

Parks and Parkways Commission

May 4, 2026

Page 1 of 2

Chairman Shawn Potter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Jeanne Willie called the roll.

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

Absent: Buck Abbey (absent at roll call, arrived at 6:03)

Staff Present: Rad Dickson, Planner; Tina Myers, Secretary; Jeanne Willie, Receptionist

Minutes

Mr. Poole made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 2 meetings, Mr. Afton seconded, and all were in favor.

Guest Speaker Richard Adamiak was unable to attend.

Public Comment

None

Staff Update

Mr. Dickson informed the board the caladium bulbs are in and ready to be given out this weekend. Set up time and the experience from last year's giveaway was discussed. New trees planted on the lakefront were discussed.

New Business

Tree Planting Event Recap

The March tree planting demonstration and turnout was recapped by Mr. Afton. There was discussion of starting an annual tree planting demonstration every November. Scott Discon suggested posting monthly educational information.

City Council Meeting

There was discussion on members attending the council meetings. The discussion included how often each person would need to attend, the importance of attending and when the meetings are held.

Rock mulch (disallowment)

The discussion included where rock mulch is used, the aesthetic, sustainability, potential hazards and the impacts it can have on the trees.

Mother's Day Bulb Sale event on May 9th

This item was discussed during staff update. The timing of the event and setup was rediscussed.

East Causeway Approach Power Servitude

What can be replaced in the servitudes to improve where the trees were removed by Cleco and how to start that process was discussed. Making a list, especially with native species to get planted in the servitudes and the best way to get that done was discussed.

Old City Jail Historic Site Landscaping and Sitting Area

The history of this site, current use and improving this site, was discussed.

Ms. Kervin motioned to propose the old Mandeville jail to the city council as one of Parks and Parkways projects, seconded by Mr. Afton, and all were in favor.

Urban Forest Improvement Projects

This was discussed with the East Causeway Approach Power Servitude.

Neighborwoods Proposal from Patty and Will

There was discussion of different ways to improve Neighborwoods, benefits of leaving it with more natural growth, possibly adding a sign to reflect it as more than a recreational park. Enforcement of rules, open and closing times and ways to improve inside the park were discussed.

Mr. Afton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Ms. Kervin and was unanimously approved.

Tina Myers, Secretary

Shawn Potter, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission