

**Parks and Parkways Commission
Public Hearing
July 6, 2015**

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

Present: Karin Crosby, Scott Discon, Robert Santopadre, Anne Marie Fargason, Lee Frederick, Dodie Marshall, and Nancy Clark

Absent: None

Also Present: Louise K Kidd, Planning Director; Mayor Donald Villere; Council Members Ernest Burguiere, Clay Madden, Rick Danielson, Carla Buchholz, and David Ellis, and Planning and Zoning Commission Member Ren Clark

Ms. Clark moved to waive the reading the minutes and defer adoption until the next meeting, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Recommendation to the City Council regarding Ordinance 15-12, changes to Special Event Ordinance

Ms. Crosby stated the Parks and Parkways Commission was comprised of members of the public that were arborists, ornamental horticulturist, landscape architects, master gardeners and designers and those with a technical background in a related field. At least three members of the board shall have such a professional background, one to be appointed by the Mayor and two appointed by the City Council. The commission members have met these requirements.

The powers and duties of the commission were to study the urban forest including problems and opportunities involving the city tree population, determine tree related needs of the community, compose and annually review the Community Tree Plan and seek ways to implement needed work by formulating and adopting an Annual Work Plan and making recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

Part of that is the Community Tree Plan. The Community Tree Plan may include, but not be limited to the following:

- (1) The mission and goals of the Tree Board,
- (2) An inventory of tree resources,
- (3) Policies regarding the preservation, planting and maintenance of public trees,
- (4) The identification of specific sites for public tree preservation,
- (5) Planting and open space projects and the strategy and recommendations for achieving the identified goals.
- (6) Master Tree Plan and Tree Management Plan for the City. The Master Tree Plan may include a map of public trees inventoried and tree species proposed to be planted on public streets and lands; plans for identified tree preservation, planting and open space projects; the identification of appropriate tree species for public tree planting projects and standard planting specifications.
- (7) The Tree Management Plan may include standard tree maintenance specifications and establish policies and recommendations for annual tree maintenance programs, including associated costs for maintenance work.
- (8) On public seminars and other educational programs

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All work product shall be submitted by the Parks and Parkways Commission to the requesting party for review and approval prior to being presented to any Board, Commission, private, non-profit or governmental agencies for approval.

Where applicable, all initiatives, including the Community Tree Plan and Tree Management Plan, shall be presented to the Planning Commission to become a part of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan upon acceptance and approval of the Planning Commission.

To make recommendations to the City Planning Commission on landscaping and related provisions in the Comprehensive Land Use Plan upon request of the Planning Commission.

Regarding the preservation, planting, maintenance and removal of trees or limbs on public lands in the City and recommend streetscape/landscape designs illustrating the type and kind of trees and other vegetation to be planted on public lands.

Ms. Crosby said the City Council requested the board discuss proposed Ordinance 15-12 to protect the urban forest. Ms. Crosby presented Dr. Malcolm Guidry, the City's Arborist, who was attending as a guest and to answer any questions for specific items. She said lateral roots on a tree base including fine roots that absorb nutrients and moisture extends up to 1/3 farther than the distance from the trunk to the drip line and the outermost foliage from the crown. The primary support of mature tree and could grow up to 90' from the trunk of a large tree. On oak trees, there were primarily more lateral roots. Soil compaction occurred when small pockets in the soil were shelters for air and water. When the particles of the soil were mashed together, compaction reduced the movement of air and water into the ground. Live oak roots needs oxygen as well as water. Live oaks can tolerate some compaction with heavy clays and soils, compaction was still a concern. Parking under the oaks and heavy foot traffic could cause compaction of the soil. The information was from the North Carolina University website.

Ms. Crosby further stated that the board would like to request an amendment to the ordinance regarding the protection of trees, especially along the lakeshore. Some of the verbiage was taken from the landscape ordinances from Fairhope, Savannah, Charleston, and the Tulane University Policies and Procedures for their urban forest. Additional definitions included the critical root zone allowing an extension of the drip line to 1.5 times the distance from the trunk past the canopy. This would allow protection to the live oak trees, make sure the trees were not impacted with vehicular and heavy foot traffic. LSU mulched around the trees and asked the students not to walk on areas that were mulched to prevent compaction. Mandeville may need to more regularly mulch the trees.

