

Parks and Parkways Commission

December 1, 2025

Page 1 of 2

Commissioner Shawn Potter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

The secretary called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Will Afton, Christy Kervin, Ladson Poole, Shawn Potter, and Patricia Zebrick

Absent: None

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

Adoption of 2026 Meeting Dates

Mr. Afton made a motion to adopt the 2026 meeting dates, Mr. Poole seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Update on the two vacant Parks and Parkways Commission positions

Barrie Hidalgo introduced herself as one of the new Parks and Parkways commissioners. Mr. Potter asked everyone to encourage anyone they know that would be interested in being on the board to apply.

Discussion about possible beautification of Hwy. 190 right-of-way in front of the Emerald Corner Retail Center

Ms. Kervin discussed beautifying the area by Starbucks area on Highway 190. The type of trees, plantings and the no growth zone in that area were discussed. The landownership and ways to get plantings in the area were discussed. Scott Discon Councilman said he spoke with the owner of the parking lot next to Starbucks about planting. Mr. Discon reviewed what was passed with ordinance 25-11. Mr. Discon explained the challenges they had with planting on the other portion of Highway 190, as well as on East and West Causeway.

Discussion on a proposal to formally recognize the Mandeville Lakefront as a National Historic and Cultural Landmark

Ms. Kervin explained how making the Lakefront a Historical Landmark could help the city get grants. She reviewed the different types of landmarks and why it could be considered but it is not guaranteed for federal grants.

Discussion on our Community Educational Program for 2026

Mr. Afton gave information about where to find good information on planting trees. Ways of getting this information to the residents when they choose a tree or seedling were discussed. Dates and ways to improve the next event were discussed. Scott Discon Councilman suggested having some vendors sell trees or bushes and have guest speakers in addition to the sales. Having a table at the Trailhead March 7th with a possible rain date of March 14th with the event named Mandeville Parks and Parkways Arbor Day was discussed. Where to plant a tree for demonstration purposes was discussed.

Round robin of ideas for additional Beautification Projects for 2026

Various locations that would benefit from plantings were discussed. Mr. Dickson explained some areas have upcoming construction so there would be challenges with planting in some places. The species of trees that could be planted was discussed.

Staff Update

Mr. Dickson gave an update on the Tree City application, it was approved. He gave an update on finding some of the trees for the street tree program. The tagging of the Lakefront Live Oaks that are registered is complete. All trees were adopted through the adopt a live oak program.

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December 1, 2025

Page 2 of 2

Public Comment

Mr. Afton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 pm, Ms. Kervin seconded and was unanimously approved.

Tina Myers, Secretary

Shawn Potter, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission