

## **Parks and Parkways Commission**

### **February 5, 2018**

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

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

Absent: Karin Crosby and Jess Cole

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of January 8, 2018, seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

### **Public Comment**

Charles Goodwin, 2075 Lakeshore Drive, said many trees on the lakefront were beaten up at the bases by the weed eaters. Mayor Villere had indicated there was no budget for additional mulch, but mulch was needed from the gazebo to the Yacht Club. It was stated that the funds were used to mulch the older trees under more stress as the top priority. Mr. Goodwin said mulch was not as expensive as new trees. Ms. Clark asked if there was still a program where the tree cutters would leave the tree and stump grinding. Ms. Casanova said only one tree cutter had a chipper and the mulch was delivered to the City. Ms. Frederick said the mulch was a priority with the 20-30 small trees.

Ms. Clark moved to recommend an effort to move money to cover mulching from the gazebo east to the harbor to protect the smaller trees, seconded by Mr. Discon. Ms. Casanova asked which category the money should be reallocated from. Ms. Clark suggested the cemetery. Ms. Casanova said the City was waiting on the mausoleum plans. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Frederick suggested using pine straw if there was no mulch available. Ms. Casanova was concerned how well the pine straw would stay in place.

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Wrap up on Annual Tree Giveaway**

Ms. Frederick reported there was a steady amount of citizens requesting trees. All of the trees were given away with the favored tree being sassafras.

#### **2. Live Oak Tree Registry Update**

Mr. Adamiak asked to defer his report until the next month's meeting.

#### **3. Update Florida Street Streetscape Planting**

Mr. Discon said he would create a list of the remaining businesses that had not been contacted. To date, there were 32 trees planted and an order for 47 more. He felt the planting agreement came from the personal contact with the owner/manager. Lucious Brumfield was planting the trees and he was knowledgeable. The water bags were ordered and would be placed upon delivery.

Ms. Frederick asked to call Melissa Kyle, Pelican Snowballs, to discuss her concerns.

The plan was to plant to Lamarque Street or Jackson Avenue. It was discussed that there was green space on either side of the Tammany Trace that could be planted. Ms. Frederick suggested mulching the large tree in this area.

Mr. Discon asked the staff to begin Phase 2 which was the grasses. Ms. Casanova said the City needed a stamped plan. It was requested to determine if Franklin Kyle could draw and stamp the plan or if Adam Perkins plans could be used.

**4. Causeway Underpass Update**

Mr. Discon said Ms. Scott had indicated that a drawing should be available in three weeks.

**5. Marigny Avenue Update**

Ms. Casanova said a meeting was set with Cleco for Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. The shrubs and gardens would remain on Marigny Avenue, but the trees would be removed. It would be requested to chip the trees and deposit the mulch on the lakefront.

**6. Caladium Bulb Order**

Ms. Casanova said caladium bulbs were extremely expensive this year at \$1 to 1.10 each without shipping because of the hurricanes. She suggested selling a different type bulb this year for a cheaper price since Florida was the only state that grew caladiums. Ms. Clark said the public expected the sale of caladium bulbs. It was decided to order one box less of the Red Flash, Aaron and Carolyn Wharton in the #1 size.

**7. Bluebird Boxes**

Ms. Crosby asked to discuss this item, but she was not able to attend the meeting. It was decided to defer the discussion until the next meeting.

**Staff Update**

The mausoleum project was still ongoing.

Only trees in the setback were protected on private property. The single family residential setbacks were 25' front, 30' rear and 10' on each of the side property lines. The regulations allowed the removal of 50% of the trees if there were more than the minimum number of trees required. If the removal would be less than the minimum number, the homeowner would have to replant trees to meet the minimum number.

Ms. Clark said there was a dying water oak and part of the property was heavily treed. To remove the tree facing Jefferson Street would require the replanting of two Class A trees. The board felt it was a good compromise.

In answer to a recent tree removal request on the lakefront, it was determined that the cypress tree was not in the setback and was not a protected or required tree so no replacement was required.

Mr. Discon asked about the American Bank tree replacement. He asked if the City could plant a live oak tree.

It was asked if trees would be planted around the playground equipment on the lakefront.

Ms. Fargason said aerial pictures of the wildflower garden had been received and asked if there could be some publicity. Ms. Clark said the City was told by the third year the garden would start coming into its own.



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Ms. Casanova presented a flyer on the Bloom Town program in Mississippi that would show how to have year round color. This would be the first time this seminar was held. She asked the board to let her know who was interested in attending.

Ms. Clark moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

  
Lori Spranley, Secretary

  
Scott Discon, Chairman  
Parks and Parkways Commission

