

## **Parks and Parkways Commission September 11, 2017**

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

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

Absent: Karin Crosby

Also Present: Louise Scott, Planning Director and Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of July 10 and August 14, 2017, seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

### **Opening of the Agenda:**

Ms. Clark moved to open the agenda for discussion and action on Resolution 17-05, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Frederick suggested that the language not be specific to Old Mandeville. Ms. Scott said the regulation would apply citywide. The request would be to consider the reasons before culverting and to get active on the Bike and Pedestrian plan. Ms. Clark said Whereas #4 was the only specific Old Mandeville in the resolution. Mr. Discon said the Now Therefore should be amended because it also referenced Old Mandeville. Ms. Frederick said there was flooding in many neighborhoods. Ms. Clark suggested just removing "Old" and leave Mandeville in the Now Therefore language.

Rich Adamiak, Historic Preservation District Commission, said the strategy was that there would be resolutions by both the Parks and Parkways Commission and the Historic District Commission and they would be similar. The Historic District Commission would focus on Old Mandeville in their resolution.

The commission was in agreement to end the paragraph culverting within the City, and to remove "Old" from the Now Therefore paragraph.

Ms. Frederick said she understood addressing stormwater, but she wanted to see an addition of cooperatively moving forward to Green Infrastructure and this could be accomplished with a Whereas about stormwater. It was decided that the verbiage should be amended to include "in keeping with the City's goals of incorporating green infrastructure principles."

Ms. Fargason moved to adopt Resolution 17-05 as amended in the discussion, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

### **New Business:**

#### **1. Discussion of budget projects**

Mr. Discon said he and Ms. Scott would meet with Dana Brown on Wednesday afternoon about the Causeway project. He had requested the Causeway Commission provide a site plan of the area. He had also set up a meeting with the Causeway Maintenance Director to discuss their maintenance being cleaner. He would report back after meeting with Ms. Brown. Ms. Scott said they would be meeting with a few people before a contract was let. Ms. Clark asked about a recent Advocate newspaper article that the person it was about would be contacted about speaking on Green Infrastructure in the fall. Ms. Frederick asked if she could look at this for ideas. Ms. Fargason said the philodendrons and crepe myrtles looked good with the growth and the mulch.



**2. Florida Street Tree Planting**

The addresses would be broken up and assigned to commission members to visit and encourage the tree planting on the site. The letter would be mailed and the commissioner would hand deliver it as part of the discussion.

**3. Cemetery**

The mud pile was back and the commission asked for it to be removed. Ms. Scott stated it would probably not be moved since it was used for burials. It had been suggested that a shed or lean to could be incorporated into the plan. It was a convenience for the Public Works employees. Ms. Scott said a shed would be more workable. She said the City would look for a new company to work on the cemetery plan. Ms. Fargason suggested considering moving the mud on a truck when it was needed, but it was discussed that only a little was used at a time. There was another suggestion to create a trellis around the mud pile. Mr. Discon said the Covington Cemetery had a beautiful fence with a plaque from the Friends of the Cemetery. It was stated that replacing the chain-link fence was part of the cemetery plan.

**4. New Board Member Update**

The City Council had requested resumes and the board's meeting date was the submittal deadline. One of the applications was from the person (Jess Cole) who had requested to Adopt A Spot for the lakefront Rose Garden. Ms. Cole would be a technical qualifier.

**Staff Update:**

- A seedling list had been distributed for review to make a decision at the next meeting. Ms. Casanova had highlighted the available stock.
- Japanese Magnolias had been sourced and would be planted this week. Two Crepe Myrtle trees had dropped their leaves and did not look good. They would be replaced. One Savannah Holly was dead and would be replaced when the Japanese Magnolias were planted. They will all be bagged and watered.

Mr. Discon moved to open the agenda to discuss the lakefront and street trees, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Clark said the Parish concrete truck was parked on the lakefront next to the City's largest live oak tree. She remembered the public meetings with the Family Reunion events and how they could place their event equipment on the lakefront. There were recommendations on what could be used on the lakefront including Public Works equipment. This was part of changes to the Special Events ordinance. The issue had moved forward for a City Council vote but had not been adopted.

Ms. Clark said the contractor said that was how they had bid the job. It was not much concrete and a wheelbarrow would have worked but the contractor did not have a wheelbarrow. It seemed if there should be oversight on the type of equipment that would be used. She requested to pull the last signed resolution about the lakefront, and reconstruct it not just for events but for everyday usage.

Mr. Adamiak said he could not imagine contractors doing public work without certain guidelines and oversight. Ms. Scott said there were inspectors and the contractor was outside of the drip line. Ms. Clark said there had been two inches of rain and she asked the contractor if he needed his truck. He stated he needed to bring out his tools. Ms. Scott said language

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should be incorporated with the bid contracts. Ms. Clark said the tree company's staff had it under control with staff oversight.

Mr. Discon asked about oak trees on the lakefront planted after Hurricane Katrina, but there was suckering growth along the bottom of the trees. He asked that the trees be pruned. Ms. Scott said there would be an evaluation of the trees and the pruning would be put out to bid.

Mr. Discon asked about the street tree program. Ms. Casanova said the next planting would be in the fall.

Mr. Discon asked about mulching and it was stated that the program was continuing on the lakefront and under the Causeway Bridge.

Ms. Fargason stated the two pine trees on Antibes and Monroe Streets had been removed.

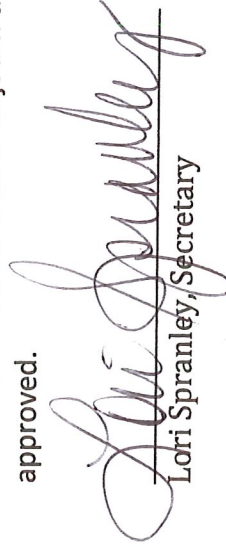
Mr. Adamiak asked about the status of the Live Oak Tree Registry. Ms. Scott said it would be placed on the second monthly City Council agenda.


Ms. Frederick asked about replanting at the residential site on the corner of Monroe and Coffee Streets. Ms. Casanova said there would be a replanting plan.

Mr. Discon asked about the First American Bank on North Causeway that had removed all of their landscaping. Ms. Casanova said a Notice of Violation was mailed.

Ms. Fargason suggested having a newspaper article written about the live oak tree preservation regulations.

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

  
Lori Spranley, Secretary

  
Scott Discon, Chairman  
Parks and Parkways Commission

