Parks and Parkways Commission
August 14, 2017

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Louisette Scott, Planning Director and Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector and Council Member Mike Pulaski

New Business:

Update for Live Oak Legacy program

Richard Adamiak had volunteered to head the Live Oak Legacy program. He presented Phase 1 of the project which was the lakefront and it was completed the day of the meeting. Phase 1 would require commission approval, there would be a submittal of an application to the Live Oak Society, they would return certificates to the City, and then there could be a presentation. He would ask the Live Oak Society how to tag the trees with the names, numbers and periodically re-measure the trees so the City would not lose track of them. Ms. Clark said there was a house on Park Avenue where there was a brass tag on a brass post stating the name, size and estimated age of the tree. Ms. Crosby suggested also listing a date on which it was measured. For future generations, they would know the increased diameter. She asked about GPS coordinates. Mr. Adamiak said he would cross list it with Ms. Casanova's list and he believed she had GPS coordinates. Ms. Crosby said the commission had previously disseminated the list from the Live Oak Society of what Mandeville trees were already registered. Mr. Adamiak said no public trees on the lakefront had been registered.

Mr. Adamiak said there were 29 trees identified. Ms. Crosby said the society allowed a download of a zip code and Mr. Adamiak could see what trees were registered. Mr. Adamiak would photograph the trees as well.

Mr. Discon asked Mr. Adamiak if he knew how many live oak trees were on Highway 22 so there would be a number for next week's Planning and Zoning meeting. Mr. Adamiak said he had only identified the lakefront trees. He would need Ms. Casanova to help him identify the public trees. Ms. Crosby said knowing the state would widen Highway 22, Rouquette Lodge and Rouses had live oak trees on the southern line of Highway 22 and it would be beneficial to know. But, no one knew when that project would begin. Mr. Adamiak would work with Ms. Scott about counting the live oak trees. Ms. Scot said with the Highway 190 expansion, the City adopted a moratorium of an additional 25' beyond the purchase for the greenbelt to prevent new development from cutting down trees. She thought the drainage would be tucked into the existing right-of-way. Ms. Crosby said if there was a count, could they be protected at the time of construction. Ms. Scott said yes, it could be reviewed for any impact.

Mr. Adamiak said Phase 2 would be identifying public trees in the fall when it was cooler. Ms. Clark said naming the trees would be tricky and the commission might want to get schools and other organizations included in developing names. Number 7 had a plaque with a name. There were trees that were not large enough to be registered. Mr. Adamiak said he used as much as possible the walking tour map of the lakefront with a place name to get some history into the names. The largest tree was the Belle of the Ball which reached the ground. Jean Baptist Oak was across from the old Lang House tree. Number 4 was the Jourdan family who donated the Lang House. Dr. Keller's grandson was sitting on the bench by number 8 and his grandson thought Dr. Keller would have appreciated the tree being named after him. Kissing Oak entangled into the oak next to it. The umbrella oak unfurled umbrella, had the supports and was in poor shape. He, as a citizen, suggested developing an ordinance to prevent

people from climbing on them. There were three trees at risk of that would need a sign stating Do Not Climb. There was a family bouncing on one of the trees. The Sweetheart oak, number 24, had a carved heart in it with initials. Harbor Field was by the ball field which appeared to be the oldest tree and the bark was falling off. There would be more oak trees that would need names and could possibly get schools and organizations to participate at that time.

Mr. Discon asked if this had a relation to the Historic Preservation District Commission. Mr. Adamiak said he had volunteered when he was a member of the Parks and Parkways Commission. Ms. Clark moved to accept the registry from Richard Adamiak and begin to register the oaks with permission from Mayor Villere. Ms. Fargason said one of the live oak trees where street curved by Lafayette Street, she requested it be named for her husband since he had it planted it for the Dead Tree Society. Mr. Adamiak said there were numerous other trees that were not large enough to be registered. The centurion trees were 17" or more which was the Belle of the Ball. All others were Junior League. Ms. Fargason said she did not think involving the schools would become too cumbersome. Mr. Adamiak suggested identifying one or two oak trees to let the schools name them. Ms. Crosby suggested the tree on Lafayette Street by the Maestri property should be the Maestri tree or acknowledge the founders. Mr. Adamiak said he would like to include them, but it was too hot that day. The board suggested the Maestri Oak. Ms. Crosby said there were historic houses from the 1800s and suggested using more of those names. The commission suggested naming it the Lafayette Oak and rename #11 on the registry. Ms. Crosby asked if the City had records of when the Dead Oak Society trees were planted. Ms. Fargason said it was one oak tree that was donated about 20 years ago. Ms. Clark's motion was amended to include the date the tree was measured, a map, GPS coordinates and to cross reference trees with the Live Oak Society. Ms. Crosby said the tree at 1726 Claiborne Street had a plaque of the Live Oak Society with a name that was wall mounted and framed. Mr. Adamiak asked if a donation would be appropriate for the Live Oak Society since there were business expenses. Ms. Gleason said instead of using all people names to make it more like the Kissing or Sweetheart Oak for a mix. It was suggested that the Lafayette tree could be named the Horse Farm using a characteristic of the tree.

