

Parks and Parkways Commission June 12, 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

Adoption of the minutes May 1, 2017

Ms. Frederick moved to adopt the minutes of May 1, 2017, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

Update on East and West Causeway Tree Installation

Ms. Casanova updated the board that the crepe myrtle and holly trees had been planted on East Causeway Approach and a total of 152 trees would be planted. The trees would be bagged and mulched. There was a one year guarantee on the planting and then the maintenance cost would be \$31,000 for the first year and \$17,000 for the second year. Ms. Gleason was concerned that the hollies were sheared, but they would bush out as they grew. There were no provisions in the contract about future shearing. The cypress trees around the bridge would be added in next year's plan.

Marigny Avenue Tree Planting

Ms. Crosby suggested planting fruit trees with suggested species to be crabapple, mayhaw, plums, peaches, pears, pomegranate, and figs. The big bushes would be removed. Ms. Crosby used the Google Earth visual map to intersperse the proposal trees amongst the existing trees. She suggested Cleco remove the trees under the power lines so there would be no other topped trees and it would reduce the maintenance. The idea was to create diversity in color and texture. Mr. Discon suggested creating a trail in the median and plant around the trail. Ms. Crosby was concerned that Marigny Avenue was not wide enough and the trees would be planted on the edges. Ms. Casanova said she was pricing the plants for budgeting purposes. Ms. Clark asked about planting in phases. Ms. Casanova said the planting would have to be broken down by blocks. Ms. Crosby was providing height variations. It was discussed that 5 gallon plants would be sufficient for planting if larger plants were not available.

Beautification Project along North Causeway Boulevard

Ms. Crosby suggested planting on the west side of North Causeway Boulevard between the Grand Palms Apartment complex sign and Northlake Shopping Center. She suggested planting Japanese Magnolia and Vitex to beautify the area so it would not look so barren. She had also discussed with Ms. Casanova planting vines on the fence, but DOTD cleared any plantings or weeds. It was suggested to discuss this with Herb, DOTD, but any planting would require a stamped landscape plan. Ms. Clark asked for a report at the next meeting.

Outline for Live Oak Legacy Program

It was requested to contact Rich Adamiak for a presentation at the next meeting.

Florida Greenway Discussion

Mr. Discon discussed the creation of a designation similar to one in Baton Rouge. Ms. Scott suggested pursuing the designation after Highway 190 (Florida Street) had been

landscaped. The designation would also include the installation of signage in certain locations. Ms. Scott said she would research greenway guidelines and provide information.

Mr. Discon had contacted Adam Perkins to provide an update on the Highway 190 planting project. Ms. Scott said the City Attorney had determined that it was a community benefit and private property could be planted using the City funds. Mr. Perkins said the Hammond project was structured exclusively on private commercial property and paid for by the City of Hammond. The project included the upkeep for the first year and the project was then turned over to the property owner. Ms. Gleason said the Goodwill building on Highway 22 was landscaped with a City sign and Goodwill maintained it on public property.

Ms. Scott said this project was similar to the residential street tree program. Mr. Perkins said there was a lot of footwork by the City approaching all of the property owners. He had been approached to develop an aerial photo the project with his plan overlaid on it and it was presented on a parcel by parcel basis to the property owners. Mr. Perkins said the plantings were placed outside of the DOTD right-of-way. The City of Hammond was responsible for the first year's maintenance and at the end of that time the planting was established. Ms. Crosby said the residential street tree program required the constituents to water, mulch and maintain the trees for two years. She asked if one year was sufficient and Ms. Clark answered that the trees were probably guaranteed for a year.

Ms. Frederick said there was not much participation from the letters that were mailed so the board wanted to go with a more in-depth plan to present to the City Council. Ms. Scott said there was an estimated annual cost of \$90,000 for maintenance. Mr. Perkins said it would not cost that much to replant the corridor. RCI, contractor for the City, based their estimate on square footage, which included weeding and keeping it up to date. The cost also included the grasses.

Ms. Scott said a plan had been prepared, but the item was removed from the City Council agenda because it did not include the maintenance cost. Mr. Discon was scheduled to discuss this matter with Mayor Villere. The plan maintenance included the grasses, ground cover, weeding, and herbicide. Ms. Scott said the cost did not include mulch or irrigation maintenance. There would be no irrigation and a water truck could be used. The maintenance cost was based on maintaining the plan and not the tree planting. Ms. Clark asked about the maintenance cost for the Monroe Street corridor, and it was stated that it was more than \$90,000. The maintenance cost included Monroe Street, the area under the Causeway bridge and to New Golden Shores based on a per square foot cost.

