

Chairman Shawn Potter called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

The secretary called the roll.

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

Absent: Barrie Hidalgo (absent at roll, present at 6:04pm)

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

Minutes

Ms. Zebrick made a motion to adopt the minutes from the November 3 and December 1 meetings, Ms. Kervin seconded, and all were in favor.

#### New Business

#### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Ms. Zebrick moved to nominate Mr. Potter as Chair, Ms. Kervin seconded, and all were in favor.

Ms. Zebrick moved to nominate Mr. Afton as Vice Chair, Ms. Kervin seconded, and all were in favor.

\*Ms. Hidalgo arrived at this point\*

#### **Guest Speaker: Richard Adamiak - Update on the Adopt-A-Tree Program**

Mr. Adamiak was unable to attend.

#### **Follow-up discussion of Emerald Corner Retail Center beautification**

Mr. Potter has scheduled a meeting with the mayor to discuss the process of getting beautification in this area.

#### **Review of Planting Information Sheet**

Mr. Poole explained the re-leaf handout him and Mr. Afton worked on. There was discussion on the handout and what is currently given out with the trees. Scott Discon 142 Carroll suggested creating more awareness about trees. It was discussed having an educational event at the Mandeville Trailhead. Scott Discon 142 Carroll explained the need for the public to be educated on proper watering to help the trees survive.

#### **Finalize date for Seedling Giveaway**

The seedlings are scheduled to be delivered in time for the giveaway to be January 24, 2026. Mr. Dickson offered to reschedule the seedlings delivery if the seedling giveaway date is changed. Scott Discon 142 Carroll is in favor of keeping the seedling giveaway before March. Traditionally the giveaway has been in January, the possibility of changing it and rescheduling the delivery was discussed.

#### **Discussion on developing a Statement of Intent for the Pine Tree**

Mr. Potter explained the purpose of the Statement of Intent for the Pine Tree and asked for feedback once he sends out the document. Bonnie Abbey 1129 Villere asked what is planned for the Pine Savannah. There was discussion about the difference between pine trees and the pine savannah and making sure the public is aware of the difference. Scott Discon 142 Carroll suggested adding a short pine tree to the tree giveaway and to educate people on Pine trees. Buck Abbey 1129 Villere spoke about native Pine trees to this area. Bonnie Abbey 1129 Villere asked if the Pine Savannah will be burned. Mr. Dickson believes the plan is to skip the burn for a year. Scott Discon 142 Carroll asked if they can mix in other types of Pines. Mr. Dickson is not sure if other Pines would survive the burning, they need to do.

#### **Plan for Spring 2026 Community Educational Program**

Mr. Afton offered to do a tree planting demonstration, he would plant a tree on city

property. Options on where to plant the tree were discussed. A title for this event was discussed. Plan to do the tree planting demo on March 7<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of March 14<sup>th</sup> at the trailhead.

**Discussion and possible adoption of new 2026 Meeting Dates**

Moving from the proposed quarterly meetings to every other month and the reasons were discussed. The changes within the board were discussed. Buck Abbey 1129 Villere compared the board to grad students, shared what the board is doing and what they should do. Scott Discon 142 Carroll suggested the board plan out the year and set goals.

**Update on the vacant Parks and Parkways Commission position**

The process, this position being a council appointment and when should a decision be made were discussed.

**Staff Update**

All staff updates were discussed in the previous agenda items.

**Public Comment**

Bonnie Abbey 1129 Villere offered encouragement and suggested one person a month attend council meetings. Scott Discon 142 Carroll said when the council meetings are usually scheduled.

Mr. Poole motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm, seconded by Ms. Kervin and was unanimously approved.

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Tina Myers, Secretary

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Shawn Potter, Chairman  
Parks and Parkways Commission