

Parks and Parkways Commission

March 10, 2025

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Commissioner Will Afton called the meeting to order at 6:08pm

The secretary called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Will Afton, Brien Croff, Lee Frederick, Shawn Potter, Patricia Zebrick

Absent: Christy Kervin, Shelley Winstead

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

Minutes

Mr. Potter made a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 3 meeting, Mr. Croff seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business

Long leaf pine Savannah

Agenda item number seven was moved to the first item on the agenda. Jess Cole gave an update on what has been done. She would like to see more flowers, so they added wildflower seeds. Thirty-five long leaf plugs are currently installed. Ms. Cole suggested reducing the burning, going to every two years instead of annually.

Update from the city on the Urban Tree Survey Plan

Tree plotter, the links were sent out last year and Rad can resend it. Helps you find any trees in the city. The trees shown are only city trees not the ones on private property.

Mr. Dickson said he believes it is about 60% completed when he spoke to Malcolm.

Mr. Discon asked if other cities have this type of tree inventory.

Mr. Dickson responded he is not sure.

Mother's Day Bulb Sale

Mr. Dickson said he usually spends \$500 to \$1,000, that usually gets the city about two thousand bulbs of caladium bulbs and they go very fast. Keeping that budget but changing the bulb would probably result in far less bulbs to give out.

Mr. Discon said they would sell the bulbs at the trailhead and for the housing tour for Mother's Day. When he first started on this commission in 2013 or 2014 it was probably one of the biggest events of the year, he thinks it is important to keep this tradition going forward.

Mr. Afton they have been doing this for a long time, and it is a good PR event for the commission. He proposes going back with Caladium bulbs for this year and if they want to go with a different type of bulb, it should be purchased in the fall.

Ms. Frederick suggests giving away caladium bulbs and selling the more expensive ones.

Mr. Dickson said the finance department said it was best to give Caladium bulbs away because the requirements to track the money coming and going.

Mr. Afton motioned that Rad look into ordering caladium bulbs and couple that with wildflower seeds to hand out at the Mother's Day event at the Trailhead, seconded by Ms. Frederick and all were in favor.

Mr. Afton said the date for this would be Saturday May 10th.

Shelley Winstead-resigning from Parks and Parkways commission

Mr. Afton asked what the process for her resignation is. Mr. Dickson said he would check on that and to add appointment of a new chair to the next agenda.

Parks and Parkways Orientation Guide

Mr. Croff said this is an overview of what the commission does, how we conduct meetings and interact with City Council, and plan projects.

Mr. Afton asked if there is a section Brien would like for them to take a closer look at?

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Mr. Croff said section seven. Mr. Afton said everyone to read over it and focus on section seven.

Pollinator-Themed Event

Ms. Lee said people don't want the Pollinator event in the middle of the summer. She asked if they want to do that this year, she will not be able to assist like she has in the past. Ms. Lee has all the resources written out. She is concerned that the nurseries will not have enough for this event due to the weather we recently had. It's already late to start calling now. Some of the people that have come in the past are already booked.

Ms. Zebrick said from a Wild One's perspective it did not do much for their organization. Not many people came, vendors didn't feel like they got a lot of exposure. There is a lot of competition in April.

Mr. Discon asked if they could do it in the fall.

Mr. Afton said they will discuss that at a later date, he also has an idea for an educational type of event in the fall that centers around trees.

Resolution with recommendations to City Council

Mr. Discon said it should be on the next council meeting agenda.

Ms. Lee said she was really inspired to author these recommendations after watching the loss of our urban forest and native landscape. She never noticed anything to address this, so she decided to write the recommendations to City Council to make them aware. It is her hope that the resolution will serve as a blueprint to promote and implement positive changes to better preserve our native landscape and our quality of life.

Staff Update

Seedling Giveaway

Mr. Dickson said Alia with the trailhead needs a volunteer for Earth Day, he is not sure of the exact date so he will get that from her. The Parish is putting together an event where people go to the three trailheads. They asked that the trailhead get involved and a volunteer do something there, so he offered the option to hand out Wild Flower seeds, so if anyone is interested in handing out seeds for Earth Day Alia is looking for someone.

Ms. Zebrick asked Rad if he could send an email with the specifics once he has them.

Mr. Dickson said he will send an email with the details he can get.

Public Comment

None

Mr. Potter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm, seconded by Ms. Zebrick and was unanimously approved.

Tina Myers, Secretary

Shelley Winstead, Chairwoman
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