Parks and Parkways Commission
Public Hearing
July 13, 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: Louisette Scott, Planning Director; Mayor Donald Villere; and Council Members Clay Madden and Ernest Burguieres

Ms. Crosby stated that the meeting' was being held as a request from the City Council on how to accommodate any special events on the lakefront and other areas of the City while protecting the trees. Over the last few weeks there had been discussions regarding items and recommendations from Dr. Malcolm Guidry. Ms. Crosby had met with him on July 10th to discuss additional items regarding maintenance of the large public trees that were vulnerable.

Ms. Clark read through the points and number 7 was redundant since it was referred in number 3(e). Impact fees should be considered and determined with the help of Dr. Guidry. Ms. Scott had provided a calculation to provide to the City Council of a cost that included the impact fee. Ms. Marshall had brought up an important issue of who would pay for it and it was stated that it would be paid for by the City and was worthy. Impact fees made sense because events choosing to be in areas where trees were vulnerable should share in the cost.

Ms. Crosby said Dr. Guidry would provide some calculations and a key point discussed was included under additional recommendations. Number 2 stated that all organic items to be brought to a public mulch pile, and some of the arborists had said they had to pay to have the mulch disposed of when they could not find a location to dump. Ms. Crosby asked why not have a public mulch pile that would help keep down the costs. Ms. Frederick said that would also be saving the earth. Mr. Discon said he thought was a public mulch pile. Ms. Scott said she was not sure if there was one still existing and suggested getting it going again. There was an area off Jackson Avenue by the baseball field and one behind the old dump. Ms. Scott said there was also one used in Old Mandeville. Ms. Crosby said the City would have a stockpile and if an event needed to supplement the mulching there was a location instead of purchasing additional mulch. Ms. Scott said Dr. Guidry and she had discussed if the trees should be mulched twice a year. March in the spring and the middle of September/October after hurricane season to keep the 4-5" so the special event groups would not have to bring in a much mulch. The area should be checked before each event. If each event was charged a mulch fee to a 2" depth, it would cost approximately $500. Everyone would pay the same amount. In the discussion with Dr. Guidry, the City would only need to mulch every 1 to 1 ½ years in non-high impact areas. If the City agreed to maintain 4-5" of mulch, the City could evaluate it twice a year. If there was a scheduled event, the City could evaluate the area for need. This would apply to event anywhere on the lakefront.

Ms. Clark suggested a revision to number 2's language that the lakefront be monitored throughout the year for two mulches per year in a vulnerable and high traffic area. Ms. Scott said if the City made sure the area was evaluated then it could adequately maintain 4-5" of mulch year round. The Special Event Committee would not have to worry about coordinating the mulch.

Mr. Discon said his issue was Mandeville did not do a good enough job of what they had. With 4-5" of mulch twice a year with events, kids playing, and dogs pooping there would be a need to include a clean up after each event. There must be

maintenance and he did not think it would happen. Ms. Clark said she had not read a special events application. There was language in the special event application stating the group must return the area back to its original condition. Ms. Scott said this could be considered a budget and maintenance item to evaluate the lakefront in March and October for the depth of the mulch. Ms. Frederick said it would have to be a priority. Ms. Scott suggested including it in the maintenance contract since the gazebo and fountain were already under contract.

Mr. Burguieres said there seemed to be a meeting to have a regular monthly walk through to get an idea of what nature was sustaining and after large events to re-evaluate. There were many non-formal events and storms. He thought more data was needed to prescribe a schedule. Ms. Clark said if mulch was under a contract they could review it on a regular maintenance of the area. Ms. Scott said Dr. Guidry felt twice a year mulching was more than enough. More often would just be a supplement after the original mulching. If there was an event there may be a need re-mulching. Mr. Burguieres suggested sending someone out after each event. Ms. Clark said that was enforcement. Ms. Scott said a maintenance contract could be twice a year with regular review to evaluate and monitor it.

