

**Parks and Parkways Commission
Public Hearing
November 2, 2015**

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

Present: Karin Crosby, Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, Robert Santopadre and Nancy Clark

Absent: Anne Marie Fargason and Dodie Marshall

Also Present: Mayor Donald Villere and Interim Landscape Inspector Catherine Casanova

Minutes

Ms. Clark asked based on an item in the minutes if there was any progress with a Cleco committee. Ms. Crosby stated that Mr. Discon and Ms. Marshall had agreed to participate on the committee but a meeting date had not been set. Council Member Burguieres and Zoning Commission Chairman Nixon Adams had also agreed to be part of the committee.

She also said that Coffee Street between the Trace and Highway 190 had tree trimmings and branches left debris.

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of September 14, 2015, seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

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

Live Oak Tree Growth

There were pictures that Ms. Marshall had forwarded about mulch being laid under the trees that also showed vine growth on the trees. Ms. Casanova said she had seen it the day of the meeting. It also contained Confederate Roses and suggested leaving it as it was. Dr. Malcolm Guidry had suggested leaving the poison ivy in place and placing a sign for educational purposes.

Ms. Casanova said a wooden post could have a stand or be a concrete block like a memorial marker which would not be feasible with storm water. Ms. Crosby was concerned about it being a trip hazard. Ms. Frederick suggested putting the sign by the walkway since the tree was located close to the walkway. Mayor Villere was concerned with a sign that citizens would call asking why it had not been cut down. He suggested marking the other vines with signage.

There was a discussion about hanging a sign with a chain on the vine and wrapping it around a sign the size of a license or bike plate. It would be a good idea to be located at eye level to notify the public. Ms. Crosby suggested measuring the girth of the trees for registration. The signage should be brownish to match the lakefront signs being installed. Ms. Crosby asked about identifying the butterfly garden at the Trailhead. Ms. Crosby said the wildflower gardens on East Causeway Approach should have signage including a list of species. She said the board had asked for benches along the frontage road so not on the highway. It was requested to include a small identification of the Parks and Parkways Commission's name to the bottom of the signs in a small font.

**Parks and Parkways Commission
Public Hearing
November 2, 2015
Page 2**

Tree Giveaway List

The list of available trees was distributed for the board's review. Ms. Casanova said there were no more university nurseries. Tennessee was the only state left growing trees. Mayor Villere asked if the City would continue planting street trees. It was suggested to make the Street Tree application more dominant on the website. Ms. Frederick said asked about a heading for the Parks and Parkways Commission for the public to have easier access. It was suggested to include the commission under the What's New on the front page or under city services.

Ms. Clark asked about the attack on the lakefront trees and if there were any more telephone calls about it. Ms. Casanova said it was an attack by the Cypress Loupers. It was requested to place the information on the website that it would not kill the trees.

Tree Care – Lightning Rods

Ms. Crosby said Mr. Burguieres had sent an email asking to investigate the possibility of installing lightning rods on the lakefront. Ms. Casanova said it had been installed in other places with historic trees. Generally trees do get struck, but it was not common. The lightning rod would be a copper wire from the tree into the ground and go away from the tree. It would help prevent lightning strikes, but there were maintenance issues. The board had not heard of any of our live oak trees being struck by lightning. The board felt it sounded expensive and would rather spend the money on mulching. It was discussed that the lightning rod could cost several thousand dollars per tree. There were pines and cypress trees that were taller and those would be struck first.

Ms. Clark moved to take this under review and wait until Ms. Scott could have an assessment from LSU, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Bollards

Ms. Crosby and Ms. Frederick had created a bollard design and Ms. Casanova would meet with the Public Works Department about the locations. There were two large reflective signs to go around the curve. If there were signs to be installed there must be a guideline to their placement. The ropes between the bollards would keep people off of the area. There should be a sign designating the trees as registered and name Pottery Oak which was an Indian Burial Mound.

Ms. Clark said there should be a consistent design for any signs. Ms. Crosby said the wildflower sign was a brown plaque with white lettering and the Parks and Parkways logo should be included on all signage. There was a discussion that the sign should state it was the Pottery Oak, registered with the Live Oak Society including the tree measurement, and was an Indian Burial Mound. Ms. Clark suggested Ms. Crosby email the suggested verbiage for the sign.

Ms. Casanova said she would look at the Marigny Avenue tree the day after the meeting. It would also be mulched.

Mulching

Ms. Casanova had calculated the amount needed and would price it. There had been some mulch lost, but not much with the large rain. Mayor Villere said there was no wave action most of it stayed compacted. Ms. Crosby said that was why Dr. Guidry suggested mulching in the fall to be less likely to wash away. Ms.

Parks and Parkways Commission
Public Hearing
November 2, 2015
Page 3

Frederick asked if there was a supply of mulch. Ms. Casanova said some of the companies did provide the chipping. Mr. Discon asked the fountain garden was mulched between Carroll and Coffee Streets by the gazebo. He also said the south side of the cemetery was fighting each other. There was Leyland Cypress on the west side of the first driveway on Villere Street. There was also some bamboo that needed to be trimmed. There was also a pile of dirt that should be moved.

Mr. Santopadre asked if the City was looking into a sidewalk or trail to the hidden parks in Neighborhoods. There were existing boardwalks in Neighborhoods.

Greg Reardon, lakefront resident, had asked to plant rye grass on the lakefront for the winter. Mayor Villere said the winter was the clearing time for drainage since the crews were not doing grass cutting. There would be limbs 7' high off the walking path being reshaped beginning the next week. Ms. Crosby said there was a sidewalk by Benedicts on Lovers Lane covered with pine straw and leaves so people did not know there was a sidewalk. Ms. Crosby asked if that area could be cleaned as well.

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


Lori Spranley, Secretary


Karin Lorenz Crosby, Chairwoman

