

Parks and Parkways Commission

December 2, 2024

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Commissioner Shelley Winstead called the meeting to order at 6:03pm

The secretary called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Will Afton, Lee Frederick, Christy Kervin, Shawn Potter, Shelley Winstead and Patricia Zebrick

Absent: Brien Croff

Staff Present: Rad Dickson, Planner; Tina Myers, Secretary

Minutes

Mr. Potter made a motion to adopt the minutes from the October 7 meeting, Ms. Kervin seconded, and all were in favor.

Adoption of Minutes from October 7 meeting

New Business

Bylaws

Commission will review and make recommendations to further discuss at the January meeting. Mr. Dickson said if they have any feedback to email him and Tina not the commission.

Staff Update

Mr. Dickson said he reached out to different people especially New Orleans City Park they use Public Works to install. Mandeville may need to get Public Works to go with hand shovels to avoid hitting roots after we get the five trees marked after they are selected.

Ms. Kervin asked what is the significance of the number five? Is that the number that's allowed or that the city can afford?

Mr. Dickson said he had a meeting with Becky Rohrbough they decided on three but were able to get approved for five trees. There is not any significance to the number just what was allowed in the budget.

Ms. Kervin asked if it was wooden bollards?

Mr. Dickson said wooden bollards, not chained or roped was the agreement.

Ms. Kervin said this is not inside the greenway

Mr. Dickson said no this is around the tree itself to prevent so much foot traffic for events and vehicles that drive on Lakeshore to stay off the root zone. He suggests going with the five biggest or healthiest trees and asked how the commission wants him to select the trees.

Ms. Winstead said to just go with the ones Mrs. Rohrbough requested.

Ms. Kervin said she sees the reason to put the bollards on streets where there is parking but not the rational to put a bollard between pinwall and a Live Oak, it's a visual impediment to the Lakefront.

Ms. Frederick and Mr. Afton asked how many will there be around the tree?

Mr. Dickson said it depends on the size of the drip line of the tree, maybe space them every ten feet just to keep vehicles off, if we want them closer so it doesn't allow a vehicle to go through at all.

Ms. Kervin said a vehicle can go through a ten-foot space it would need to be six to eight feet.

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Mr. Dickson said correct, it will depend on if they want to block or discourage vehicles from passing.

Ms. Kervin said she has a problem with piecemealing this. It should be a comprehensive plan.

Ms. Winstead said Mrs. Rohrbough requested one tree in front of her home.

Ms. Frederick asked only one tree?

Ms. Winstead said this one in particular but she is concerned about the entire Lakefront.

Ms. Kervin asked if an arborist looked at it and did they say there is an issue with it?

Mr. Dickson said yes, the cars for Our Lady of the Lake drive on the curb right there and it's one of the main entrance points for when they set up the stage for events. Mrs. Rohrbough is concerned about them driving over the root zones.

Ms. Frederick said that would give us a reason to pick this tree because it's in the path for big vehicles to setup, what if we did this one tree and see how it looks.

Mr. Dickson said if they want to do one tree that is fine.

Ms. Kervin said everything you do on the Lakefront needs to have a reason and a purpose.

Ms. Frederick said she's thinking since this is a path they use for big trucks that would be a good reason to start with that one.

Mr. Dickson said if they are against it, they do not have to do it, or if they start with one then they can do that or trees over a certain DBH, but we need to get a plan together for how we want to approach this.

Mr. Potter said he wouldn't say he is against it; he is unsure where he stands on it.

Ms. Winstead asked if there would be a rope on it or not?

Mr. Dickson said it could be either way, Scott was again any rope or chain.

Mr. Potter said he agrees with Christy, he would like to look at it as a whole.

Ms. Zebrick said Christy to do you have an idea.

Ms. Kervin said she would do something like a grass that would discourage foot traffic. She suggests something natural, the minimal amount of man-made obstructions.

Mr. Afton asked what is the material? Is it 4x4 post?

Mr. Dickson said he would assume and painted white.

Ms. Frederick said that would really standout, natural is better.

Ms. Winstead asked Christy if she would like to ride along the Lakefront with Rad?

Ms. Kervin said she would love to.

Ms. Fredrick suggested stones.

Ms. Zebrick said that is still not natural to the area.

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Ms. Kervin suggested Palmettos

Ms. Winstead said lets table this until the ride along.

Mr. Afton said it is great how fast this moved but he agrees with Christy, Lakeshore Dr is so big, and it needs to be done thought the whole thing.

Mr. Dickson said another staff update is the 190 Project, beautification in front of Perlis. Installation should start this month.

Mr. Afton said he heard they found all the plant material.

Mr. Dickson said yes, the Grancy Greybeards were a little hard to find but they were able to get them.

Ms. Winstead asked if there was an update on the Four Corners project?

Mr. Dickson said the plans have been turned in, he thinks there could be a freeze on that. The gazebo is also postponed for now.

Ms. Winstead said she received an email from Bucky Abby the application he submitted for the City and Jill McGuire sponsored, Designation for a Certified Native Plant for the site on Little Castine locally known as the Cypress Tupelo Swamp.

Ms. Zebrick said it is seventy-five percent native, it's majority Tupelo and Cypress.

Ms. Fredrick said she wanted to go back to the gazebo, are they going to see the plans and look at the species before the work started.

Ms. Kervin said she sent comments earlier today, moving the two beds next to the gazebo, moving the brick and the placement of the shrubs abstracting view.

Mr. Dickson said he will not approve it until the details get worked out.

Mr. Afton asked if the tree giveaway was good.

Mr. Dickson said yes, almost 500 hundred trees.

Ms. Frederick asked if this was Arbor Day or Releaf program?

Mr. Afton said he was asking about Arbor Day.

Mr. Dickson said yes, the order has been placed but will add the extra native oaks.

Mr. Afton asked if a date was set for that?

Mr. Dickson said the third Saturday of January, whenever the Louisiana Arbor Day is.

Ms. Kervin said the third Saturday of January is the 18th.

Mr. Afton said Pollinator week will be June 23-29, 2025.

Ms. Winstead asked if a date was set for the pollinator event?

Mr. Afton said no, he just wanted to make everyone aware of the national dates.

Ms. Kervin said we have been doing it around Earth Day.

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Ms. Winstead said Earth Day is April 22nd.

Mr. Dickson said we did the seedling giveaway the weekend of March/ first weekend of April then the pollinator event then the caladium giveaway for Mother's Day.

Mr. Afton said pollinator.org is an NGO group that promote pollinator week, they have good resources to check into.

Ms. Winstead asked if they wanted to pick a date for the Pollinator event now or table?

Ms. Zebrick and Ms. Kervin said to table it.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Afton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:34pm, seconded by Mr. Potter and was unanimously approved.

Tina Myers, Secretary

Shelley Winstead, Chairwoman
Parks and Parkways Commission