Mr. Discon had discussed the project with several City Council members who requested to see the quote and asked if it was a bid process. The plan was not refined at this point to give a price. Ms. Clark said not doing the project would have the corridor continue to be an eyesore. Ms. Gleason suggested only planting the trees and not including the grass covers. Ms. Crosby suggested installing bags on the trees for two years. Mr. Perkins suggested making it a part of the installation cost.

There was a discussion that Highway 190 was a main thoroughfare and might require the removal of concrete with a lot of ground prep. Ms. Clark said the premise was that concrete should not be removed and planting should be in the green space. Mr. Discon said Saia's appeared to be the only property that would require the removal of any concrete. Mr. Perkins said the goal was to find a place for planting.

The board was in agreement that Phase 1 would be the planting of the trees. Ms. Clark reiterated that Mr. Perkins would identify the positions and create a road map. Ms. Crosby said if the trees were placed under any power lines, they would not be tall to there would not be a maintenance issue of the trees being butchered. Mr. Perkins said it would be a site by site evaluation. Mr. Discon suggested keeping it simple. The City Council

wanted a presentation of a specific number of trees and they were worried about the cost. He suggested having Mr. Perkins determine the number of trees, place the project on a CAD drawing, price it and provide the City with maintenance. Ms. Scott said there must be a Scope of Work for the estimate.

Mr. Perkins said his proposal last year had broken it into two broad phases, mapping the area, individual assessments and a plan. Any low growing plants or shrubs would be a separate phase. Mr. Perkins said the preliminary plan would be a master planning level being the big picture. Ms. Scott said the City needed a scope of work for the detailed work of the tree planting. Mayor Villere must give an approval and then present it to the City Council for approval of the scope of work.

Mr. Discon was scheduled to meet with Mayor Villere to discuss the project and then it would be presented to the City Council. The difference was the cost for watering and maintenance which would only include the tree planting. Mr. Perkins said the master plan should include the entire wish list. Ms. Scott said the City Council's issue was the long term maintenance cost. The cost had now been received. Ms. Gleason suggested presenting the \$90,000 maintenance cost and the master tree plan. Ms. Crosby suggested explaining there should be a master plan that would be planted in stages with the tree planting being the first phase.

Ms. Scott said a detailed analysis should be rolled into the presentation that could be installed in phases over several years. A scope of work for location analysis for each tree must be approved. Mr. Perkins was considered a professional services contract that the City Council must approve. Ms. Scott said Mayor Villere had questions before forwarding the project to the City Council.

Ms. Scott clarified that Mr. Perkins could establish a scope of work for tree planting, a site analysis and cost. Mr. Perkins provided an overview of the original plan being two separate phases- master planning and construction documentation. The master planning would include the onsite review and evaluation of the areas along the planting corridor and the tree locations. He would coordinate with the utility companies and create a master plan design to include plantings in all suitable areas within the corridor to a maximum budget limit of \$400,000. It would provide a general list and planting and tree locations. The second phase would include the creation of the bid documents. Ms. Scott said the implementation side needed to include the long term maintenance cost. She suggested breaking out the first part into trees and grasses. Mr. Perkins said it was broken out at 60/40.

Ms. Crosby said with the master plan, the City should be able to spread out the additional phases for implementation over 3-5 years, but the board was not asking for that today because of the budget. Mr. Perkins said it could be directly measured on the plan. Ms. Scott said there could be a five year implementation plan for budgeting.

Ms. Scott said if it would just be the master plan portion. Mr. Perkins could break it out into phases of tree planting and grasses. She requested a site analysis of the tree planting as a separate part. There would not be any planting until the funding was approved. Mr. Perkins suggested including the grasses as part of the big plan broken out into 4-5 phases. The budget could be broken out into pieces for review. The RCI maintenance would be included. Ms. Gleason suggested the cost be extrapolated from the East/West Causeway Approach plantings. Ms. Scott said the City Council wanted to see the cost. Mr. Discon felt the City Council thought it was ambiguous and were being cautious.

Short Term Work Program

Ms. Scott said this was a list of projects for budgeting. The Art Council had submitted their proposal and would make a presentation to the City Council.