Ms. Clark said the CLURO included taking some protections in construction zones and should consider extending those protections to the public areas of heavy usage. Everyday use around the trees was fine, but with many people in large events there should be a clear ordinance for the protection of the trees under those circumstances. The board would discuss how to use the lakefront in a way to also protect it. Not only how to have events that we enjoy, but to preserve the irreplaceable trees.

Tracey Elsensohn asked if there were festivals for a total of 10 days per year, how would that harm a live oak tree. Fontainebleau State Park had 2,500 visitors per day over a weekend and the trees were fine. There were thousands of people walking under the trees in City Park in New Orleans. Dr. Guidry provided an analogy of a large bag of popcorn and if an elephant sat on it one time all the space was gone. There was much research especially with the skidders in logging. One pass compacted the soil. To remediate it would take 25 years for 1". Ms. Elsensohn

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asked how much did it weigh. Dr. Guidry said comparing the smallest person in the room with heels would put more pounds of pressure per square inch than the heaviest person. A bulldozer had wide tracks and made less damage. Ms. Clark said when talking about Fontainebleau State Park, City Park and Audubon Parks heavy usage each day, it was in a larger area. When there was a festival of 500 people under our tree canopy area at the end of Lafayette Street that was a big concentration of people, but she agreed with Dr. Guidry that damage occurs. The question the board had to answer was if any damage was tolerable to the irreplaceable trees. Dr. Guidry said it was tolerable, but there was an easy solution. The LSU trees were in decline and he started an ambitious mulching program. The significant trees could be fenced off during activities. To him that would be a practical approach. Many people won't like it, but the City must face reality. Foot traffic also could kill trees. Mayor Villere said people could not be able to enjoy the shade. Dr. Guidry said for special events, people were there for the event and not the trees. Ms. Elsensohn disagreed and said the purpose was to enjoy the shade. There were less people attending the Mandeville Family Reunion on that one day than all year long. Dr. Guidry said another solution was to properly mulch under the trees and everyone could walk under the trees. It was asked why the Mandeville Family Reunion put tents under the tree canopies.

Council Member Carla Buchholz asked if the live oaks in the oak grove were in good health. Dr. Guidry said they were in good health.

Ren Clark, 420 Carroll Street, said one of the principle focuses of research right now was compaction. One pass through one cotton field in one season showed compaction to otherwise agricultural soil. We bring in too much non-agricultural soils. There was sandy, silky, and clay materials being a small portion of it. There was millions of dollars being spent on compaction. Ms. Clark suggested the board should discuss any amendments and then take statements from the public. She suggested developing an ordinance under the Special Event umbrella where events held on public areas that had a tree identified as a heritage tree received special protection during the event. She said Ms. Crosby had researched going out 20' from the end of the canopy for protection and fence it off. The area could be enjoyed but the area would not be destroyed under the tree. She understood the lakefront was used all year long. But, a wedding with 30 people would be for 30 minutes or an hour and they were gone. But an event that took many hours was a lot of wear and tear on irreplaceable trees. Mr. Santopadre said damage to a tree could take years to show up. Ms. Clark moved to discuss an amendment that allowed these areas to be used for special events but protect the area. Dr. Guidry said mulching would make it doable for the entire extent of the tree. Mr. Santopadre said if mulched, he would not walk in the mulch. It could be a good tradeoff. Ms. Frederick said it would discourage foot traffic. Mr. Santopadre said it would provide a cushion and prevent compaction. Ms. Elsensohn asked if there could be picnicking on the mulch and Dr. Guidry answered yes.

Mayor Villere said it was a practice every fall to mulch with the KMB clean-up which was the big clean up. The City could make a stronger effort to mulch the trees, especially the big ones. It would help define an area to stay out of and if there was a drift from a picnic into the area, it would not cause as much compaction. Ms. Clark said the oaks in the B-3 area needed the mulch with the heavy foot traffic.

Ms. Marshall was all for protecting the trees, but asked when do we begin to enjoy the lakefront again. She did not agree with the ordinance. She disagreed with restricting the area for special events. The mulching would be great. On a sunny weekend, there were hundreds of people. With ten events, the citizens had gotten to the point that the lakefront was too protected and could not enjoy it. Mayor Villere said he had spoken with Guy Stacy, Chairman of the Special Events Committee, and

suggested adding more teeth to the ordinance and would incorporate the tree protection. The process would be a recommendation, the City Council would introduce an ordinance, have other discussion and then adoption. The City had heard the folks with needing greater penalties, removal, clean-up, and no driving across the lakefront area. One of the things discussed was enforcement being an issue because it was off official work hours. It there was above "xx" people there would be a requirement to have a police detail, who was provided a copy of the application with contact information and would be able to cite people if necessary and notify the organizer when there was unacceptable events. There were five large events now and he thought that was plenty of events. There were many inconveniences with the events, some more than others for the residents.

Ms. Frederick said the lakefront was a nice place to enjoy and was smaller than City Park, but common sense said to protect it so we could continue to enjoy it. Everyone should be mindful and protect what was precious to everyone. Mayor Villere agreed.

Hilda Fair, West Beach Parkway resident, said there was some abuse. She had lived in Mandeville for 42 years. Her children when young could not climb on the trees. There were limits to enjoy the lakefront. She did not agree with camping out and hammocks in the trees.

Rick Danielson, Council Member and author of the ordinance, said to take a step back, the intent was not in response to any one event or a multitude of events. The Council realized there were more events coming each year and everyone talked about how the lakefront was for everyone and it was. There had been much discussion about the lakefront and referencing Marigny's Master Plan. In the Comprehensive Plan, Goal 6, To establish and maintain accessible recreational amenities serving all residents. Policy 6.2, Maintain and enhance lakefront as a signature of the City. Retain open access to the lakefront for residents and visitors in accordance with Marigny's mandate. Designate appropriate areas of the lakefront for picnicking and special events. Marigny's mandate stated that the space designated between the lake and Lake Street will always remain free and for common use. That no individual nor any corporation shall raise any edifice whatsoever nor change its destination that the banks of the lake facing that space will also remain forever free and for common usage.

Mr. Danielson continued by citing Goal #10, To retain the Lakeshore as a community focus while preserving the integrity of abutting residential neighborhoods Policy 10.1. Pursuant to Marigny's vision, the area south of Lakeshore Drive should be retained as open space for passive recreation and special occasion uses, such as weddings and festivals in designated areas.

The point of the ordinance was to develop a policy that was in line with what we all want. He believed that everyone wanted to have a lakefront to enjoy it forever. Not just the people that lived there, but the people that worked there, people that have businesses there, people that visit there, the people that live near and around, and those that don't live near Mandeville that come in all of the time. There were several thousand people throughout the July 4th day. That was happening every day and he hoped it was happening 100 years from now. But, we need to take steps to protect it now. The ordinance was a policy to protect it. It was a policy to establish designated areas for these events and not take special events away. It was to provide free and open usage for everyone. Businesses would know what was going on, there would be access to parking and visiting businesses, and allow for emergency vehicles. It was a policy to let everyone know what the game plan was and the rules to protect the lakefront. It would make sure it was for everyone.

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Ms. Crosby spoke with Mr. Stacy, and in her research she pulled out the City of Fort Collins requirements having multiple parks. She had visited there and felt it was a good community that had good stewardship toward the land and the events held throughout the year. A majority of their guidelines state to use a specific area, it could only be used "xx" amount of times in the year. The City had the Trailhead, the lakefront, Sunset Point, City Hall Park, and Neighborwoods. It did not always have to be at the lakefront. The Trailhead was built for events like this. She suggested there were other guidelines to be used.

Ms. Crosby also said Fairhope, Alabama had a heritage tree that was defined as a living tree, understory or overstory, with a stem diameter over 20". Such diameter will be measured at 4.5' above the ground in cases of a single stemmed tree or at the sum of tree diameters at 4.5' above ground level for multi-stemmed trees. These trees were protected under their guidelines and pruned to make sure the trees stayed intact. There were additional regulations that barricades would not harm the trees, and post holes were adjusted to protect the tree roots. They were saying they did not want damage to their tree roots. The City of Savannah had a Tree and Park Commission who had the critical root zone, which was defined as a minimum area surrounding a tree that was considered essential to support the viability of the tree equal to the radius of one foot per inch of the trunk diameter at the dbh. An exceptional tree was any tree designated to have historic interest, high aesthetic value and unique character because of the species type, age or size. The regulations also addressed tree protection requirements being no vehicles shall be parked, constructed, or materials stored or substances disposed of or placed within any of the tree protection zone during clearing of any project. The board could request that this be added to special events. Tulane University had a tree policy and procedure with specific guidelines with construction around tree zones, but stakes with tents could damage the roots that were not seen. Instead of using stakes, 50 pound weights could be used. But, that could also cause compaction.

Tracy Elsensohn, Mandeville Family Reunion, said the issue with the ordinance change was if you designate a certain spot for a special event then the lakefront was not open and free for the common good of all the people. Ms. Clark said that was not the purview of the tree board. Ms. Elsensohn said they want to be under the trees. If the City mulched all of the underside of the trees, they could not use it. It was 10' x 10' pop up tents that people were having under the trees. Ms. Crosby asked if there was a tent, why were the people under a tree if the tent was providing shade? Ms. Elsensohn said it was just some people. She also asked how many trees were close to the road with the canopy over the road and that street was paved. The tree at the Rohrbough house had a side wall built against it. Mr. Discon said the board was looking to the future and to make a recommendation to enjoy the trees for the future. The board was not saying events could not happen but there should be certain restrictions placed on the trees. If the party fit within the regulations, then they should go for it. But, he thought she was saying the City should not mulch trees because of the tents. The board would make a recommendation. If other communities have it, why not us. The problem was we were not a levee and trucks should not be on the lakefront. They were not taking away the event. It sounded like they wanted their event at the expense of the trees. Ms. Elsensohn disagreed, their group would do whatever was necessary to help the trees and they solved the problem of driving on the lakefront for their event. They were talking about future events and future generations. Her generation grew up playing on the trees, and that was what they wanted to continue doing.

Maria Radosta, Special Events Committee member, said there were other things also being addressed. The trees were a different issue. The ordinance was designating certain areas where events should be located. The issues should be

addressed no matter where the events were located. Ms. Crosby and Ms. Clark were in agreement. Councilman David Ellis said it was a broader process. The main concern was the events were being designated to 1/3 of the lakefront, and the trees were one aspect.

Ambrose Amedee said it was difficult to understand hearing that someone could not go under the tree canopy and drive in small metal tent stakes. He also walked on the lakefront and saw swings on slabs under the trees. Weren't they more detrimental than the small tents and the curbs on Lakeshore Drive with tree roots? There was a fence at the end of West Beach in the tree roots. Ms. Clark said there were problems and that was why they met monthly. Mr. Amedee said the people were being told they could not do it, but the City was doing it.

Councilman Ernest Burguières said his analogy was smoking cigarettes that it may take 50 years to kill you, but it will kill you. He had litigated an oak tree death and it took 2-3 years to die with too much dirt and compaction. This was a wakeup call for the board. The LPO location could handle it, but everyone wants to be under the oak grove and it will be gone if everyone went under the trees. The board was being asked to look at areas with all day usage because it was delicate. Since this area must tolerate hurricanes and weather events, why have the trees continue to have to tolerate being under them. He asked the board to consider this.

Cleve Fair said he heard from Dr. Guidry, who was the City professional, about mulching importance. That came under the guise of protection. He asked why the City would not be proactive with the mulch installation. Ms. Clark said the City had that program for years. This last year was missed. Each year the City did not get every tree. It was not just the lakefront trees, which was the most obvious, but there were many public trees on Marigny Avenue, Pottery Hill, and behind City Hall. It should be an annual priority. That was a problem that had been discussed. The City was mulching the big trees, but we were missing the smaller oaks and they need the same level of protection. Ms. Clark said the mulch needed to expand to the canopy edge.

Mayor Villere said the City needed the board's help in priority. Some trees need mulching every year, some every other year, and maybe the City needed to do some immediately outside of weather threats. Ms. Clark said the Department of Public Works did the mulching for years. Ms. Scott said there was still an annual mulching program. Ms. Clark said she agreed with Mr. Fair that the lakefront trees had not been mulched in a few years. Mayor Villere said last year there was a new director with Keep Mandeville Beautiful. The mulch program was organized with the volunteers for the Citywide cleanup. Ms. Scott said she would review having money in the budget. Mr. Discon said even the mulch did not meet Dr. Guidry's standards of requirements. Ms. Crosby suggested adding a Critical Root Zone definition to the CLURO deemed sizable under the Tree Inventory for an additional buffer for mulching. Mayor Villere said if we could get to the canopy that would be a good first start. Dr. Guidry said it was loose and then settled. The City could use fresh green mulch, at least to 4" so it would settle to 2". By the second year it would be already disintegrated. The revelation that nature mulched and recycled for thousands of years, and within the last 20 years it was discovered to mulch under urban trees to create forest environment. Mr. Santopadre said we were learning about what the trees can tolerate and why do things that will hurt them in the future. Dr. Guidry said the proper mulching would satisfy everyone's needs. Daily foot traffic exceeded a special event. It was an ongoing problem so if we protect the trees, the solution was mulching. The general use would then allow almost everything. Ms. Frederick asked how far away from the trunk should the mulch be placed. Dr. Guidry said it should not be up to the trunk, but should be spread under the entire canopy.

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Bev Tolben, 444 Coffee Street, asked who would be responsible for overseeing this, what will it cost, and where will the money come from. Mayor Villere said Ms. Gleason, our previous Landscape Inspector, had organized the mulching with the Department of Public Works doing the work. Ms. Clark said cut trees were mulched and used. Mayor Villere gave an example that the Dew Drop trees were mulched yearly with concert foot traffic. The City would be responsible for the mulching. The money would be budgeted by the City Council.

Ms. Crosby said earlier discussions about the tents was about industrial tents. Mayor Villere suggested including no closer than "xx" feet from the trees at the outer canopy. Mr. Amedee said it would restrict the use and not the location. Ms. Crosby said an additional 20' of the outer canopy for a tree protection zone. The other issue that was of concern was the vehicular traffic, being a beer truck or antique fire truck. She suggested asking the event coordinators to be located as close to the street as possible for trucks not to be on the lakefront but on the side of the road. From that point, the tents would be placed along the roadway, the port a lets would be located on a hard surface, and then the public could be seated to the seawall. She would also request the stages to face the water for the ambient noise and not faced toward the residents.

Linda Minors, Mandeville resident, said they love the lakefront and was on it daily. On the east end of the lakefront there was some storm damage two months ago, and the tops of the oak trees had been blown out. Some limbs were 6-8" that were still hanging.

Katie Reynolds, Lakeshore Drive resident, asked how the temporary poles impacted the trees. Ms. Clark said if it was under a tree, there would be damage. Ms. Reynolds asked why the pole remained so long. Mayor Villere said they were in place for about six weeks. David Pons, Lakeshore Drive resident, said the temporary pole for the Mandeville Family Reunion was put in May 1st, the City approved it on May 5th and the event was May 24th. The pole was not taken down until June 11th. Mr. Discon said it was in the middle of the grove. He asked why it was put it in the middle of the beautiful area of the lakefront. The July 4th event pole was up for a week. Mayor Villere said it took time for the installation, inspection and for Cleco to energize the pole. Ms. Crosby said there were temporary posts that were added by the harbor area and asked if there was one planned for the gazebo. Mayor Villere said no plans for anything permanent at the gazebo. There was a permanent pole at the harbor because that was where most of the events occurred. The event could hook up to it and pay Cleco for the usage. Ms. Clark said that was a location identified in the ordinance, and she agreed that was a good event location. Mr. Discon said the City should regulate how the pole would be installed and not by the trees. Ms. Clark said the Planning and Zoning Commission should help with a CLURO amendment to extend some tree protection from construction zones into the public areas.

Councilwoman Carla Buchholz asked if there was something specific to present to the Special Event Committee. Ms. Clark said it was general discussion at this meeting and things need to occur outside of tree canopies. As a tree board, the members must address protecting the trees. Ms. Buchholz clarified that the board would be formulating a plan and submitting it to the City Council. Ms. Crosby asked to consider CLURO amendments as well. Ms. Scott reiterated that the recommendation would be made to the City Council.

Kurt Frosch, Mandeville Family Reunion, said his family had been in Mandeville for 185 years. Their group was a large backing and he spoke for them. The power pole was strategically placed in the same location as last year. He said with a temporary pole you cannot rely on the 3' of the auger. There was a need for

bracing, so that was why you would see the ugly wood supports. He had met with Ms. Gleason to determine the location. Cleco cannot jump further than 175' from the power source on the pole to the temporary pole. Mr. Discon said then maybe that was not the best location for the event. He asked again why put the pole in the most picturesque site. Mr. Frosch said if they could take the sound and move it 300' further from the street as far away by the lake and facing it to the street, they thought it would better for the lakefront residents as not being as loud. With large sound equipment, it could not be brought in on a flatbed golf cart. They designated a person to walk the trucks away from the tree roots around in the grass into an area lined up with the stage and backed it out the same way. They were thankful it was dry. The power pole was 10' north of the concrete sidewalk at the water's edge and Cleco instructed them to move it. They moved it to within 1' of the old hole. If the hole did not cause any damage to the tree, why not identify this location to be used annually. Ms. Crosby said she would like to make sure it was sited in the proper location and not under a tree canopy. Ms. Clark said this was moot because this was not a location in the ordinance. Mr. Frosch said the ordinance was not in place, and they were trying to establish what they need to do. He asked Ms. Clark why she made that statement and she answered that she thought the ordinance made a great deal of sense. Mr. Frosch said all the subterfuge had nothing to do with this. This was a personal vendetta with certain lakefront residents because parking had not even been addressed. Tractors and bush hogs were used to cut the grass. It was only recently that the City had acquired smaller turning mowers. How many hurricanes and thunderstorms have they survived? Ms. Frederick said the board was not trying to add to the stress. She said there was no vendetta and she took offense to the statement. The board was not lakefront people. Ms. Clark felt Mr. Danielson had done a great deal of research and he saw a long view to make sure the areas were as protected as possible. That was her personal point of view. The board could only discuss ways to protect the trees. It was all of the public trees and the board's responsibility for the future.

Mr. Frosch said Ms. Crosby talked about mulching outside of the tree canopy and he felt 20' was too far. He asked how a 3/16" piece of wire was a problem with the roots to support a 10' x 10' tent under the canopy of the tree. He wanted a cover over his food under the trees. No one had addressed if the mulch would be approved with dyes and chemicals. Who would oversee it and be responsible when we lose one of the trees. Mr. Discon said there would not be any chemical and no dyes. Ms. Crosby said the mulch was from cut trees and branches being chipped. Ms. Scott said there were storage areas and the City often purchased mulch that was appropriate for trees. Ms. Crosby said she was referencing tents that were 20' x 40' tents with the large stakes. Mr. Frosch said the tents were in the tree location because they want to have food vendors, snowballs and they were in the sun. If there was a problem, they would go vehicle by vehicle asking them to be removed. Notes post-event were made and there would be no parking by the stage. They also wanted to assure no parking on both sides of the street on the side streets. The streets to be included were Jefferson, Wilkinson and Lafayette Streets. They put on an event that was community and family oriented. They left the area pristine. Ms. Frederick said she appreciated the organization being conscientious and wanted to work together and not stop anyone from having an event. Ms. Elsensohn said the ordinance was trying to prevent them from having any event west of Coffee Street. Ms. Frederick said the ordinance designated areas. Mr. Frosch said by making this a location issue and restrictions, that would shut down the picnic. Ms. Clark asked how many years there and Mr. Frosch said there were four reunions and this location twice. The Yacht Club and Coffee Street was too hot of a location. People were receptive to the live oak shaded area.

Mr. Santopadre appreciated the input, but he was worried that one side was not listening to the other side. The board was trying to educate the public about trees and protection. The location was up to the City. They liked the shade and did

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not want it to go away. Mr. Frosch said the west end of the lakefront was being taken away and they were being told that was not the jurisdiction of the board. Ms. Clark said the tree protection was what the City Council asked the board to review throughout the City. Ms. Elsensohn said by placing restrictions on the trees was restricting their event. Ms. Crosby said their recommendation was for the entire City.

David Pons, lakefront resident, said there were many emails and Facebook posts saying the lakefront residents do not own the lakefront. He did not know of one resident saying that. It was not the residents who put up barricades and denied access to the public. It was to keep people from parking on the street and not just the grass. The temporary pole should have been removed before it was. He did not know of anyone living on Lakeshore Drive that did not feel the lakefront should be open to all people. When there were events with a barrier, it was a psychological turn off and residents did not want to attend. The language on Facebook was inappropriate. The board needed to make a recommendation and find common ground. He understood the event loved the oak trees and he did as well. He wanted the shack back, but he doubted that would happen. Ms. Clark said the board was just trees and would make a recommendation applying to all of the trees. Mr. Discon said the City Council may not take their recommendations.

Katie Reynolds said she moved to Mandeville from a concrete jungle and the lakefront was gorgeous. Everyone loved to look at beautiful things. She provided historical information that Louisiana grew at 2.5 times the national area last year with St. Tammany being the fastest growing area. Mandeville had the largest amount of housing starts in St. Tammany Parish. The last time was when Brown and Root was building the Causeway with the PreStressed site. This was a crown jewel of an area. Change was inevitable and it must be protected. The area needed the leadership to take actions now. We need to preserve the area and stop making mistakes.

Ms. Buchholz reiterated for clarification that if the mulching plan was installed as suggested by Dr. Guidry that would protect the trees, including walking and small tents. Dr. Guidry was in agreement.

Mayor Villere thanked everyone for the public input and said the issue went beyond trees and working with whatever special event was asking for approval. The City can get more aggressive with a mulching program. It should be after hurricane season, but if there were any areas needing help now to please let him know. Between the Special Events and Parks and Parkway's recommendation to the City Council we could move forward with special events. It could strengthen the existing ordinance and allow everyone to enjoy the area. It may not be in the same way need since we need to make some changes to preserve the trees. He did not like any vehicles on the lakefront. Sometimes that was the only way to get the materials to a spot. Ms. Clark said everyone should consider what the spots would be for the stages, food, and barbecuing. Mayor Villere said the stage for LPO and July 4th of July was placed in an elongated position and not facing the residences.

Mr. Danielson said nothing was a waste of time. A month or so ago when he recommended to defer the ordinance for input and comments, it was for this purpose. This will get to a final solution. He appreciated the Family Reunion and he usually attended. They were just one good event and not everyone was a good steward. The point of the policy was to protect and not prevent. There should be a workable solution to protect everything we love to do in the right areas and everyone would know the rules and there would be no confusion. Mr. Ellis said everyone was in agreement to protect the trees, but the issue with others was the location. He asked about a short summary of the process and why the other 2/3rds

of the lakefront could not be used. Mr. Danielson said there were four areas, the Special Event Committee would work with the organization to determine best location based on the structure of the event. Ms. Elsensohn said they did not want the kids playing in front of Donz Bar, but playing under the trees and swimming in the lake. Mr. Danielson understood not wanting to be in front of Donz and some people want the beach, which was the harbor. It did not mean the event had to be at the harbor, but it was an option. Ms. Elsensohn said the harbor and Coffee Street was too hot and she wanted her grandchildren to be able to have events all over the lakefront. By changing the ordinance, it would prevent any type of event on the west side of the lakefront.

Judy Amedee asked in the ordinance that they could not use the west end of the lakefront for any special event. Mr. Danielson said any event west of Carroll Street was prohibited. Ms. Amedee said that was not going to work.

Mr. Clark said Marigny said common usage not special usage. Everyone should guard against a sense of entitlement, residential or corporate. He was told by the Mandeville Police Department that he could not fish where he always fished because it was barricaded because of the Seafood Festival. That was not what Marigny ever intended. He did not know what he meant, but he knew what Marigny said.

Ms. Crosby moved to defer any decisions until the board met with Dr. Guidry to discuss the recommendation and implementation of the mulching program for all parks for the preservation of the trees and a plan implemented regularly, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Frosch asked to have a small team of arborist have input into the recommendation. Ms. Crosby and Ms. Clark said the board was the City team with board members having certifications.

Grant application

Ms. Spranley presented a copy of the application to date and requested input from the board. The line for collaborators would be the City of Mandeville. Ms. Scott had the mission statement that could be added to the application. It was decided to forward the application to the board members who would return input for compilation prior to the July 31st deadline.

Three Year Work Program

Ms. Scott said the CLURO stated the commission would have a special work program. The budget items had been sent to the City Council and it could be modified. The intent was to identify the powers and duties and add items to be addressed by priority.