Ms. Clark stated her motion was to accept the measurement and registry send the list and names to the City Council and Mayor Villere. Ms. Scott said she would send a memo as a courtesy and be assured there was no other approval authority. The motion included pending the approval of the list and names before moving forward on the registry, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Opening of the Agenda:

Ms. Clark moved to open the agenda to discuss Tyler Thomas Park, budget, and flagpoles, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved.

Tyler Thomas Park

Ms. Frederick said she and Ms. Crosby had located areas for the planting of pears, figs and blueberries. At the City Council budget work session, Mayor Villere had said he wanted to discuss the plantings with the neighbors. Ms. Frederick said she had spoken with the neighbors and they were in agreement. Ms. Scott said the staff needed to formalize that discussion and she needed to make sure there were no additional costs. She would find a way to document the neighborhood approval. Ms. Scott also said the Marigny Avenue neighbors would have to be notified before planting the Edible Garden. The City Council and Mayor wanted to be assured there would not be any neighborhood push back.

Budget

Mr. Discon said Mayor Villere wanted to focus on the three projects in the new budget. Ms. Crosby said she noticed in the lobby a plan for a possible roundabout at Monroe Street which would change the planting dynamic. Mr. Discon and Ms. Scott said they had no seen the plans for it. Ms. Crosby said the Parks and Parkways Commission had adopted a Resolution to preserve the trees along Monroe Street in the greenbelt regarding the Port Marigny project. Ms. Scott said some of the options would have been a lane at Monroe Street, but a traffic circle was determined would solve the greater Mandeville traffic problem. If the traffic circle moved forward, the plantings would be beyond the areas of construction. As part of the budget discussion, the City Council said as part of the approval they did not want to plant in a location the trees and plantings might be pulled up. Mr. Discon said what he had seen; the drawings did not take where Old Mandeville sign was but the light post in front would have vegetation removed. Ms. Scott said these were very preliminary drawings that were sent to the Regional Planning Commission. Ms. Frederick asked if this would be a stumbling block. Ms. Scott suggested starting the planting at the other end. Ms. Clark said she would like a forward moving project of moving with water through the gardens and it would be a teaching garden like a rain garden. Ms. Crosby said Franklin Kyle had met with her years ago and they had walked the site. Mr. Discon said the other issue was he did not know how to construct sidewalks with a traffic circle to remain pedestrian friendly. Ms. Scott said the conditions were to include pedestrian crossings. Ms. Fargason suggested consulting with Johnny Mayronne since he designed the garden at the World's Fair.

Highway 190 Streetscape

The first set of pages indicated 37 areas for tree locations and those owners would receive letters. He suggested dividing the addresses between the board members to make contact. Mayor Villere thought it was a good idea to make it personal.

The second set of pages contained grasses and they were identified for the budget. That would be the extent of the project with the trees on private property. Ms. Clark felt a City letter would be more receptive. She suggested making the letter one paragraph long. Ms. Scott said the staff could start the drawings, but the plan must have a landscape architect's stamp. Mr. Perkins' original plan had identified areas that could support the grasses. The staff would draw as much in-house as possible, but the plan would need to be stamped plan.

Ms. Fargason said she liked seeing flowers with the grasses. Ms. Crosby liked the addition of texture and color so it was not a straight shot of grass. It was suggested to include white, blue and lavenders.

Update on Marigny Edible Fruit Garden

The City Council liked the Marigny Edible Fruit Garden and wanted to know when it could be put together. Ms. Scott said it was included in the budget, but it did not begin until September 1st. The commission felt the garden should include a path. Ms. Crosby would help with the labeling.

Flagpoles

Ms. Casanova said there must be a stamped landscape plan for DOTD approval. Ms. Scott said would discuss it with Franklin Kyle to stamp the plan. Mr. Discon said the intent was to install flagpoles on East Causeway at the wildflower garden and one by the proposed wildflower garden on Highway 22/West Causeway Approach. Ms. Crosby thanked the City for having the garden at Heavens Drive cleaned up. The work was done by the Public Works

Department and the garden was also mulched. Ms. Scott also announced there was a new director hired for KMB.

Highway 190/Greenway Designation

There was a presentation for a Parkway and Ms. Casanova was not finding any information on a Greenway. Ms. Scott said the staff would keep researching. Ms. Clark said a name change was extensive. Mr. Discon said the area was still named North Street in Baton Rouge, but it was just a designation. It would be a local designation.

Resolution to the City Council on Sidewalks

Ms. Clark said a topic that came out of this discussion of budget item was the sidewalks. She talked to people in Old Mandeville and she was exposed to other neighborhoods that did not want sidewalks. The Historic Preservation District Commission had concerns about culverts and sidewalks. With the New Orleans flooding there was so much information that the infrastructure had added to the flooding problem. She asked the commission about approving a recommendation to the City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission since the Parks and Parkways Commission addressed the health of trees. She lost a massive oak with the installation of culverts in her yard. The tree roots were at risk with the concrete infrastructure.

Ms. Crosby disagreed because City sidewalks were already installed that were not navigable. She rode her bicycle to Our Lady of the Lake School and she could not bring her on the sidewalk because of the cars parked across sidewalks. She did not want to be in the street. Girod Street toward Marigny Avenue on the north side of Claiborne Street that the homeowner was responsible to maintain. If the City was installing the sidewalk, it should be the City's responsibility for maintenance. She understood not want to install more sidewalks, but the City needed to maintain the existing sidewalks. Ms. Scott said the Bike and Pedestrian plan needed to be updated and Mayor Villere wanted to move forward on that update. She was working with the Historic Preservation District Commission for a resolution and the staff would draft a resolution for commission review. There was a need for a planning process for appropriate areas and to know how they affected trees and historic places. Ms. Crosby said there was no crosswalk across North Causeway from the Service Road. In front of Perlis there was enough greenbelt for a sidewalk. Ms. Scott said those were the reasons for a review of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Ms. Frederick said sidewalks were needed to be placed wisely and to be able to interconnect. Ms. Clark agreed with Ms. Scott that the City needed to identify areas for appropriate locations. Marigny Avenue had sidewalks, but it also had ditches which accommodated flooding. Ms. Scott suggested a joint resolution to move forward with the Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan requesting no further installation of sidewalks until there was identification of historic places and trees. Ms. Frederick asked how to move forward on green infrastructure. Ms. Scott said that was part of the Planning and Zoning Commission's Short Term Work Program and there was funding to move forward on that. She suggested one resolution to include all of the commissions. Mr. Adamiak said there should be synergy with the ideals of the historic district. Ms. Crosby asked to include a Parks and Parkways Commission be a member of the Bike Committee. Ms. Scott said they would ask for one member from each commission be included. Ms. Clark said this commission should include the concern of tree canopy, tree protection, trees with water uptake and concrete interfered with that.

Update on West Causeway Plantings

Ms. Casanova said most of the trees were planted and they were waiting to find Japanese magnolias and the trees were mulched. The commission agreed that it looked good. Ms. Crosby said the under overpass looked maintained with the mulch. Ms. Gleason asked to substitute the Japanese Magnolias with a smaller size. Ms. Frederick said the commission did not like oleanders but there were planted around Mandeville. It was stated that they were

poisonous, and it be an itch from the plant. It was suggested to consider oleanders with the Four Corners plantings.

Discussion of a Resolution Regarding a Residential Tree Preservation

Ms. Scott presented a resolution proposal for low density residential. Mr. Adamiak also presented suggestions and the commission was in agreement. The reduction would be to no tree larger than 3" to be removed. Ms. Casanova also put together verbiage about a minimum number of trees on the site. The minimum lot size in single family residential district was 10,800 square feet except in Old Mandeville and it was proposed to look at those lots with a different amount of required trees. The tree preservation of 3" would make a large difference and could save smaller trees. With the 10' side yard setback and if you cut all of the roots on a large tree then the tree would be gone. Ms. Crosby asked to include the under brushing language from the City of Covington into the resolution for a CLURO change. Ms. Crosby also suggested language not using a bull dozer and it must be hand cleared. Ms. Scott said Waffle House had installed tree protection, agreed to preserve everything in the greenbelt which was not required. Ms. Crosby suggested including from lines 20 from the Covington ordinance to apply citywide with residential and commercial properties, an additional buffer along the Trace for no clearing and to make sure there was enough buffer so there would be no clearing within 10' of the Trace. Ms. Scott said it would be treated like a greenbelt so it would be 15'. If there was no permit issued or was in violation, a Notice of Violation would be issued, and there would be a compliance agreement or a citation for Mayor's Court with a fine. The penalty could be $500 per day per violation and replanting but most cooperate with a compliance agreement. Most try to come up with a reasonable accommodation like replanting and pay double the permit fee. Ms. Fargason asked if people cut trees and just pay the fines. Ms. Scott said generally not because the fines were expensive. The police will shut down the project even on the weekends. The tree cutters know the City regulations.

Ms. Crosby asked about the diameter of the minimum tree planting. Ms. Scott said the regulations require 2" 10' plantings. There was another existing section of the CLURO with the planting size requirement.

Ms. Fargason asked if someone cut a water oak tree, if the City issued a permit and ¾ of the tree was on the neighbor property, why wouldn't the neighbor be notified. Should he have to replant. Ms. Casanova said there was a tree planting requirement after the house was elevated.

In summary, add verbiage from City of Covington's ordinance 2017-04 for under brushing permits, a no cut zone along the Trace, both commercial and residential properties comply with a required number of trees. Commercial property requirements were already designated with a minimum planting requirement. There would be an addition of verbiage for Monroe Street that any tree above 3" must be included in a greenbelt. Ms. Scott said there were no corridors outside of private development and it would be more substantial change of language, and requested to keep the changes to only residential property. There would need to be a study of Monroe Street to create language. Ms. Scott requested to concentrate on low density tree amendments from 6" to 3", a minimum numbers of trees, the addition of an under brushing permit, and a no cut zone on the Tammany Trace. Mr. Adamiak commented that the commission should think about every street in Mandeville to the extent to preserve soft tree line and a minimum number of trees on a street with the house on the corner of Coffee/Monroe Streets having started the discussion. The required trees should be a development for a soft tree line. He suggested a different tree list for the property than those planted along the fence line. Ms. Clark said had worked with Cleco about moving lines to allow tree growth but did not work out. Ms. Crosby agreed with requiring a certain number of trees per street. She asked to keep a tree inventory record and outside of the Street Tree program

make sure the City added trees back somewhere on the block. Ms. Scott said the front yard setbacks would be 25' and the City could supplement along the right-of-way. Verbiage would be added that there would be a set minimum number of trees in the setbacks and if need to the City could supplement that number. Ms. Crosby said corner lots should focus on the two street sides and not the rear yard. Ms. Scott said it would be the right trees in the right place. Everyone was in agreement to create a tree canopy as much as possible to have streetscape. Ms. Frederick said the reason for the amendments was to keep from having large tree removals. Old Mandeville should be required to have six trees, but the Landscape Inspector could authorize a reduction through the exception process. Ms. Crosby requested a native species be a replacement requirement. Ms. Scott said the tree list was native trees. The crepe myrtle trees were listed on the Class B list. Ms. Casanova said most people planted native trees because that was available in the nurseries. There was a house on Coffee Street where the trees were moved for drainage.

Mr. Discon asked in Old Golden Shores there was a ranch house that had about ten pine trees removed. He would identify it and forward the information.

Ms. Crosby moved to approve the resolution to include all of the above listed discussion, seconded by Ms. Clark with the resolution to be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Ms. Clark moved to open the agenda for adoption of the RaceTrac resolution, seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Scott had prepared a resolution in regard to the Parks and Parkways Commissions position regarding the RaceTrac variance request. Ms. Crosby moved to adopt the resolution against the tree removal on the RaceTrac case on the agenda, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

Four Corners of Girod Street

Ms. Casanova asked to verify that one live oak tree would be replanted on each corner as an anchor and if the additional replanting would be the Nuttel Oaks or a cypress. The commission wanted to plant cypress trees with a lower chance of knees. The commission requested to plant a mix of trees. The irrigation was fixed.

Tree City USA Award Growth

It was discussed that the following could be used as points.

- Live oak tree registrations
- CLURO tree amendments
- Educational seminar – Edible Garden
- Ask for speaker ideas at the next meeting, ask Dana Brown to speak on her goals for tree planting and check on available dates.

Ms. Crosby asked where would the City order the saplings and it was answered that it would be the same nursery. She asked to provide an updated list for discussion.

Staff Update

The address list for the Florida Street project was complete.

The commission thanked Ms. Gleason for her service as this would be her last meeting since she was moving.

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

Lori Spranley, Secretary

Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission