

Parks and Parkways Commission

May 5, 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, Lee Frederick, Shawn Potter, and Patricia Zebrick

Absent: Brien Croff, Christy Kervin

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

Minutes

Mr. Potter made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 10 meeting, Ms. Frederick seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business

Update on the Urban Tree Survey Plan

Malcolm Guidry: Presented the tree survey map to the committee. Mr. Guidry and the committee discussed the benefits of the information on the map.

Buck Abbey 1129 Villere: Mr. Guidry's survey from years ago, would be good for the city to have that so they can see what was here twenty- five years ago.

Scott Discon 114 Carroll: Discussed with the committee and Mr. Guidry the tree plotter inventory app and different ways to track trees within city limits.

Appointment of Chair

Mr. Afton moved to nominate Shawn Potter as chair, Patty Zebrick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mother's Day Bulb Sale

Mr. Dickson: Bulbs have been ordered; Facebook posts have been made. It's this Saturday at 9:00 am, whoever wants to be there. We have Freckles and White Wonder, 400 of each first come first serve.

Arbor Day Tree Giveaway – Plan for 2026

Mr. Dickson: July is when we want to hammer out what we want, the books open in August. The issue is we have to see if they will hold our order pending a P O because we can't just go in and order from a credit card.

Mr. Afton: Suggest working with Nola Tree Project to give out trees for the Arbor Day event or a tree giveaway in Mandeville.

Mr. Dickson: In order to get our numbers to be a tree city we should do it in 2026, if we do it before then we probably will not hit our numbers and be eligible.

Street Tree Program Update

Mr. Dickson: They are all in the ground. He and Scott got 130 trees installed in the medians. They had 600 trees this year, 570 in ground and 30 extra that will probably go on city property and right of ways where they had to take a tree down.

Four Corners Project Update

Mr. Dickson: All the plans are done with Franklin Kyle with some number and now it is in city council's hands. It's a big project, we will have to see if it can go through as planned or if it will be scaled back a little bit.

Bonnie Abbey 1129 Villere: Why hasn't Franklin brought the plan back to this group to let them look at?

Mr. Dickson: It's been bounced around a lot; it hasn't gone to bid yet. He is reworking some details on it before it's even finalized.

Mandeville Trailhead Stage Planting Project

Mr. Afton: There were some trees removed by the stage at the Trailhead and Christy thought it would be nice to get a replanting program.

Mr. Dickson: They are not going to go for Cypress because they were getting into drainage, that's why they got cut down.

Ms. Zebrick: Had a citizen ask her about the cypress trees getting cut down.

Mr. Dickson: We have had a lot of issues with drainage and cypress trees over the years. If you hear about someone cutting them down, it's because of knees or drainage. It's not great to put a tree in the same spot a tree was removed but they are right next to the stage.

Council Meeting Recap – P&P Letter

Mr. Potter: The resolution that was put together by this commission was approved, it was unanimous.

Scott Discon: Everyone supported it, there were some issues with the original, so we amended it.

Mr. Potter: Also at that meeting, we were presented with this plaque, not sure what you want to do with this one.

Mr. Dickson: Buck wanted one on Florida and one on Montgomery. On Florida it's a small sign for that high-speed limit, maybe either side of Montgomery.

Mr. Discon: Put one on Jackson because that's high in traffic people can see it and do one on Montgomery.

Staff Update

Mr. Dickson: All updates have been discussed.

Public Comment

Buck Abbey 1129 Villere: He has been attending the comprehensive plan meetings, and they are eager for input from citizens, he thinks they would be eager for input from Parks and Parkways as well.

Bonnie Abbey 1129 Villere: Rad and Cara have talked about a workshop session, that would be real helpful. Do we have an update on the gazebo planting?

Mr. Dickson: Yeah, it's been shot down for other projects. We got some plans for hard scaping, and we are going to play with those but as far as plants go it's a pretty finicky environment and other projects have taken precedent.

Ms. Abbey: Before hurricane Ida wasn't that already in the budget at one time?

Mr. Dickson: I cannot speak to that.

Ms. Frederick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm, seconded by Mr. Potter and was unanimously approved.

Tina Myers, Secretary

Shawn Potter, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission