

Parks and Parkways Commission February 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Karin Crosby and the secretary called the roll.

Present: Karin Crosby, Robert Santopadre, Lee Frederick, Dodie Marshall, and Nancy Clark

Absent: Scott Discon and Anne Marie Fargason

Also Present: Louise K Kidd, Planning Director and Mayor Donald Villere

Minutes

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of January 5, 2015, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

This agenda item was deferred until the next meeting for the whole board to be in attendance.

Tree Giveaway Follow Up

It was discussed that there were 800 trees and all but a dozen sawtooth oaks were given away to the community. It was agreed that the flowering trees always went the fastest. The board agreed interesting trees were ordered, there was a good turnout, and were glad to be reforesting the understory trees. It was suggested to order wax myrtles if they were available.

Spring Education

It was discussed and decided to have the caladium bulb sale and spring education program take place at the same time. Jan Mistich had spoken to the board about the rain garden and had also spoken in January to the Master Gardeners. The board had an interest in establishing more rain gardens in the area. It was also decided to contact Dana Brown, Landscape Architect in New Orleans, who made presentations on Living with Water. Ms. Brown had been a member of the Critical and Sensitive Committee for the CLURO amendments and said she was interested in speaking for the board. It was requested to check the Trailhead calendar for April 18th and send out an email. It was also decided to order 2 boxes of the Red Flash, one box of the Aaron and one box of the Carolyn Wharton. The speakers would be asked to speak for 30 minutes each. Since Ms. Mistich would speak on rain gardens, it was requested to have Ms. Brown speak on any other topic. Ms. Kidd said she would contact Ms. Brown and suggested keeping water on site and techniques to do it as a topic.

Lakefront Map

Ms. Clark said the board had previously discussed reviewing the manmade structures on the lakefront. She had mapped the lakefront and commented that it was amazing how many garbage bins were located on the lakefront. The positions were often on the lake side of the walkway and she asked the board if they were in agreement to request moving them closer to the parking bays off the sidewalk. The majority of the signs were located on the lake side of the road. Mayor Villere said he would review the signage and decide what was useful and would remove signs where possible. The No Parking with the time period should be located more in front of the residential areas. Some of the other signs should be concentrated in the commercial areas. It was discussed that the writing was too small on the green signs. Ms. Clark said there were 4 or 6 big green signs. She was concerned that looking down Girod Street, which was the most prominent street to Mandeville's most beautiful asset, there was a sign blocking the view of the lake.

Ms. Crosby suggested wooden signs might be more aesthetically pleasing and blend in more. Ms. Kidd suggested they be park like signs. Ms. Clark said there were four black multi-use garbage cans by the harbor. Mayor Villere said the City had tried to recast some of the metal garbage cans and they fell apart. At that time, the City decided to use the plastic cans and include a recycle component. He said for the most part, people did use them. Ms. Clark said there was an overflow of the trash cans every good weather weekend. She also noticed that there was no enforcement about picnicking. Mayor Villere said there was enforcement, but it was difficult to stop walkers with water or some type of drink. If there were no containers, the debris would be on the ground. Ms. Clark suggested as an experiment to place a few garbage cans next to the parking bays. Mayor Villere was concerned there would be more trash on the edge of the seawall if the City moved the garbage cans. Mayor Villere said when the City looked at the original placements; Susan Russell met with Glenn Craddock to ask in what areas the trash was collecting and where the trash bins should be placed. The locations were determined that around Carroll and Lafitte Streets and at the playgrounds there was a real concentration. Ms. Clark said the Lafayette Street path and the lake side of the path had a garbage can and she felt that was an inappropriate place. Ms. Crosby said there was dog training and ball teams that used that area. The only parking bay was on the east side of the oak grove to the park. The West end playground would also have trash. Ms. Clark said there was a trash can next to the fence and she felt it was a smart location.

Ms. Crosby asked if it would be easier picking up the trash if the cans were closer to parking. Mayor Villere said the workers walked the entire lakefront so it did not matter. The garbage cans had been placed where most of the trash accumulated. Ms. Kidd suggested she and Ms. Clark walk the lakefront one morning. Ms. Crosby suggested doing it on a Monday morning. Mayor Villere agreed to look at park like signs instead of metal, but he must review the messages. Ms. Kidd would speak with Chief Richard about what was required to be posted for enforcement. Ms. Frederick suggested making it positive messages. Ms. Clark said clustering signage had a better impact.

Mayor Villere asked about removing some of the metal benches. The board felt the metal benches were falling apart and should be moved to the Kierr Garden. Ms. Frederick said she would like them used for Weldon Park. She had talked to Chris Lange about relocating some of the benches as they were replaced. Mayor Villere said he would look into the possibility of relocating some of the benches. He wanted to rejuvenate the area by Weldon Park. Ms. Frederick said it was a park like setting. Ms. Clark said the benches should be together to encourage groups. Mayor Villere said he was open to suggested areas. Ms. Crosby suggested by the well. Mayor Villere said there was a moratorium on the placement of any memorials. Ms. Crosby said the swings had plaques. Mayor Villere said those were placed only for Mandeville residents.

Highway 190

Ms. Kidd updated the board that St. Tammany Parish was still willing to participate in a share by doing the design work; however, the designer was moved into another department and he was loaded up with work. That meant that it would take a longer time as per Wensel Conroy. There was a discussion that the timeline would be around early summer. Mayor Villere suggested the board develop a scope of work for a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and include a date in the timeline.

Eagle Scout Project

Mayor Villere said he had been asked by an Eagle Scout to do a project and he suggested one of the gardens on the east side under the Causeway. If the board was not ready to work in this area, then he suggested a project at the Kierr Garden. Ms. Frederick suggested working in an area in the front of Weldon Park. She said there was a circle garden in the front of the subdivision by the big sign. There was a tree in the garden, but she did not know what species. Ms. Crosby suggested planting caladiums or daylilies.

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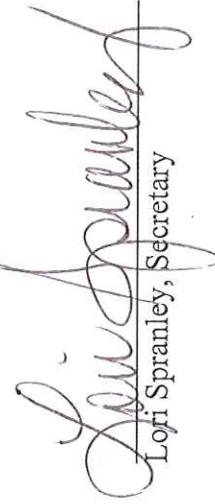
Mayor Villere asked the board what project should be assigned to the Eagle Scout and he would provide the labor for the project. The requirement of the Eagle Scout was to lead the project and implement something that would be long lasting for the community. Ms. Clark suggested if pads were installed, he could install the benches. Mr. Santopadre suggested refurbishing the benches. Ms. Frederick said it was she and one other lady take on the task of the subdivision landscaping. Mayor Villere said there could be some good benches that could be refurbished. The board had decided not to start any of the Causeway garden projects until after the underside of the bridge was cleaned.

Ms. Clark suggested liriopo plants. Mayor Villere said the board had developed a formula of planting on Monroe Street that should be continued.

It was decided that Ms. Frederick would work with the Eagle Scout. The board clarified that the project would be to plant the circle garden by subdivision sign and refurbish and install the benches. Ms. Frederick said there would be a need for soil and to have the ground loosened for planting. Ms. Crosby said she would put together a plant list.

Ms. Clark asked to discuss the recycle bin at the fire house on Girod Street. Ms. Kidd said she had sent pictures to Megan Gouzy for her to present to her board at their meeting. Pelican Park had offered to take the recycle bin at the park. Ms. Kidd would check with Kathy Foley. Ms. Clark said the City had a recycle program and the people using the recycle bin were traveling to an inconvenient area. Ms. Crosby said being located next to the Trailhead looked bad and was often overflowing. Ms. Frederick and Ms. Marshall said they had no objection to the location. It was agreed by the board that the Trailhead location needed to be picked up an additional day per week. Mayor Villere said he would discuss another day of pick up. The question was what happened on the weekend. Ms. Crosby suggested adding a recycle bin at Pelican Park might be helpful. It was suggested that people coming to the Trailhead could be bringing their recycling. Ms. Frederick felt it was a good think to show the people that the City cared, but the bin must be maintained and not be seen as overflowing.

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


Lori Spranley, Secretary


Karin Lorenz Crosby, Chairwoman

