

Parks and Parkways Commission November 6, 2017

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

Present: Scott Discon, Nancy Clark, Karin Crosby, Jess Cole and Marilyn Osborne

Absent: Lee Frederick and Anne Marie Fargason

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of October 2, 2017, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

New Business:

1. Seedling order

Ms. Casanova said the order had been placed based on availability from the commission's suggested species. She was able to order 100 seedlings of each species for a total of 600 seedlings. Dates at the end of January/beginning of February were discussed and the commission decided on Saturday, February 3rd. Ms. Spranley would check the date with Donna Beakley at the Trailhead. Creating the stickers to seal the paper around the tree was a good idea last year and it was requested to create them again this year.

2. Update Florida Street Streetscape Planting

Mr. Discon provided an update that Ms. Frederick had two businesses that were committed to planting trees and Ms. Cole had one committed business. The commission would continue to work on getting owner participation. Ms. Osborne said Tender Years would like to participate, but felt they could not water the tree because the owner did not have a hose. It was discussed that there would be irrigation bags available for once a week watering. It would be determined if there was a water spiket to connect the hose to, and several commission members committed to handling the watering for the tree.

3. Oak tree health Lakeshore Drive and Lafayette Street

Ms. Casanova presented a letter from Dr. Guidry regarding the two oak trees. Dr. Guidry had stated after review that the two trees were in good health. Ms. Crosby asked if there had been a car accident to make the wound. Ms. Casanova said she thought it was a lightning strike that was old, but the tree was healthy.

Ms. Crosby asked if someone had questioned the health as the reason for Dr. Guidry's report. Ms. Sica' had asked about the trees because one tree was located in front of her house and the other tree was on the same block.

4. Approval of 2018 meeting dates

The meeting dates were discussed and with the July meeting date being two days before the July 4th holiday the commission decided to hold the meeting one week later on July 9th. Ms. Osborne moved to approve the 2018 meeting dates as amended, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

Staff Update

- Mulch was to be delivered in the next week for spreading around the lakefront trees. Ms. Crosby asked about having the large live oak tree on West Causeway Approach weeded and mulched.

Opening of the Agenda:

Ms. Crosby moved to open the agenda to discuss Neighborhoods, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved.

Dr. Guidry asked Ms. Crosby to investigate how Neighborhoods could have more publicity for usage, signage to identify the plants and how to increase some of the trails. They had discussed if it could become more like an arboretum to increase its usage and encourage school field trips.

Ms. Crosby said Council Member David Ellis wanted to create a park on the west side of the City and she said not all parks needed to have play equipment. She suggested the construction of a small covered area for kids for events. Ms. Clark said the parking area was scaled down because of the neighbor's complaints. The use of Neighborhoods should be investigated to determine if there was a change of public opinion. It was discussed that it would be a great Master Gardener project for trails or for Scout badges.

It was suggested to get a plat of the property to develop a future plan. The commission requested this be an item for discussion on the next agenda. Ms. Casanova suggested planting more native species for the kids to learn about.

Ms. Clark moved to open the agenda to discuss the new parking lot adjacent to Our Lady of the Lake's campus, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Clark suggested the board look at the new concrete parking on Jefferson Street. It appeared that the parking spaces were enlarged and the sidewalk was relocated which made more sense for parking. The parking area had been a gravel surface which was more of a pervious coverage than concrete parking. Mr. Discon said it seemed to be part of a contracted City project. The culverts were removed which was helpful since half of them were filled and were not draining properly. All of the other parking lots in the area were gravel. It was suggested to contact the Council Members for further discussion since this topic was not under the board's purview.

It was announced that the under brushing and required tree planting on residential sites would be on the Planning and Zoning Commission's November 21st agenda for recommendation to the City Council.

Staff Update

Ms. Osborne provided her list of suggested location for trees:

- Coffee Street on the City owned property between the Trace and Livingston Street that appeared to be clear cut and was a drainage area
- Carondelet Street
- Carroll Street across from Our Lady of the Lake by John Endres' house
- Kierr Garden oak trees
- Swing sets at the Harbor on Lakeshore Drive
- Library on Girod Street
- Line the Trace by the Fire Station on Girod Street. It was discussed that the area was not City owned.
- Old Acadian Millworks site. It was stated that the tenant had submitted a plan for trees to be planted by the Trace.

Parks and Parkways Commission
November 6, 2017
Page 3

Mr. Discon said it was his understanding that the Public Works Department had completed the 30 benches. He had been told that the benches on the lakefront were removed for the hurricane and asked if they had been reinstalled. Ms. Casanova would check on their locations.

Ms. Osborne said her friend lived next to the Coffee Street property and she would be willing to be in charge of an edible garden. The property was on the corner of Coffee/Trace/Villere. The commission requested an inventory plat of this property for the next meeting.

Ms. Crosby asked about the Tyler Thomas and Marigny Avenue plantings. Ms. Casanova said she would check with Franklin Kyle to sign off on the plan. Ms. Crosby asked if it had been determined if the Tyler Thomas Park planting required public input. Ms. Casanova said she would discuss it with Ms. Scott.

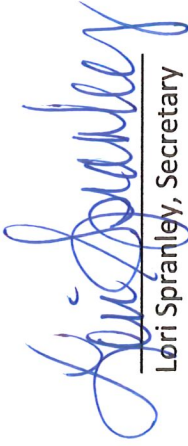
In regard to the Marigny Avenue garden, the first step would be the tree removal. The commission asked how to move forward with Cleco so the garden could be planted during the winter. There was a discussion about grinding the trees to have the mulch in place for compost. Mr. Discon asked if some trees would remain. It was discussed that not all of the trees and plants would be removed.

Mr. Discon asked about Dana Brown's contract. Ms. Casanova said it was her understanding that it would be an item on the next City Council agenda for approval. Ms. Brown would provide plans for review after the contract was signed.

Ms. Crosby asked if there was a requirement for an application for tree removal on major construction and Ms. Casanova answered no. There was a discussion about the tree removal for the proposed house on West Street property that was fined. The contractor had paid the penalty prior to the issuance of the permit and would plant 18 Class A trees as well as having kept all trees over 6" on the lot.

Ms. Casanova stated that the Girod Street, Phase 3 contract was signed the day of the meeting. This would be the planting from Monroe Street to Montgomery Street.

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

