

**Parks and Parkways Commission
September 12, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Discon and the secretary called roll.

Present: Karin Lorenz Crosby, Nancy Clark, Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, and Anne Marie Fargason

Absent: Dodie Marshall and Maggie Gleason

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector and Council Member John Keller and Laure' Sica

Minutes

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of July 11, 2016, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Florida Streetscape Program

There was a discussion about the budget having been approved for \$500,000 that would need to be spent in this fiscal year or lose the funding. Mr. Discon stated he would like each board member to chair a project. At the last meeting, there was a discussion about planting an alternate species if the business did not want to plant a live oak tree. To date, there was one business that had agreed to plant. Ms. Frederick suggested inviting the store managers to a meeting and they could then contact their corporate offices. Ms. Clark suggested making a splash with the first participant doing the planting to encourage the other businesses. It was decided to mail a letter with a self-addressed envelope to return the form. Ms. Crosby suggested having a signup sheet at the tree giveaway if people knew of a business that would want a tree planted. It was suggested to include a letter in the water bill asking for business suggestions, add it to the Mayor's ebriefs through the planting season, and include it on the website.

There was a discussion and explanation about the restrictions and Cooperative Agreement with the Parish agreeing that their portion of the project would be the preparation of the landscape plan. There was a concern with businesses having a required landscape plan and it was determined that some businesses may want to plant additional trees.

Ms. Crosby moved to request to the City Council consideration of the expansion of the Streetscape Program to the private property owners along the north side of improved Florida Street corridor with one or two live oak tree per property owner, and to request the removal of the restriction on the funding that the Parish participate in equal or kind for the program. The motion was seconded by Ms. Clark. There was a discussion that the motion was to alleviate the cost associated with the originally proposed landscape project with the requirement under the Streetscape Program that the property owner/tenant would be responsible for the tree maintenance which was similar to the existing residential street tree program. Ms. Crosby and Ms. Clark moved to accept the discussion as an addition to the motion. The motion and amendment was unanimously approved.

Mr. Discon said Highway 190 was designed with roll over curbs and a landscape grass between the street and the sidewalk in place of the green grass would be less maintenance. Ms. Clark suggested that should be considered as a separate project. She suggested a plan should be developed designating the appropriate type of landscape grass and installed by a professional landscape company. Ms. Crosby suggesting revising the existing design taken to the Parish. Mr. Discon said in discussions with the Parish, Ms. Lenfant was concerned that watering would be a problem. He suggested grasses since it would be low maintenance.

It was requested to look for any plans and distribute them to the board, ask to be placed on the City Council agenda and make a decision. Council Member Keller said any grasses on the north side of the highway would require Parish approval.

Subcommittees

- Florida Streetscape Program
- Fruit tree planting and species on Marigny Avenue – Ms. Crosby would chair this subcommittee and create a design.
- Kierr Garden – Ms. Frederick would chair this subcommittee.

Ms. Clark said the butterfly garden was a gift to the City and Denise Schoen had indicated she no longer wanted to pay Johnny Mayronne for visiting the site because there was no

progress on the planting project. Mr. Mayronne had installed a portion of plan as well as the watering system. The City had also installed some of the planting.

There was a \$10,000 line item for this garden. It was decided that an inventory of the site was needed. The board suggested that the vegetable garden and fence be installed after the bathroom was constructed.

- Crepe Myrtle Planting on East and West Causeway Approaches – Ms. Gleason would chair this subcommittee.
- Signage – Ms. Fargason would chair this subcommittee.
- Cemetery

Live Oak Trees on the Lakefront

There was a citizen email about Spanish moss should be removed from the lakefront trees. Ms. Crosby said there was no ball moss that she could see that would constrict the branches. Ms. Clark said the City needed to continue the mulch program and Ms. Casanova said they were waiting for the end of hurricane season. Ms. Crosby said the Heavens Drive garden needed weeding and mulching. Keep Mandeville Beautiful had received a grant to plant the garden and the board requested to contact them to have it included in the weekend cleanup. The board was in agreement to leave the live oak trees alone and keep them mulched.

Cypress Tree Planting by Pedestrian Bridge

Mr. Discon said the board had discussed planting cypress trees at the West Causeway pedestrian bridge. There was a board request to contact Cleco about relocating an existing power pole.

Signage

There had been a discussion about moving the existing wildflower signs to the West Causeway/Highway 22 garden and place a larger sign on East Causeway with an attachment under the City seal that it was a Parks and Parkways project.

Cemetery

It was stated that the pile of dirt was back. Ms. Casanova said the mausoleum project was out to bid. It was requested to look for Ms. Crosby's proposed planting plan. The budget was \$50,000 including the memorial wall, and \$28,000 for landscaping. The scope of work could include planting of roses around the gazebo, and removal of the clumping bamboo since they were pushing out the evergreens. The Public Works Department was not removing the bamboo due to a shortage of inmate help. The board suggested bidding the removal out for the 25-30' distance of its growth.

Ms. Clark asked the Council Members present to look at the cemetery. On the Livingston Street side, there were posts and arches that were not continued on the Tammany Trace and Villiere Street entrance. Council Member Keller said there was no shade in the cemetery and he asked if the board could consider planting trees. Ms. Crosby suggested crepe myrtles and Ms. Casanova suggested looking at the area surrounding the new mausoleum. The intent was to plant a tree around the gazebo or rose gardens. The board asked to place this is an October agenda item. This subcommittee will need a chairman.

Karin moved to open the agenda for a question from a Council Member about the electrical socket on the lakefront and trash on Girrod Street, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved.

A permanent electrical socket was installed on the lakefront to accommodate the special events. It was designed to look like a tiki hut but was smaller. The board would like this to be reviewed for location and appearance.

There was an old hose, mud and trash in the parking bays by McClain's that should be removed. Ms. Sica asked why Ravine Aux Coquilles was being cleared. She was told that it was a City owned lot and the citizens had asked to cut the grass next to the sidewalk. She was told that the Mayor wanted the remainder of the lot bush hogged but the concrete must be removed. Ms. Crosby said she had

suggested plantings to make it look like a park. There was a discussion that an herbicide might have been sprayed after the bush hogging.

Ms. Clark moved to open the agenda to discuss the Heavens Drive Garden, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Members of Keep Mandeville Beautiful came into the meeting to discuss the Saturday citywide cleanup. The board asked about maintaining the Heavens Drive garden and was told there was not enough volunteers to handle do the task on Saturday. Mr. Discon suggested using city funds to clean it up and have Keep Mandeville Beautiful maintain it in the future.

Ms. Clark moved to get bid the cost of a landscaper to clean up the garden, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Discon moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.


Lori Spranley, Secretary


Scott Discon, Chairman

