

**Parks and Parkways Commission**  
**March 6, 2017**

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

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

Absent: Karin Lorenz Crosby and Maggie Gleason

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

**Adoption of the minutes**

Ms. Fargason moved to adopt the minutes of February 6, 2017, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

**Election of chairman**

It was decided to defer the election until the April meeting when more members would in attendance.

**Resolution 17-02**

Mr. Adamiak said the resolution draft had incorporated all of the members concerns. The only discussion not included was leaving the spoils from the chipping onsite, but Ms. Casanova would encourage it. Small operations would have difficulty complying with this requirement. The requirement for replanting with native species was included and there was an approved list on file that was all native plants. Ms. Clark said the language allowed for the removal of invasive species like poison ivy and ways to make the property look good. Mr. Adamiak said it also addressed lots that did not have many trees. Ms. Frederick asked about the clearing language. Ms. Casanova said it would be in the tree preservation area language. Ms. Clark requested some language for review by the April meeting. Ms. Casanova said it would include the area inside of the drip line of the trees. Ms. Frederick said there should be additional discussion for smaller vegetation preservation.

Mr. Discon was concerned about seeing fence lines on private property. Ms. Casanova said the staff strived to encourage living fences, but they could not force any shrub planting. Ms. Frederick suggested incorporating educational suggestions for landscaping. Ms. Clark suggested it could be done by creating a Parks and Parkways booklet for education. Ms. Frederick encouraged keeping plants on the fence line, and suggested creating a list of plants supporting wild birds. Mr. Adamiak and Ms. Frederick volunteered to put the book together. Ms. Clark suggested naming it How to Fit into Your New community.

Ms. Clark moved to adopt Resolution 17-02, seconded Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

**Florida Streetscape Program /Master Plan for Causeway Sculpture Garden**

Mr. Discon said he had received a tree application from the Tent Man.

Ms. Scott said the staff would develop a scope of work to be approved by the City Council to have Mr. Perkins work on a plan. Mr. Discon said the Causeway Commission was requesting a plan for the area under the bridge so the Causeway Commission could provide clearance for construction by Christmas. Ms. Clark said the Sculpture Garden was another layer of the plan. Mr. Discon suggested designating four areas for the sculptures to be placed at a later time and move forward on a landscape plan. Ms. Clark felt it was a total project that must be designed together, but could move forward in phases. Ms. Frederick suggested leaving a large area for the sculptures. Ms. Clark said a designer could provide



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information on where the sculptures should be located. Ms. Scott suggested designing the garden around the sculptures. Mr. Discon said he did not want to wait a few more years since the Causeway Commission was asking to move forward.

Ms. Fargason proposed using a St. Tammany artist, possibly through the St. Tammany Art Association since most of the local artists were members of the Art Association. Ms. Scott suggested having the Art Association help with the decisions of the landscape plan in conjunction with the art, and it could be accomplished through a design contest. Mr. Adamiak suggested displaying the art on a rotating basis. Ms. Frederick was in agreement with moving forward with the landscape plan and leave space for the art. Ms. Clark said the landscape plan should be designed by a professional landscape architect. Mr. Adamiak suggested developing an RFP to determine four display areas, and Ms. Clark suggested that the Art Association could provide suggestions on the locations. Mr. Discon suggested a water feature in the middle as a celebration of the water and the bridge. He thought Carlton Dufrechou, Causeway Commission, would like the concept. He was concerned about waiting on the artists and would like to move forward with a professional landscape plan.

There was a further discussion and decision to contact the St. Tammany Art Association to speak to the board and they could offer suggestions on the order of moving forward with the landscape or the art. Ultimately there would also be City Council participation. There might be seed money in the budget. Ms. Frederick suggested asking who designed the City Park sculptures.

### **East and West Causeway Planting/Bayou Chinchuba**

There was an approved plan by the Causeway Commission with locations in the medians approved with specific species. The plan would be bid for installation and would include a maintenance contract.

### **Update on Marigny Avenue**

This would be deferred until the next meeting for Ms. Crosby to present her ideas.

### **Parkways Signs**

Ms. Scott spoke with Mayor Villere about the signage. Generally, commissions did not have separate signage. The educational information at the Wildflower Garden would be different. A flag pole was approved for the Mandeville flag and Tree City USA at the Wildflower Garden and City entrance on Highway 22. Ms. Scott said Mr. Perkins should site the flagpole location. Ms. Frederick said she would like the flagpole on the grassy part outside of the garden. Ms. Frederick said it was not the intention of the board to install numerous signs, but the board wanted colorful and educational signage for the wildflower garden. Ms. Scott said Mayor Villere was in agreement with the educational wildflower garden signage. Mr. Discon and Ms. Clark said it was more about the garden than the sign. Ms. Frederick wanted to acknowledge the commission's hard work on the project. Ms. Clark said it was a wildflower conservation area and there could be a natural sign with the City insignia with the flags. She said there could be an add-on of the Parks and Parkways Commission that implied the commission had something to do with the garden. Ms. Scott said the City Council had funded the garden and there would not be separate committees on signage. Mr. Discon said he was thankful for the flagpoles. Ms. Casanova said she was waiting on DOTD for approval for the flagpoles.

### **Xmas lights on lakefront**

The board discussed a need a good OMBa contacts to get the businesses to sponsor a tree and purchase the lights. For the previous years that the lakefront was decorated, the



Public Works Department had installed the lighting. Ms. Scott said she would have to determine the approval process, and the staff would check with Marlaïne Peachey. Ms. Scott said there had been vandalism on the lakefront during Christmas. Ms. Scott suggested an informal resolution on the tree decorations for approval. After the approval, OMBA could be contacted. Ms. Clark said the decorations would be located in the commercial part of the lakefront. In the past there had been twinkle lights and sailboats. Ms. Scott said it was quaint for a small town and the decorations should be placed on the big oak trees and gazebo. It was decided to place lighted ornaments from Ravine aux Coquilles to Marigny Avenue working with OMBA to get sponsors to cover the costs. Mayor Villere had previously mentioned contacting Cleco about the installation.

Ms. Clark moved to approve the resolution sending it to Mayor Villere and the City Council, seconded by Mr. Adamiak and was unanimously approved. It was also suggested to look into solar lighting.

### **Beautification Project Along North causeway**

The item was deferred until the next meeting for Ms. Crosby to make a presentation.

### **Staff Update**

- The wildflower garden was burned, mowed and was smooth to the ground. The edges would be weeded. There had been a good article in the Times Picayune the day of the burn.
- Cemetery – Ms. Casanova would email Johnny Mayronne to set a meeting date, but a new a scope of work must be developed.
- Lakefront tree trimming would be finished this week by the Public Works Department along the pathway. Mr. Discon also suggested trimming the trees in the rose garden.
- The City was waiting on the first load of mulch to be placed at the new parking lot at Girod/Claiborne Streets. The order was from a new vendor and Ms. Casanova wanted to check the quality. The mulch would include random hardwood mulch received from a natural resource facility that was keeping it out of the landfill.

There was a question whether the parking lot across the street from the Rusty Pelican was a City lot. Ms. Scott said there would be sales in the kiosk and the property was owned by the Rusty Pelican owners.

- Dr. Malcolm Guidry looked at the trees by Mariner's Village and reported two trees should be removed because they were damaged. Ms. Frederick asked about the removal of the red marks and Ms. Casanova said they were working on it. The board asked to have the contractor replant the damaged trees and they suggested it be longleaf pine trees.
- The remaining seedlings were planted in the City Park behind City Hall.

### **Opening of the agenda:**

Ms. Scott announced that the Pottery Hill planting was on Thursday's Council agenda. She said the landscape ordinance would be formalized for introduction at the second March City Council meeting. The City Council would refer the ordinance to the Planning Commission who would make a recommendation unless there were amendments and in that case would be placed on the Park and Parkways Commission agenda for further discussion. The process would be 6-8 weeks for adoption. The Waffle House had worked with the staff to save the smaller trees. The Design Review Committee had worked with them to get a better design. Ms. Casanova said it was a narrow lot so they were saving trees on the sides of the lot.



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Ms. Clark moved to open the agenda to discuss the rose garden, get an update on the Street Trees program, invite Gail Camus to discuss live oak tree registry, caladium bulbs, David McGuire's oak tree trimming, a brick missing on the water fountain at rose garden, and the gazebo at the boat launch, seconded by Mr. Adamiak and unanimously approved.

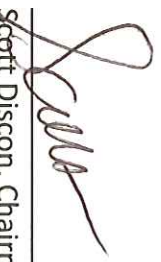
- Rose garden – there was someone interested in adopting this spot. Since it was considered an Adopt-a-Spot, it would be a Keep Mandeville Beautiful project overseen by Ms. Casanova. There was a concern that there would be a KMB sign when the Parks and Parkways commission had planted the rose garden. It was requested that any signage be placed by the streets since this was a place where wedding and prom pictures were taken and a sign would ruin the pictures.
- Street trees - Ms. Casanova said 48 more trees would be arriving the next week for planting. She had an additional 40-50 applications for processing. Ms. Fargason said the number of requests was a wonderful compliment for the program.
- The board would like to invite Gail Camus, a Beau Chene resident, to talk to the board about registering oak trees since she had gone through the process in Beau Chene. Ms. Spranley could contact her to speak at the April meeting.
- Caladium bulbs – the board was in agreement to sell bulbs again this year. Mr. Discon said the caladiums from 3-4 years ago were better. Ms. Casanova said she had tried a different company last year because of the unavailability the previous year from too much rain. The board asked to determine the size of the #1 bulbs before ordering. There was a discussion about different types of bulbs and it was decided to again order the Carolyn Wharton was a favorite, Aaron and Red Flash.
- David McGuire's live oak tree – Mr. Discon asked if there was a way to allow Mr. McGuire to raise the tree canopy with trimming. Ms. Casanova could meet with Dr. Guidry to determine if the tree needed to be trimmed. Ms. Scott said if there was an arbicultural reason the trimming could be approved with a permit, but not just to accommodate the sign visibility.
- Tent Man application - as part of the agreement the property owner must agree to water and maintain the trees. Tent Man had struck the requirement out of the application and it must be a complete application.

Ms. Frederick asked about the Lang House construction and the butterfly garden. The restroom project was almost complete and then the garden could move forward.

Ms. Fargason said the roadway dip on Monroe Street by West Beach Parkway and Depre Street was getting deeper. There also appeared to be a sink on Carondelet Street.

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

  
Lori Spranley, Secretary

  
Scott Discon, Chairman  
Parks and Parkways Commission