

**Parks and Parkways Commission  
March 7, 2016**

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

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

Absent: Maggie Gleason

Also Present: Louise Scott, Planning Director; Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector; and Mayor Donald Villere

**Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

Ms. Clark moved to nominate Mr. Discon as the Chairman, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.  
Vice chair

Ms. Clark moved to nominate Ms. Frederick as the Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

**Minutes**

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of January 4, 2016, seconded by Mr. Discon and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Fargason moved to adopt the minutes of January 21, 2016, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of February 1, 2016, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

**Priority Projects and 2016 Budget**

Ms. Scott said the board had requested a copy of the budgeted items that were adopted.

- East Causeway Triangle. This was a carryover from the previous year. The budget included the two year maintenance for Meadow Makers for the wildflower garden.
- Kierr Family Garden. There was a discussion that the budgeted amount was for planting trees in general and this project had not moved forward to this date. There were Cub Scouts that had planted two persimmon trees and some of the giveaway trees would be planted. Mr. Discon said Adele Foster reported that the fence lines were being chopped down and she was looking for something to replant. The neighbor was encroaching onto the City property which had created a big opening. Ms. Scott said the City would look into the neighbor being responsible for replanting. The property line should be marked and the City could possibly install some type of wire fence. Ms. Crosby suggested replanting good sized camellias. Ms. Clark said the camellias planted in the last few years were doing well. Ms. Crosby suggested looking at the nice camellias at the Garden Spot in Slidell. Ms. Clark was concerned about the lack of irrigation in the Kierr Garden and Ms. Crosby asked to use the gator bags. Ms. Scott said the problem with the bags was that they needed to be refilled and it was difficult to do. Mr. Discon suggested asking the Lang House workers to turn on the sprinkler.
- Cemetery. Nothing was to be done until the drainage was complete. The staff would also contact Johnny Mayronne.
- Girod Street. This project was substantially complete. Ms. Crosby asked if the \$75,000 was spent and it was answered yes. This project also included the south side of Highway

190's planting. Mr. Discon asked about the area in front of McClain's. Ms. Scott said it would be replanted. Ms. Casanova said the Department of Public Works was removing the bricks one block at a time. Ms. Scott said the areas of the small plantings with pavers were removed and the City used brick courses in the areas that were too small to landscape. The existing irrigation was repaired. Mr. Discon asked to consider only installing brick about Donz's since people were standing outside. Ms. Scott would add that to the list for next year's budget.

Ms. Crosby asked about the Blent deck. Ms. Scott explained that the deck would extend to the property line and the sidewalk would remain. The parking spaces would be removed in front of this business and it would be landscaped. Mr. Discon suggested looking at a similar situation in front of the Barley Oak. Mayor Villere said there was a 2' area that could be expanded for the parking as well as in front of the Lake House since there was a hangover problem with large vehicles.

Ms. Clark asked about the Carroll Street oak tree overhanging the parking and relocating those parking spaces to the east. Ms. Casanova and Dr. Guidry had looked at the tree hanging almost to the street and no one wanted to trim it to affect the shape and character of the tree. Relocating the parking spaces would be a good thing since this was the area where there was food bags being dropped as litter.

Ms. Crosby asked if Blent's landscaping could match the Girod Street planting. Ms. Scott said it was the same landscape architect as Girod Street and the request would be made.

- Street tree planting. This was a successful project and there was more participation from the west side of the City.

Ms. Frederick asked to reorganize the website and add the giveaway projects under Parks and Parkways. Ms. Scott said she was working with Ms. Peachey about reorganizing the board's pages. Ms. Crosby suggested using laser lights around the gazebo at Christmas rather than having hanging lights. It would be easier to remove and would not be flooded. The staff would forward the suggestion to the Department of Public Works. Ms. Scott said the City had limited availability to add subsets of the department on the website and would take the creation of a subset for the commission into consideration with the reorganization. Mayor Villere said the Planning Department worked with the most amount of boards, events and notifications. The information could also be added under the What's New category on the front page.

- Highway 190 Planting/Triangle-Marigny Avenue. Ms. Scott reported that the City was waiting for the Parish to sign the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Mr. Discon said he had driven down Highway 190 and noted there was a lot of private property before the sidewalk and the board discussed an initiative to contact the owners about the City purchasing and planting trees in exchange for the property owner's maintenance. Ms. Scott said hopefully the owners would have the ability to water the plants. Ms. Crosby said this would be similar to Street Tree Program. It was agreed to send a letter asking for interest and see the response. Ms. Scott said the businesses had greenbelt and tree requirements. She thought the idea was to get trees on the public side. Ms. Crosby said the north side of the highway was the worst view.

Ms. Crosby asked could the City and board speed the project along. There was a discussion if there were alternatives that would be less than two years. Everyone agreed that the biggest concern was the appearance of the north side of Highway 190 which was not in the City limits. Much of the commercial sites were planted years ago and looked unmaintained and the board wanted to reignite interest. The City (south) side looked decent. The cost to purchase and plant the trees would be approximately

\$250. It was suggested to begin at Clausel Street moving to the curve on the north side. It was also requested to determine if there was a way to work with the Parish about encouraging a Street Tree Program for the north side of the road. Ms. Clark suggested focusing on the City limits property that were older sites. Ms. Scott said the plan would be reviewed to see what would be available on the private side and create a commercial street tree. Mr. Discon hoped the appearance of the four corners at Girod Street would encourage people to landscape.

Mayor Villere said the City would also install signage on both side of the gas stations Welcoming people to Historic Mandeville that would be similar to the sign by the Causeway. The size was reduced to 3' x 9' and a mock up would be put on the ground to get a better idea on the size. Ms. Crosby asked for the sign to look more rounded like the other signs.

- Sculpture Garden. This project was on hold until the Causeway maintenance completed.

Ms. Fargason said there were more clothing bins showing up. Ms. Scott said the bins located on public property were being removed and the City was posting the private property bins. After 10 days the bins on public property could be removed. Mayor Villere agreed they had become a growing blight.

#### **Causeway Overpass Maintenance**

The maintenance would continue for the next 18 months.

#### **Educational Program**

Ms. Crosby would contact Dan Gill and the board agreed to hold a fall seminar with speakers.

#### **Cemetery**

Ms. Crosby said there had been discussions about a rose garden and asked about removing the Indian Hawthorns from around the gazebo so people would know they could sit there. She also suggested planting lady banks roses with low thorns to provide shade to the gazebo. The fence line should be beautified. Ms. Clark asked if the clumping bamboo was removed since she could see the evergreen. Ms. Casanova said the drainage appeared to have been completed since there was no standing water. Ms. Scott said Joe Yarborough had completed the gravesite survey. Ms. Scott would contact Mr. Mayronne about the update to the cemetery plan including the new section with the mausoleum and memorial wall. Those plans would be brought to the board for planting. This would be added to the staff update for next month.

#### **Municipal Interface Overlay District**

Ms. Crosby had asked to include this because of the oak tree at Bippo's and some confusion whether the MIOD was still in existence. Ms. Scott said Sidney Fontenot, Parish Planning Director, had told her it was written out of the regulations when it was still included. The regulations required the Parish to send projects to the City for review, but that was not happening. The Parish granted a variance on the live oak tree removal without notifying the City or asking for a recommendation. The contractor had freely come to the City telling us about the variance and that was when the City got involved with trying to move the tree but it was not feasible. Ms. Scott said years ago there was an agreement for review of the

landscaping, signage and lighting because the City's regulations were more restrictive. When the Parish wrote their regulations, they used the city as a model. The relocation cost was about \$10,000 excluding the cost removing and reinstalling the power lines. The City's recommendation was that the money would be better spent on replanting from the post office through this area where there was space. Mayor Villere said the trees at the post office did not look healthy and suggested replanting that corridor.

Ms. Scott said when she discussed the issue with Mr. Fontenot his response was that it was not his problem if contact was not being made. Ms. Casanova said the tree limbs were growing in the power lines and would have been topped at some time by Cleco. Ms. Scott said the overlay district language was simple, but the Parish had to agree to comply with the agreement. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Highway 190 was restricted that the City could not spend any money until the Parish agreed to match it. It was discussed that the Pelican Pointe Carwash was waiting for their permit when the Parish told them that water and sewer was only available from the City. The City only provides it with annexation. The developer agreed to amend their landscape plan to meet the City regulations.

Ms. Scott said the City would like to move forward on these annexations on the front end rather than when the developer was at the end of the Parish review. If there was an annexation of a developed property, the CLURO provided an amortization plan over a specific amount of time.

#### **Follow Up on the Tree Giveaway**

Ms. Casanova said most of the trees were given away on that date and the remainder was provided to the Northlake Nature Center.

#### **Public Comment**

Bob Doolittle, Monroe Street resident, said he and his neighbors were starting a community garden on a vacant lot. The land was being leased by 12 families to plant a vegetable garden in an enclosed 80' x 90' area. It would be a collective harvest instead of individual plots with eight types of vegetables.

#### **Staff Update**

The Marigny Avenue bollards were ordered and Ms. Casanova would check on the time frame for completion. The lakelfront walkway possible trip hazard had been reported for a work order.

The Wildflower Garden on Highway 22 was doable with a small site triangle encroachment. Mr. Perkins said it would be best to begin in April to kill the weeds. The board was in agreement to moving forward. There was a rough cost estimate of \$6-8,000.

The fountain/rose garden on the lakelfront needed to be replanted. The irrigation was leaking and was turned off so it would be checked for repairs. Ms. Crosby asked to replant old roses instead of knockout roses that survive better with saltwater. It was suggested to relocate the knockout roses to Monroe Street.

The book provided to the board was a resource from Dr. Guidry who thought he board might consider adopting some of the regulations.

Mr. Discon was concerned about the amount of trash on construction sites and traveling up and down the streets. Ms. Scott would have the building inspector look into it and talk to the contractors.



Ms. Frederick said there was still parade trash in the ditches along West Causeway.

The lakefront tree mulching was delayed with the amount of rain and wet ground.

Ms. Casanova and Mr. Discon would meet about the cypress tree planting locations at the harbor.

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

  
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Lori Spranley, Secretary



  
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Scott Discon, Chairman