Ms. Crosby said Dr. Guidry indicated if there was mulching in October/November by next spring it would have had enough time to settle and not float. Depending on wave action there may be some erosion but that would require supplemental mulching.

The list of recommendations was reviewed for agreement

1. Change to October instead of November. Ms. Clark said change the mulching to be monitored and included in the City contract on the lakefront. It was decided that it would monitored, cleaned and revised for the exceptions to include landscape machinery. The board was in agreement.
2. Monitored and reviewed through the maintenance contract. Mr. Santopadre liked the wording 4-5". Ms. Scott suggested to the drip line, so it would be protected to the edge of the drip line of the tree. The board was in agreement.
3. A) any green space, revised exceptions include landscape machinery.
   b) do not create a valley for water to collect. An example being a slip and slide that could permanently create a valley or area lower to have water collect. No digging or creation of swales in the tree protected areas.
   c) no change
   d)take out and add at the end what are the tree protection guidelines. This would be the tree protection guidelines for special events and be included in the application.
   e) Dr. Guidry provided an estimate and should be include in the record. Add i.e. from discussions mulching heritage trees was an estimate of $500. The board suggested calling it a mitigation fee. Mr. Discon suggested a mulching mitigation fee. Ms. Fargason said must be the use a wheel barrel.

   Gerard Jarabica, 825 Albert Street, said landscape equipment had balloon tires. Dr. Guidry felt a nylon strap should be the only material that could be used for a hammock. No hardware should be used. Ms. Marshall said the guidelines should be citywide. Ms. Clark agreed to change the verbiage for citywide events. Ms. Crosby said the pottery oak and the live oak on West Causeway, which was already guarded off, and any other trees deemed vulnerable should be protected. Dr. Guidry had mentioned when mulching, the termites were vulnerable to mulch that could protect

them at the same time. There would be a need to renumber the items. Mr. Madden asked about golf carts on the walking path. The board was in agreement that there should be nothing south of the curb of Lakeshore Drive except authorized public works vehicles.

The board was in agreement.

4. (b) nothing to create an impoundment of water in a tree protected area. The board was in agreement.
5. No change
6. (e) mulching mitigation fee. Include Dr. Guidry's estimate of a special mulching cost. Ms. Scott said she would provide the information as an attachment. The board was in agreement.
7. (4) City Council could make a decision on the number. Ms. Fargason said there were groups that felt it was not fair. Ms. Clark said there were groups that had a history of being in a certain area. It was asked if they would have to pay a potential $500 fee per area. The felt why put the vulnerable areas at risk of more than outlined in number 4. Ms. Fargason asked how many events would be allowed. Mayor Villere said there were only two events and they were held at different spots west of Ravine Coquilles. To the east of the ravine toward Girod Street there were two city events, the 4th of July and the LPO concert. Crawfish Cookin' for a Cause was held at the harbor. The Christmas and dog parades started at the harbor and ended by gazebo. There were not many other events from the harbor to Girod Street because it was narrow. The board was in agreement.

   Ms. Crosby said there should be a definition of city event. Mayor Villere said the City submitted applications for events like anyone else. Ms. Clark said there were five lakefront events. Mayor Villere suggested a limit of not more than two events per location except by exception granted by the City Council. It was discussed that there were numerous events held at the harbor. The Trailhead put on 12 concerts and an October fest. The Dew Drop also had oak trees to be protected.

   Mayor Villere recommended less than 4 events except with City Council approval per location. The City Council approved every large event application. Mr. madden said the ordinance addressed where the events could be staged. It was broad language and the Council could make a decision on the number of events. He agreed with a lower number "such as 4". Ms. Marshall asked to define what was a vulnerable or less threatened area. It was stated that a vulnerable area was areas where there should be special things to protect the trees. Mr. Discon asked to be specific. First would be the area west of Ravine Coquilles, east was the second area, and the harbor was the third.

   The ordinance included a special events review for the most appropriate area and report to the City Council. Mr. Madden said that went back to the staging area. Ms. Frederick and Ms. Scott said there would be a consideration of the impact on the trees when considering applications.

   Mr. Madden said the half marathon was on the walking path, and not in the green space. Ms. Scott requested that the Special Events Committee take into consideration the impact on the trees when reviewing the location based on any adverse impact on the trees.
8. (5) no change

9. (6) no change
10. (7) remove. The board was in agreement.
11. Add guidelines, applicant acknowledge by signature receipt of the guidelines. Ms. Scott suggested that the Tree Protection Guidelines should be attached to all special event applications and the board was in agreement.

It was decided that all CLURO amendments should be handled at a regular meeting. Ms. Crosby suggested the recommendations include Dr. Guidry's recommendations. Ms. Scott said it should be included in the last whereas of the resolution.

Mayor Villere asked for suggestions in reference to tents under the tree canopy. Dr. Guidry had said there should be no tents under any tree canopy. Ms. Scott suggested using sand bags instead of stakes. Ms. Crosby said the sand bag weight was still compacting the soil. Mayor Villere asked to review that consideration of using weights. If there was mulch, the compaction should not be as much of an issue. Ms. Crosby said her statement was based on the fact that Dr. Guidry told her no tents. If the City Council would like to further discuss this item, they could make changes.

Kurt Frosch, Clausel Street resident and Mandeville Family Reunion board member, said the board was basing their recommendations on one arborist. Mr. Discon asked Mr. Frosh what he was basing his information on. Mr. Frosch said there were only using a 3/16" piece of wire for 10' x 10' canopy. Ms. Clark said it was only recommendations and the board had no power. They tried to collect information and discuss. Ms. Crosby said she had spent a long time with Dr. Guidry discussing his recommendations. The board had carefully reviewed the initial document and made changes. The City Council would be the ones who made the decisions. Ms. Frederick said the board would make recommendations on what was best for the tree canopy of the city. There was much research on the subject. It had nothing to do with any one person; it was a larger picture all over the city. Mr. Santopadre said the City Council might not take their recommendations.

Mr. Frosch was concerned about people hanging hammocks in the trees. Ms. Crosby said she had seen last weekend the installation of hooks in the oak trees for hanging the hammocks. They were trying to protect the lakefront because the oak trees were also for future generations. In order to do that, the board needed to put in place protection. Ms. Frederick said there was a larger volume of people on the lakefront. Mr. Santopadre said the hammock could be placed using a nylon strap and Mr. Frosch was in agreement. Dr. Guidry was also in agreement with the nylon strap. He had gotten a strap to test it. Mr. Santopadre said the board met once a month as volunteers and they were trying to do the best they could for protection.

Mr. Frosch pointed out in the 300 block of Park Avenue to make access for the roadway that the City had cut a limb that was not sealed. Ms. Crosby said cuts were not sealed anymore.

Ms. Clark moved to approve the resolution as amended, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

With all business complete, the meeting was adjourned.

Lori Spranley, Secretary

Karin Lorenz Crosby, Chairwoman

Parks and Parkways Commission
Public Hearing
August 17, 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, and Nancy Clark

Absent: Dodie Marshall

Also Present: Louisette Scott, Planning Director; Mayor Donald Villere; Jan Mistich and Connie Marciante; and Council Member David Ellis

Minutes

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of June 8, 2015, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Crosby moved to adopt the minutes of July 6, 2015, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

Marigny Avenue Rain Garden

Ms. Mistich brought a list of the plants planted in the Marigny Avenue Rain Garden. All of the rain gardens were complete with an additional one garden at the fishing pier. Marigny Avenue was larger than anticipated with the digging and preparation work. There was a swale in the middle, and was approximately100' long. The cost for both gardens was $8,500 including the sprinkler and hoses. The City Hall garden was $5,000. On Marigny Avenue they dug almost 4' deep of rocks and sand. The garden was also mulched. The City was fixing water mains on the same side of the street as the fishing pier. Ms. Mistich said they would need to monitor it for the first few months for a period of shock since it was planted in a hot June. They were hoping by September and October to bloom again. Mr. Discon asked about the winter months. Ms. Marciante said there would still be greenery. Ms. Mistich said one plant leaves remained red until December. They hoped for blooms through December, and they would then clip it back. The garden was more curved. They decided not to plant sod to keep the grass out of it. Mr. Discon asked what was next. Ms. Mistich said they were finished the grant with the last presentation at the Trailhead for the board. Mr. Discon said the board had been discussing a rain garden at the Causeway overpass. Ms. Marciante and Ms. Mistich would provide grant information to the board. Ms. Mistich said they had presented a plan to the EPA for 10 rain gardens and 20 presentations and twice as much money, but did not get that grant. The project was granted through the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. There was a concern about the rain garden at the fishing pier with a weather event. There would be plaques at the rain gardens so people would know what they were and would be an educational tool. Ms. Crosby asked about the Trailhead plaque that identified the rain garden locations and their plant species. The information could be added to the website with a list of the plant species. Ms. Frederick liked the plaque that would be permanent. Ms. Marciante said there was educational signage at the City Hall rain garden. Ms. Fargason suggested putting the plaque on the brick columns at the Trailhead. Ms. Clark said the brochure was a great idea and could list the public garden sites, parks, and rain gardens. Ms. Mistich said it would have to be determined how to pay for it. She would ask for a link to the plant lists. The fishing pier was a small rain garden so people could see that the garden was doable on private locations.

Mr. Discon said the west side of Old Mandeville had ditches removed and sidewalks removed. The ditches had the elephant ears. Ms. Marciante said the elephant ears were problematic with drainage flow. The vegetation on the side of the ditches vegetation cleaned the water, but the bottom of the ditch impeded water flow. Ms. Frederick said many plants soak up the water. It would be a small ecosystem.

Tree ordinance

Ms. Crosby said over the last few months there were discussions about the maintenance and mulching of the trees to prevent compaction. She asked if there would be additions to the CLURO. Ms. Scott said it was outlined in the resolution. The resolution was broken down for discussion of the lakefront for the special event ordinance. Ms. Crosby said there were other items to be integrated into the CLURO. Ms. Scott recommended formulating a recommendation of changes to the Planning Commission. The information would be forwarded to the Planning Commission and Parks and Parkways could present something at the next meeting.

Ms. Clark said mulch was already being placed on the lakefront. She asked who would spread it. Mayor Villere said he would have the DOCs spread it as they were available. This would allow the city to see the volume needed to maintain each tree.

Ms. Scott said Cleco would be at the next meeting to discuss tree trimming.

Ms. Frederick said she was not personally in agreement with the hammocks in the trees. It was presenting a problem that could not be monitored sufficiently. Ms. Scott suggested including that in the recommendation. Mr. Santopadre said there were nylon ropes being used that would girdle the trees. Mr. Discon thought it was strange to come to a public spot to sleep. People came to the lakefront to enjoy the area. Ms. Clark was in agreement with Mr. Frederick. Mr. Santopadre asked if it was straps or ropes. Mr. Discon said it was straps being used. Ms. Clark said it was rare to reinvent the wheel. She and Ms. Crosby had investigated ideas and regulations in other areas and it was amazing how the hammock idea happened on a national level. The cities' were addressing the problem through many ordinances. Some communities required a permit and the equipment was checked. Some communities did not allow them. Mr. Santopadre said he would rather have someone check it than prohibit it. Ms. Crosby said enforcement on a minor level was difficult. Ms. Clark said it took someone who understood it and could check it. Mayor Villere said people were not calling the police to make a complaint. Ms. Frederick said she often called the police when she heard trees being cut and they responded.

Ms. Crosby asked the secretary to email the list of information to the board members that would be included into an ordinance so it could be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council. Ms. Clark suggested in the board's free time to read up on other community's ideas. Mr. Santopadre suggested each board member find one thing that stuck in their mind to determine if it was an idea to add. The resolution would also be emailed to the board members. .