- Sculpture Garden was estimated at \$100,000.
- Highway 190 project implementation would be based on Mr. Perkins report and it would be projected out over the years of the project.
- Marigny Avenue planting - if the planting could be implemented before fall the funding would be used from this budget. If the planting was later, the funding would be included in next year's budget.
- Marigny Avenue signage would be included as an entry signage. The original idea was to have signage to match the Girod Street signs. Ms. Crosby said she would prefer educational signage on Marigny Avenue. Mr. Discon suggested it be a nature walk with benches along the area. Approximately \$10,000 could be budgeted for the walking path and signage. The path surfacing would be mulch which was ADA compliant.
- The area under the bridge at Highway 22/North Causeway could become a living garden area. With the future widening there were concerns about starting any projects. The board suggested creating it as a rain garden by the existing signs that could be transplanted if necessary.
- Cemetery – Johnny Mayronne brought in an architectural friend and the staff was waiting for a scope of work.
- Wildflowers on the Trace between Jackson Avenue and the cemetery. Ms. Crosby asked if there was a no clear buffer adjacent to the construction between Coffee Street and the Trace. Ms. Scott said there was only a buffer in the commercial district. Ms. Crosby requested installing a 15' buffer along the Trace. It would be on the public side which was under Parish jurisdiction. Ms. Crosby and Ms. Clark requested some oversight of this area. Ms. Crosby said the Trace was a wildlife corridor and clear cutting defeated the process. Ms. Scott would add this request to the Planning and Zoning's Short Term Work Program for a CLURO change.

Ms. Crosby asked about landscaping along the new restrooms at the Dew Drop. Ms. Scott said there would be a memorial garden between the house and the handicap ramp. Ms. Crosby asked about a pollen air garden and she volunteered to help. There had been a discussion of a possible piece of art as well as the landscaping.

Ms. Crosby said Pass Christian, MS had regulation guidelines for tree removal that replanting certain trees received credit, and planting a fruiting tree would give two credits. Ms. Scott said the City required a certain amount of native trees and she would not want to reduce that requirement. Mandeville's replacement was based on the diameter of the tree. Ms. Crosby was requesting a minimum fruit tree requirement. Ms. Casanova suggested where there were overhead power lines plant to require the planting of two fruit bearing or pollinator trees.

Mr. Discon asked about adding Christmas lights to the budget. Ms. Crosby asked for new lights on Monroe Street.

Staff Update

Ms. Frederick updated the board on the butterfly garden at the Lang house. She and Ms. Casanova had discussed pruning the plants and moving the larger plants to the fence in the fall as well as installing more plants. She had made a list of plants to attract as many butterfly species as possible. Ms. Frederick said she could donate some of the plants. She asked to purchase nectar plants and milkweed.

Ms. Casanova had suggested installing a nice watering bowl with rocks. Ms. Frederick suggested after talking to Adele Foster to install an arbor over the gates in keeping with the Lang House architecture. She suggested obtaining two kinds of antique metal gates and using them as trellises. Ms. Scott suggested when Ms. Frederick found the

Parks and Parkways Commission

June 12, 2017

Page 5

gates to contact the City staff or the Lang House to obtain them. Wrought iron made sense because of the Kierr Garden sign.

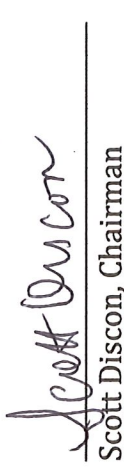
It was discussed to plan citrus trees in the circle area by the house to attract more butterflies and to soften the concrete. Ms. Frederick requested a Monarch Watch sign for education.

The board asked when the Tree City USA flags would be installed at the Wildflower Garden. Ms. Casanova stated a stamped plan was required to place anything in the meadows.

- The crepe myrtles by Monroe Street would be trimmed of their suckers if the cost was under \$500.
- The mulch would be placed at the underpass by the end of the week.
- One new bench was installed last week.
- Annual color would be planted this week in the landscaped areas. Lantana would be planted at the entrances and on Monroe Street. Ms. Crosby asked about the garden at the Golden Glen Subdivision and Ms. Casanova stated that garden was not under contract.
- The entrance signs on Girod Street would have landscaping replaced.
- The board said the Heavens Drive garden looked terrible. Ms. Casanova said that was a Keep Mandeville Beautiful project. The Public Works Department had worked on the garden to make it look nice, but KMB did not continue to maintain it.
- The rose garden on the lakefront would be remulched. When Mr. Deano returned to town, the contract for adoption would be reviewed.
- Under the trees at the grove there were the remnants of an old ashtray. It was requested to have the cement squares removed.

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


Lori Spranley, Secretary


Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