Update master tree plan – Ms. Crosby asked about this, and with the earlier discussion it would be helpful to look at the existing tree plan and delineate areas to focus on for protection.

Ms. Clark said there were action plans. The giveaway was mostly administrative, but it was a goal of the commission to educate the youth and the public. Ms. Crosby asked would that be Ms. Gleason's project for the cypress trees giveaway for the school on West Causeway Approach. Should the board be doing the education. Ms. Scott said that was being done at the Trailhead with the tree giveaway and education. The broader scope should be reviewed and over the year discuss implementation. Ms. Crosby asked if the board could go to the schools and

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give a 15 minutes speech on planting and their benefits. Ms. Scott said the commission should adopt the program and then speak to specific issues. Mayor Villere said Ms. Gleason would bring boxes of seedlings, show the trees, talk about the benefits, growth, and how deep to dig the hole. The teachers would go over that again. There were planting instructions with the seedlings.

Ms. Clark asked if there was a place as a board to expand on the protected trees to go from the live oak to any heritage tree over a certain size. Ms. Scott said to add an item for regulations for tree protection. Ms. Clark said the board could determine a dbh, possibly 30", on private as well as public trees. She also asked to discuss tree protections used at construction zones for special events. Mayor Villere said it could be added to the Special Events ordinance. Article 9 discussed private properties and there could be a recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Commission. There should be an addition of an item 6.

Ms. Clark moved to add item 6 as tree protection for both public and private properties, seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

Mayor Villere stated that the Special Events Committee was holding a special meeting on July 13th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss their list of proposed changes to the ordinance. The Parks and Parkways Commission would make a list of amendments and the board could motion item by item with a final recommendation to be included in a memo to City Council meeting for their July 23rd meeting. The board decided to hold their meeting on July 13th at 5:00 p.m. Members would also attend the Special Event Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

It was decided that the staff would formulate a list and forward it to the board for consideration. Mayor Villere said there would be an aggressive mulching program with 4". Outside of the drip line was a lot of area to cover. Ms. Scott said the board had differing ideas and could come up with a consensus. Mayor Villere said the board should look at the size of the tree. Ms. Crosby said it would be 20' from the edge of the tree. It could be a sliding scale depending on the size of the tree. Ms. Scott suggested it could be of a sufficient size to protect the tree based on the recommendation of the City Arborist. Mr. Santopadre said this was good to have the input and have Dr. Guidry present for his expertise. They needed to know it was also for the good of them in the future. Ms. Marshall said with the mulching, events could utilize the tree area. There was some public that did not want the event in that area mulch or no mulch.

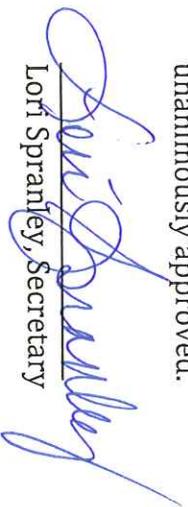
Ms. Crosby #1 in the work program, the CLURO did not have a definition of what Class A and Class B trees were and Ms. Scott would find it. There was a discussion about including the list of trees allowed, but the City wanted to be flexible on native trees. Ms. Crosby asked to include the list of trees on the website. Ms. Scott said there was a recommended tree list that included native trees. The list would be emailed to the board. Ms. Crosby Section 9.2.5.7 was the live oak protection requirements that needed to work on this as well. This would be part of number 6.

Ms. Fargason said it appeared that Keep Mandeville Beautiful and Parks and Parkways duties overlapped. She asked how to work closer together. When she was a board member of Keep Mandeville Beautiful, their mission was construction debris, cigarette butts, but not beautification. Mayor Villere said they did not do this type of education. He felt that they tried to amass volunteers for cleanup programs and get the planting of a garden completed. The board could plan a garden and have them implement it. Ms. Scott suggested adding number 7 to coordinate with Keep Mandeville Beautiful for presentation of beautification projects. Ms. Fargason

suggested getting volunteers for mulching. Ms. Crosby said they could help with the butterfly garden, but Ms. Clark felt that would be best installed by a professional.

The wildflower garden/native habitat would be designated in number 5.

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



Lori Spranley
Lori Spranley, Secretary



Karin Crosby
Karin Crosby, Chairwoman