

Chairman Scott Discon called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

The secretary called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Will Afton, Brien Croff, Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, Christy Kervin, and Shawn Potter

Absent: Shelley Winstead

Staff Present: Rad Dickson, Planner; Kathy Reeves, Secretary

Minutes

Mr. Afton made a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 1 meeting, Ms. Kervin seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business

Pollinator Event Recap

Ms. Frederick said that it went well, but there were some technical difficulties. She thought next year there could be five speakers, starting at 9:30am to allow for more people to get there and give some time to work out any potential technical difficulties.

Ms. Frederick said there were some cancellations due to no fault of the vendors.

Ms. Frederick said that she asked Tina Myers to make a thank you card to the speakers, and Mr. Dickson gave them to the speakers that he was able to catch. The rest will be mailed out.

Mr. Discon said it was a nice event.

Mr. Dickson said that about 15 lbs of wildflower seeds were given away, and the vendors did a good job. He wished he could sit for more of the lectures.

Mr. Afton asked what the technical issues were. Mr. Dickson said that he had to scramble for a laptop. Mr. Potter added that there were some mics that had connection issues.

Ms. Frederick said that people were looking at the poster, but the issue was the speakers were behind. Mr. Dickson said he wished they could use the main stage.

Ms. Frederick said the speakers do not want to use it. Mr. Discon said they could just change it. Ms. Frederick said there might be an issue with noise and kids running around. Ms. Kervin asked if there was a sound system at the trailhead.

Mr. Discon said they would have to get the entertainment scratched for the duration. He suggested taking over the stage instead of having a band for the day.

Ms. Frederick said the first year they were set up by the depot doors and more people went inside. They might not have enough room now as there are more people now.

Mr. Dickson wanted to set up by the doors, but there are regular vendors that have spots.

Ms. Frederick said there could be chairs set up in front of the stage. Mr. Discon said it would be educational for everyone as they could hear it while they are shopping.

Mr. Discon wanted to thank Bonnie Abbey for her efforts.

Buck Abbey, 1129 Villere: The kids enjoyed seeing her as a bumble bee. The education the Commission is doing is very important, and should be done in more ways going forward. The

landscape summit should be a part of this, and speakers should be brought in. A dedicated tent and banner are also needed to let people know what is going on.

Ms. Kervin said she appreciated the QR code on the seed packets.

Mr. Discon asked why not move the landscape summit to the stage as well. Mr. Abbey said the summit gets videoed and is working on getting another date with the Mayor.

Ms. Frederick said she was impressed by the Xerces society and the resources they had for the kids.

Mr. Afton said he said to think about next year, as pollinator month is in June, and wants to try and pick a date so he does not double book himself again. Ms. Frederick said to get the banners up sooner. If a date is chosen they can get stuff planned sooner.

Mr. Discon said if the date wants to be moved to June he is fine with that. He also said they should coincide the seedling giveaway with Louisiana Arbor Day. Mr. Dickson said it would be in January. Mr. Afton said if it was promoted, people will come.

Mr. Dickson said he wants to rethink the seedling and tree giveaway and try to change up what is offered. His opinion is that the tree giveaway should be bigger trees to restore the canopy. Maybe do the ornamental trees done at the seedling giveaway.

Mr. Discon said the big request for the seedlings were fruit trees. Mr. Dickson said the pawpaw tree stole the show. Ms. Frederick suggested maybe one large tree for the seedling giveaway.

Ms. Kervin said that people may be apprehensive about getting a large shade tree.

Mr. Discon asked if fig trees were available in seedlings.

Mr. Dickson said that adjusting the number of seedlings that were bought may allow for more variety to be gotten.

Mr. Discon said the two weeks were important.

Ms. Frederick said more than 100 trees should be gotten.

Mr. Discon suggested getting some speakers for the arbor day giveaway as well.

Ms. Frederick said the landscape summit could be done in conjunction with the arbor day giveaway.

Mr. Abbey said it might be possible depending on the speaker and the topic. People should be thinking about planting while it is colder. Ms. Frederick said there could be a talk on how to plant the seedlings.

Mr. Dickson said that tree tubes seem to work well for protection of the seedlings. Ms. Frederick said that might be a stretch to give away the tubes as well.

Mr. Afton said that checking for availability needs to happen in August or September.

Discussion of the proposed Lakefront Monument

Mr. Discon said that Ms. Rohrbough could come up and speak about this.

Rebecca Rohrbough, 2525 Lakeshore: She heard the presentation by the Society of Colonial Wars representative who came before the Historic District Commission. These are legitimate heritage groups proposing a monument to commemorate the Battle of Lake Pontchartrain. Their mission

is to spread historical education about the area. They have placed other monuments in other locations. She said they were a recognized and acceptable entity.

Ms. Rohrbough said she is concerned about putting it on the Lakefront might be a bit much. When the lakefront was laid out by Bernard de Marigny de Mandeville, he wanted to make sure it retained the natural beauty it possessed. Part of this was saying no structures or edifices be constructed on the Lakefront.

She said that the monument was about 8ft in height, so it would be substantial. Her concern is that it falls under an edifice as opposed to what is currently on the Lakefront, which is a simple sign on a state marker. It was damaged in Hurricane Katrina and then refurbished. The existing sign is a simple sign and can be easily moved.

In her memo she wrote that there might be a better place to have this located. The value in something like this is the education that it provides, so one of her suggestions is to place it at Harbor Field. Another suggestion is one of the new areas outlined in the Parks and Recreation study. If they wanted to keep it near the lake, the City recently acquired a piece of land west of the Causeway where it could be located.

It is a nice idea and the City should accept it, but she does not think it should be on the Lakefront as it is not part of the natural beauty and setting.

Mr. Discon said there were three locations in consideration. Ms. Rohrbough said she suggested sunset point as well. Mr. Potter said Girod by the Gazebo. Ms. Rohrbough said there are some people who are not happy with the location by Girod and the Lake, as people feel like they should see the Lake when they arrive.

Mr. Afton asked if the people requesting the monument were ok with other locations. Ms. Rohrbough said they mentioned they were willing to work with the City, the Lakefront was just the first thought.

Ms. Kervin said she appreciated the insight provided by Ms. Rohrbough. When she read the packet she thought it was not appropriate for the Lakefront, and would be better suited elsewhere, especially as it is so large. There may need some more thought put into it.

Mr. Discon said that Mr. Potter said it was 14' in height. Ms. Kervin said some of that was below grade. It was 8'-2" above grade. The limit on signs is 7'.

Ms. Frederick asked if they were going to vote on this and give a recommendation as a commission.

Ms. Kervin asked if the sunset point was the area by the Causeway. Ms. Rohrbough said that sunset point was east of the Causeway. The property acquired by the City is on the west side and backs up to Old Golden Shores. This monument could be used as a focal point for a park at that location.

Buck Abbey, 1129 Villere: It is important to be careful about what goes onto the Lakefront. Looking back to revolutionary times is important for kids and adults. He is the landscape architect for harbor field and thinks that it would be a fairly decent location. You can see the water from there and would be a perfect place to get the information to children as lots of kids will show up for games. He would recommend accepting in principle, and the position looked at more carefully.

Ms. Kervin asked if this offer was time sensitive. Ms. Rohrbough said she did not hear a time limit specified. The only comment was that if Mandeville was not interested in the monument they would move on. She would hope the City responds in a reasonable time.

Ms. Kervin asked if the City would be responsible for the installation. Ms. Rohrbough said that in the proposal if the City accepted, the applicant would commission the component parts. They would pay to bring the parties in to build and install the monument at no expense to the City. They are prepared to take charge of everything.

Mr. Potter moved that the commission is supportive of the project, but with respect to Bernard de Marigny's legacy and his ask that no edifice be placed between the Lake and Lakeshore Drive, that they instead recommend that it be placed north of Lakeshore Drive at Harbor Field. Ms. Frederick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Update

Caladium Bulbs

Mr. Dickson said that a Facebook post was made, and he ordered 2,000 bulbs. Ms. Kervin asked why they were ordering caladium bulbs, Mr. Dickson said they were giving them away for Mother's Day.

Ms. Kervin said last year the moms on the commission asked why caladium bulbs were given away as no one wanted them, and that Mr. Dickson needed to consult with the commission. Mr. Dickson said he was directed at the meeting to order them.

Mr. Discon said when he joined the commission 11 years ago this was the only thing that they did. He feels like they should still try to support it. There are a lot of people who like them.

Mr. Dickson said historically the bulbs were sold, this year they will be given away and wanted to know how many the commission thought would be appropriate.

Ms. Frederick asked why the change from selling to giving away. Mr. Dickson said it was based on some accounting things.

Ms. Kervin asked how much 2,000 caladium bulbs cost. Mr. Dickson said it was around \$500.

Mr. Afton asked what size they were, Mr. Dickson said they were #2.

Mr. Discon said they used to do this every year, but after a hurricane there were supply issues.

Mr. Afton thought 18 may be a good amount since they were #2 bulbs.

Ms. Kervin asked how many trees were left to be delivered with the re-leaf program. Mr. Dickson said they should have been delivered today. Last week there were 30 trees left, and he heard deliveries happened on Saturday and today. He has an extra 10-15 trees leftover as he ordered some additional trees.

Ms. Kervin asked how long it usually takes. Mr. Dickson said installation started on April 1st so it took about 36 days.

Mr. Dickson said maybe next year the application deadline will be February 1st instead of March 1st as sourcing the trees took about 2-3 weeks.

Ms. Kervin suggested maybe doing the planting in the fall. Mr. Dickson said his concern with a fall planting is having a hard freeze with plants in buckets and not in the ground.

Ms. Kervin said if they started in October they could get everything done by the time it could freeze. Mr. Dickson said then they could do only a fall planting and no spring planting, which makes more sense for trees.

Ms. Frederick asked if the caladium giveaway had been advertised. Mr. Dickson said it had been.

Ms. Kervin asked who would be giving the bulbs away. Mr. Dickson said it would be him and whoever else wanted to help.

Mr. Discon said the best bet for the tree program is to still do two plantings, but just move the dates up. Mr. Dickson said there were some sourcing issues that he agreed with. Mr. Discon said he did not want to put everything on a fall planting as other things like hurricanes could get in the way.

Mr. Discon asked when the fall deadline would be. Mr. Dickson said August 31st would be the deadline, that way they could order in September and hopefully get them in the ground in October.

Ms. Kervin said the planting deadline should be November 15th, Mr. Dickson said they could not put a deadline on that due to the installation schedule.

Ms. Kervin asked if it could be organized where there is a delayed delivery. Mr. Dickson said that the current installer has a system in place already.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Mr. Afton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm, seconded by Mr. Potter and was unanimously approved.



Alex Weiner, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

Alex Weiner

From: Lauren Brinkman
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1:52 PM
To: Alex Weiner; Kathy Reeves; Radford Dickson; Tina Myers
Subject: Fwd: HC24-03-05 Proposed Monument

Please see below for Parks and Parkways, Historic District, etc. thanks!

Lauren Brinkman, CFM

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From: Cara Bartholomew <cbartholomew@cityofmandeville.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 9:21:45 AM
To: Becky Rohrbough <[REDACTED]>; Lauren Brinkman <lbrinkman@cityofmandeville.com>
Subject: Re: HC24-03-05 Proposed Monument

Thank you Becky. We will pass along to the Commissions.

Cara Bartholomew, AICP
Dir. of Planning & Development
City of Mandeville
985.624.3103

From: Becky Rohrbough <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 7:33:49 PM
To: Cara Bartholomew <cbartholomew@cityofmandeville.com>; Lauren Brinkman <lbrinkman@cityofmandeville.com>
Subject: HC24-03-05 Proposed Monument

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TO: HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

I addressed the Commission at the April 4, 2024 meeting regarding the possible placement of an historic granite marker set in concrete foundation on the Mandeville Lakefront. The monument is being offered to the city at no charge by two reputable lineage and historic societies. From the schematics submitted,

the base appears to be a 4' square (16 sq ft) and the total height at 6', although Planning Director observed more like 8+ feet. The monument would be quite substantial in size.

The case is before the Commission which has purview over the Lakefront itself. This was established by ordinance when it was discovered that the original boundary description was somehow changed in the ordinance establishing the historic district. On June 28, 2018 City Council approved Ordinance 18-12 to Amend Sections 7.6.4.9 Boundaries to wit: "...The boundaries of the District are the center lines of Galvez Street, Florida Street, Jackson Avenue to the northern right of way of Claiborne St., east to Bayou Castain, **to the northern edge of Lake Pontchartrain.**" Further, Ordinance 18-12 states in paragraph 5, lines 24-28

"The Historic Preservation District Commission cited CLURO Section 7.6.4.1 which provides in relevant part as follows: *Purpose of the Historic Preservation District: The regulations established in this chapter are intended to preserve and protect the historical architecturally worthy buildings, structures, sights, **monuments**, streetscapes, squares, and neighborhoods of the District.*"

In addition to the authority and **responsibility** of the Commission in Lakefront matters, the city Comprehensive Plan under Parks & Recreation Policy 6.2 states "Maintain and enhance lakefront as a signature of the City. Retain open access to the lakefront for residents and visitors **in accordance with Marigny's mandate.**" The Mandate is quoted in the Growth Management Element Goals & Policies, Natural Resources, pg. 34 as follows:

LAKESHORE: This sub-area of Old Mandeville, which includes the corridor along Lakeshore Drive is a vital element of Mandeville's character and the signature of the City. In the dedication of the original town site, Bernard Xavier de Marigny de Mandeville's plan stated that "The space situated between Lake Street and the Lake will always remain free and for common use; that no individual nor corporation shall raise **any edifice whatsoever**, nor change its destination (purpose), and that the banks of the Lake facing the said space will also remain forever free and for common usage."

The placement of the monument on the Lakefront itself gives me pause. It exceeds mere signage and seems to fall much closer to edifice.

The proposed monument is to commemorate the 1779 Battle of Lake Pontchartrain and the granite incised with the story. As such, it holds a nice history of an important event in our Lake. There is great educational value in this. I would like to suggest that the Commission consider this in its process as well as the Marigny mandate and Comprehensive Plan goals as noted above.

Another consideration is that a State historic marker is currently placed on the Lakefront at the intersection of Gerard/Girod and Lakeshore Drive. It is pictured in the Monument package on the page with the lake battle story and picture of Lt. Pierre Georges Rousseau. The marker was damaged (again) in hurricane IDA. The city asked for help. The Rousseau Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Marigny Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution located a restorer for the sign. The City Public Works made the necessary work order and monetary arrangements and the sign was restored and erected again.

I would ask the Commission to consider

1. The Monument is really more of an edifice given its size and permanence
2. The Lakefront already has a modest historic marker sign for the lake battle
3. The educational value of the proposed monument would be seen by a considerable number of school-age children at Harbor Field

located at the lake's edge at Bayou Castain and the harbor

4. The planned redevelopment of Sunset Point on the lake would make a nice setting for the monument.
5. Off-Lake sites that make sense are the Trailhead and the lawn of city hall. (When a new city hall is built, a focus garden is anticipated and this monument ought to be a great piece to work with in the placement and design of same).
6. Newly acquired 'open space' lands by the city may provide good settings for a garden/monument arrangement as well.

Mandeville expands historic district to include lakefront land

BY ANDREW CANULETTE
acanulette@sttammanyfarmer.net

It seems logical that the historic Mandeville Lakefront would be part of the city's Historic District.

But that wasn't the case, at least until the Mandeville City Council voted at its **June 28 meeting** to include the lakefront land within historic district boundaries.

A section of the ordinance that originally created the district in 2013 was scrapped in favor of amended boundaries offered in a proposal from District II Council-



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY VERONICA DOMIN

Carole Henley and her dog, Bambi, visit the Lakefront in Mandeville. The Mandeville City Council voted on June 28 to include the lakefront in its historic district boundaries, saying leaving the land out of the district adopted in 2013 was an oversight.

man Michael Pulaski.

The amendment, which passed on a 5-0 vote, alters historic district boundaries to roughly Florida Street to the north, Galvez Street

to the west, Jackson Avenue to the east, and now, the edge of Lake Pontchartrain to the south. Previous

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From the Files..... **7A**

Jail bookings

MANDEVILLE

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the district stopped at Lakeshore Drive.

Becky Rohrbough, a Mandeville historian who was part of the committee that helped design the historic district, told the council it was that committee's plan all along to include the lakefront in the boundaries. She learned at a recent Mandeville Historic Commission meeting that the lakefront had been excluded inadvertently and brought it to the commission's attention.

It was an uncharacteristic oversight for a city that treats seriously all things having to do with its lakefront. The city was painstaking in describing the new boundaries, however, which were read aloud into public record.

Director of Planning and Development Louisette Scott also asked the council to include a map of the district as part of the ordinance, which the council did, also by a 5-0 vote.

Scott noted that a small unnamed extension to Jackson Street is not part of the new historic district boundary, and that the eastern edge of the historic district is now the northern portion of Claiborne Street at its intersection with Little Bayou Castine.

Councilman at Large Clay Madden and District I Councilman David Ellis questioned whether the move to redraw historic district boundaries had anything to do with a recently defeated proposal to further fund proposed bathrooms near a splash pad/play area at Jackson Avenue.

Madden said he thought it would be "improper" to later learn that a vote for redrawn district boundaries would mean the council could not fund bathrooms of some sort near the public park at Jackson Avenue.

Scott and Mayor Donald Villere said there was no connection.

Later in the meeting, the council discussed a pair of resolutions designed to address rising health care costs to the city as a result of the benefit

package it extends to its 100-plus employees.

Neither of the resolutions would have automatically gone into effect if adopted, and instead were submitted as guidelines for City Finance Director Frank Oliveri to use while preparing the city's budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

That didn't stop nearly two hours of discussion on the matter, however, as every member of the council and nearly a dozen people (mostly city employees) spoke out, some of them multiple times during the meeting.

Many voiced their displeasure with the city's health insurance provider, United Health Care, which was not an agenda item. Others spoke out against a resolution on the agenda that would have employees shouldering premium increases while the city's financial commitment to the plan was frozen.

Brian Burke, head of the city's Municipal Employees Civil Service Board, said the city's current benefits package attracts quality employees and helps retain them. Asking em-

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