree oaks died, they would be replaced with cypress trees. At this time, there were enough trees to spread out.
- Ms. Clark said the Metairie Club Garden information for tree protection was distributed to the commission. She asked the commission to review the information before the next meeting to discuss the protection of additional species.

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


Lori Spranley, Secretary


Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