West Causeway road construction

The irrigation system would be reinstalled under a separate contract. The plan would be forwarded to GEC for replanting. There were crepe myrtles that were removed from the median and the board asked why they would not be replaced at the GNOEC's cost. Mr. Discon said he thought the median would be lined with crepe myrtles. They were beautiful and now they were gone. They were dug up and abandoned. Ms. Clark asked what was the policy about the trees. Ms. Scott said the City tried to find a place to replant the crepe myrtles. She understood with the narrowing of the medians that there was not have enough room for tree planting. The board wanted to find other medians along that area to replant crepe myrtles. Ms. Scott would discuss it with Carlton Dufrechou. Mr. Discon felt it was about concrete and not replanting. Ms. Frederick said trees were dug up and placed by the Shadows Subdivision abandoned. Ms. Fargason said she emailed City Hall if the crepe myrtles could be dug up and she was answered no. Ms. Scott said there was no place to replant them that had a sprinkler system. Mr. Discon said the community garden on Kleber Street could have been a place to hold the trees.

Ms. Frederick said in the narrow areas grasses could grow. Ms. Scott said GNOEC will not allow planting of the narrow medians.

Heavens Drive Garden maintenance

Ms. Crosby said it looked like round up was sprayed over a two week period. Mayor Villere said weeds were pulled and mulch was installed. Ms. Scott said she would look at putting it under the maintenance project. Mayor Villere said when Ms. Russell left any projects did not move forward. Mr. Discon said it sounded like the Department of Public Works sprayed round up when they pulled the weeds. They were getting away with it again. Mayor Villere said it could not be assured that the Department of Public Works sprayed round up. . Mr. Discon wanted to have an instructional meeting of wanting trees and not running over the plants. Ms. Crosby understood Mr. Discon was upset but he was not being fair. Ms. Clark said if it was under the maintenance program it could be kept up with. It was not the Public Works' job.

Ms. Frederick requested to have some trees replanted on the West Causeway Approach medians. Ms. Scott said she understood they removed trees where there was construction. She thought Mr. Dufrechou would be agreeable to some replanting. Ms. Crosby said the City was continually losing some of our canopy. She asked about using the green bags and Ms. Scott said Ms. Gleason was filling them and Public Works was understaffed to do watering.

Lakefront signage

Mayor Villere said the signs were in and he was waiting for Ms. Scott and Ms. Clark to provide the locations. Ms. Clark said the three signs looked good, but they were small. Mayor Villere said the other signs were larger. Ms. Clark asked to move them to where there were trash cans so it would be clustered.

Ms. Clark and Ms. Scott had a map to move the trash cans. Mayor Villere said when all the information was provided then the Department of Public Works would do the work. The board was in agreement with clustering the signs and trash cans. Ms. Scott asked Ms. Clark to meet with her and review the map. Mayor Villere asked to designate where the large and small signs should be located. There were six big signs. Ms. Scott would scan the map and email it to Ms. Clark. They were in agreement with clustering to reduce visual clutter.

Ms. Clark asked about the dead plants around the Trailhead. Ms. Scott said the sprinkler system was broken and it was going to be repaired and plants replaced. Ms. Clark asked if Asplundh to dump mulch at the big oak tree at Marigny Avenue and Lakeshore Drive. In was in the right of way on the Rips side of the street. She asked if that tree could be mulched and protection installed. The tree was being beat up with cars parking under it. Mayor Villere would ask Asplundh to dump mulch for spreading. Ms. Clark asked what could be installed to protect the tree. Ms. Scott suggested bumper stops or railroad ties. Mayor Villere would check with Public Works to see what inventory was available. The mulch would be into the street so there must be some type of protection.

Ms. Frederick stated Chris Lange had installed benches by Weldon Park. She would plant around them when the weather was cooler.

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

Lori Spranley, Secretary

Karin Lorenz Crosby, Chairwoman