

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

Jeanne Willie called the roll.

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

Absent: None

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

#### **Minutes**

Mr. Poole made a motion to adopt the minutes from the July 20 meeting, Mr. Abbey seconded, and all were in favor.

#### **Guest speaker**

Malcolm Guidry provided a brief history of his time as a Professional Arborist and City of Mandeville Consultant Arborist. Mr. Guidry then presented a summary about his ongoing project providing technical information about the Mandeville Urban Forest. Discussions between the commissioners and Mr. Guidry about his report and recommendations concluded with Mr. Abbey thanking Mr. Guidry for his hard work and thoroughness. Mr. Abbey then requested a Motion be made to accept Mr. Guidry's report into the minutes.

Mr. Potter called for a motion. Mr. Abbey made the motion, seconded by Mr. Afton with all in favor.

Commissioners continued a discussion about Mr. Guidry's report and made suggestions on what steps to take next to improve Mandeville's Urban Forest.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

#### **Staff Update**

Mr. Dickson asked the commissioners to decide which trees they would like for the Re-leaf Program application. The commissioners reviewed the Tree Planting Palette handout from Ms. Kervin during the discussion. Six (6) tree types were chosen: American Fringe, Green Gable/Black Gum, Eastern Red Cedar, Willow Oak, White Oak, and Southern Magnolias. Mr. Potter informed the commissioners that Mr. Afton will be giving a Tree Planting Demonstration on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 10am at the Trailhead.

#### **New Business**

##### **2027 ReLeaf Mandeville tree selection**

Discussion and list was finalized during Mr. Dickson's Staff Update.

##### **Presentation of the final draft of the Neighborwoods Proposal**

Mr. Afton gave a final draft handout to the commissioners and staff present. Mr. Afton then gave a summary of the draft. After a discussion between the commissioners, Mr. Afton requested the help of Mr. Abbey with the financial aspect of the proposal. The commissioners decided to revise the draft and review at the next meeting.

##### **Discussion about the Parks & Parkways Annual Educational Program**

Mr. Potter asked if the commissioners would prefer fall or spring. Mr. Abbey noted that with the limited meetings, the commissioners will not be ready for January 2027. After a discussion about what would be the main focus and how to promote the event, Mr. Potter suggested to form a sub-committee to allow 3 commissioners to coordinate together for planning purposes. The sub-committee will be Mr. Abbey, Ms. Hidalgo, and Ms. Kervin.

**Discussion about the creation of a Bylaws Committee for Parks & Parkways**

Mr. Abbey gave a handout to the commissioners and staff present then gave a summary of the handout. Mr. Abbey requested for a sub-committee to be created to coordinate and create a final draft proposal for the Bylaws to present to Mandeville City Council. Ms. Hidalgo and Ms. Kervin volunteered, pending clarification if commissioners can be on 2 sub-committees.

**Discussion about the Urban Forestry Platform for Parks & Parkways**

Mr. Potter asked for a motion to table this discussion to the next meeting.

Mr. Poole made the motion, seconded by Ms. Kervin. The motion was passed with 6 ayes and 1 abstain.

Mr. Poole motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m., seconded by Mr. Afton. The motion was passed with 5 ayes and 2 abstain.

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Tina Myers, Secretary

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Shawn Potter, Chairman  
Parks and Parkways Commission