

## **Parks and Parkways Commission January 5, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairwoman Anne Marie Fargason and the secretary called the roll.

Present: Lee Frederick, Dodie Marshall, Nancy Clark, Scott Discon, and Anne Marie Fargason

Absent: Karin Crosby and Robert Santopadre

Also Present: Louissette Kidd, Planning Director; Maggie Gleason, Landscape Inspector; and Megan Gouzy, Keep Mandeville Beautiful

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of December 1, 2014, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved.

### **Discussion with Megan Gouzy, Keep Mandeville Beautiful**

Ms. Gouzy presented that in 2015 Keep Mandeville Beautiful was scheduling a clean up after the Krewe of Eve parade with student help, a Leaders Against Litter state program by Keep Louisiana Beautiful for 50 leaders representing their community with a cleanup area to be designated outside of City Hall, a Spring Cleanup on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and the last week of March Mandeville High School would hold an anti-litter campaign (awareness program).

Ms. Kidd said the board was concerned about the banner campaign content usually posted on West Causeway Approach and keeping the amount of them down. Ms. Gouzy said there would not be any participation in that program this year. Keep Mandeville Beautiful would continue to sponsor programs in the schools. Each day a message was given on the announcements and a prize to promote signing the pledge. Ms. Frederick asked what grades participated and it was answered at the high school level. Preschool through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade still had puppet shows. There was one program on recycling and one program on littering that was pre-recorded.

Ms. Frederick said she was the recycle person at her school and there had been a newspaper recycling program. She asked about pick up at the schools. Ms. Gouzy said the company had gone bankrupt, but most schools were taking the initiative to recycle and dump at either of the sites in the City limits. She was working with Progressive Waste to recycle more than just paper.

Ms. Clark asked about any beautification projects. Ms. Gouzy said there would be the annual spring cleanup. Ms. Fargason explained that the Parks and Parkways Commission was about beautification. Ms. Gouzy said coordination with planting was usually part of the fall cleanup. Ms. Fargason said the Parks and Parkways Commission would like to coordinate projects with Keep Mandeville Beautiful. Ms. Clark said there were plant lists that the board had developed to keep some consistency in appearance. Ms. Kidd asked Ms. Gouzy if she would work with Ms. Gleason to funnel projects through the Commission.

Ms. Frederick asked about Keep Mandeville Beautiful's mission statement. Ms. Clark said one of the items on the board's agenda was the visual litter on the lakefront. She had suggested having less signage and moving it and the garbage bins closer to the street to clean up the view across the lakefront park. Ms. Gouzy said she would need to discuss moving their garbage bins with her board and to determine if it would impede their presence. Ms. Frederick said the board was trying to create a greener appearance. Ms. Clark said if moved, they would be closer to the public when they were coming and going. Ms. Frederick suggested coming up with a vision and working together.

Ms. Fargason asked about how they celebrate Earth Week. Ms. Gouzy said there were two puppet shows and the clean-up was the week before. There was also a puppet show the week before Halloween. Ms. Clark asked about the private recycling bins with the clothes. Ms. Kidd said that did not come under Keep Mandeville Beautiful and Mr. Endres was trying to make a contact.

Ms. Kidd asked if the Trailhead recycling bin would stay. Ms. Gouzy said there was no thought to move it. Mr. Discon asked what was the problem with the location. Ms. Kidd said it was frequently overflowing, and it was located at the entranceway onto the Trace. She had been asked why there was a bin inside the City limits since Mandeville had a recycling program. Ms. Kidd asked if there was a way to relocate it to a less visible location on the Gateway. Ms. Frederick asked for it to be picked up more often since it was always overflowing. Ms. Gouzy said the Dalwill location was picked up three times a week and the Girrod Street location was picked up twice a week. Ms. Frederick said recycling was a positive thing, but she was concerned about the Girrod Street bin being so full. There was a suggestion to have the bin moved to Pelican Park. Ms. Kidd said the program started as a small box in the parking lot across from the Fire Department and it was quickly learned there was a need for a larger bin. Ms. Kidd explained that there were frequent complaints about the overflow. It was suggested that Keep Mandeville Beautiful come up with an alternative location. Ms. Frederick reiterated that recycling was a good thing. Ms. Gouzy said they had also heard some of the same complaints, but Progressive Waste was picking it up for free. She agreed that the Girrod Street bin filled up faster since it was closer to areas of non-recycling and was only picked up twice a week.

Ms. Fargason asked Ms. Gouzy about moving the lakefront bins closer to the parking areas. Ms. Gouzy said it might be acceptable. She asked if the problem was about the dog mess. Ms. Fargason said it was about the amount of signage. Mr. Discon said one issue was in the morning the parked cars were leaving their trash by their cars and dogs liked the smell and were eating the junk. There had been previous discussions about not having garbage cans so it would not promote more trash. Ms. Kidd said the suggestion was not to move them all, but to consolidate some with the cigarette butts. It was discussed to have everyone walk the lakefront for suggested locations and come up with a recommendation. The recommendation would then be forwarded to the City Council. Ms. Clark said it would be nice to look across the lakefront and see green without a continuation of containers that address various issues making visual litter.

### **Discussion with Laurie Pennison about collaboration with the Mandeville Art Collaborative**

Ms. Pennison presented that the Mandeville Art Collaborative was formed as part of a grant through the Lt. Governor's office. The group had looked at the lakefront, Trailhead, the walking path, and Pelican Park. The first suggestion was to find a way to marry the east and west sides of Mandeville by coordinating businesses to cross over to other areas. They wanted to find a way to get people to the Nature Center and the Trailhead. The group had created a passport where the citizens could go to a business, get a stamp and win prizes. They learned from the experience that people were interested in knowing more about the community. Kids really liked it. The program ran from the summer through the fall. The next project being discussed was a public art project. When she heard that the board was interested in a similar project, she discussed it with Mr. Discon about not infringing on either Parks and Parkways or Keep Mandeville Beautiful projects. The organization had been in existence for about one year. Ms. Pennison said they had won an award for the project. If they moved forward with a public art project, they wanted to coordinate a master plan so there would not be any duplication. Ms.

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Fargason asked about the elimination of some signage and distractions on the lakefront. Ms. Pennison said she would look at the trash bins and could coordinate with Ms. Gouzy about making them more aesthetically pleasing. Ms. Kidd suggested creating murals on the lift stations. Ms. Frederick said it would indicate that we care. Ms. Pennison said she would provide a copy of their mission statement.

Ms. Clark suggested having Ms. Gleason be the clearing house for coordination. Ms. Pennison said even if you don't live in the city limits, Mandeville was still your community. Whether it was as small as having sailboats in the shop windows, it would bring cohesiveness to both sides of the city. Mr. Discon said he would meet with Ms. Pennison when the board moved forward on the public art and landscape projects under the Causeway Bridge on Monroe Street. Ms. Pennison said she had made many contacts that were willing to donate time. Ms. Fargason said the board had been blindsided by the poetry boxes. Ms. Pennison said that was an initiative from someone from Portland, Oregon. Ms. Clark said the board was protective of the lakefront. Ms. Pennison said she would bring the information to the Art Collaborate and could not take on the project without discussing it with the Parks and Parkways Commission.

The board thanked Ms. Gouzy and Ms. Pennison for meeting with the board. Ms. Fargason suggested meeting again in a few months. Ms. Pennison said she had a committee and would bring the projects to the board for discussion.

**Tree Giveaway Program**

The board decided on January 24<sup>th</sup> for the tree giveaway and Ms. Spranley would check with Ms. Beakley about the date. It was also suggested having a representative from the LSU Ag Center speak about trees.

**Highway 190/Highway 22**

Mr. Discon requested that the board be included on landscaping ideas for Highway 22. He wanted the fence to come down. Ms. Kidd said Allison Shilling with DOTD had said the fence must remain. There had been another discussion with where the City had been told it could be removed so this was conflicting information. Mr. Discon said the fence should be the board's biggest push. He suggested planting clumping bamboo. Ms. Clark suggested susanquas and oleanders instead of bamboo. Ms. Kidd said the board could make suggestions, but it would be up to DOTD what could be planted. Mr. Discon was frustrated with the projects being held up. He requested input on the final project.

Ms. Clark moved that someone from the board be allowed to meet for input on landscape solutions for the Highway 22 project. The board had learned on the Highway 190 project about curbing and allowable landscaping. The motion was seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

**Spring Education**

There was a discussion to have someone speak for a short time before the caladium bulb sale. Dana Brown was suggested to be the speaker.

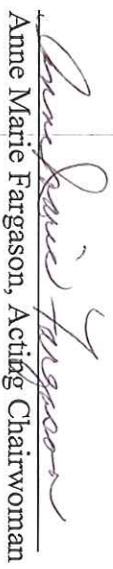
**Lakefront Map**

The board was provided maps to mark up with suggested locations of the garbage bins. Ms. Clark suggested the board walk the area with the maps and think about how to clean it up, and where to locate collection sites. They should not be moved to every parking lot, but to move some bins off the walkway. Ms. Clark

suggested sharing emails, set up a time to meet to walk the area, and discuss possibilities.

Ms. Clark moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Marshal and was unanimously approved.

  
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Lori Spranley, Secretary

  
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Anne Marie Fargason, Acting Chairwoman