

**Parks and Parkways Commission
July 11, 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, Anne Marie Fargason, and Maggie Gleason

Absent: Dodie Marshall

Also Present: Louise Scott, Planning Director, and Council Members Laure' Sica, John Keller and David Ellis

Ms. Crosby moved to adopt the minutes of June 6, 2016, seconded by Ms. Clark and was unanimously approved.

Resolution 16-02

There was a discussion that the resolution should be broad enough to include any future access required because of traffic from Port Marigny or any future development and that the board should be consulted regarding road widening. The initial concern was the median at Monroe Street. There had been discussions about a possible access road on the southwest corner to connect to the Copeland property. There were concerns about expansion to Girod Street, and the board could offer a recommendation. It was decided to change the verbiage to "development of the PreStressed site".

Ms. Scott reported that there was a Master Transportation Study underway with a report due in the fall. There could be a separate resolution based on the information from the traffic study and the board was in agreement. There was a discussion about having stormwater drainage buffered prior to it draining through the wetland area which was to be preserved. That discussion would take place in the subdivision process and suggestions could be given at that time.

Ms. Clark moved to adopt Resolution 16-02 with the discussed amendments, seconded by Ms. Crosby and was unanimously approved.

Locations for Cleco review

At the last meeting, the board had discussed listing three locations for Cleco review. It was decided the areas should be Carroll/Monroe Streets with the large oaks, Marigny Avenue with the wires down the median, and Lamarque Street and Highway 190. It was decided that the board would take pictures to identify the area and send them to Ms. Casanova. Ms. Clark agreed to be in charge of the project. Council Member Ellis asked what allocation was expected on this project. Ms. Scott said the board would identify the trees and area to crisscross the poles and Cleco would present a cost. That amount would be forwarded to the City Council to decide on what year it would be funded. There had been a discussion about using coated wire just on the live oak trees. Monroe Street between Girod Street and Marigny Avenue had live oak trees with cables under it, and Park Avenue and Monroe Street in the City right-of-way could be another location.

Harbor Tree Planting

Mr. Discon said the cypress trees were planted. He had met with Mr. McGuire about his concerns of the trees affecting future events at the Harbor. The goal was to make the area beautiful and shaded to hold more public events. Mr. McGuire was appreciative of the goal and that there would be no intention of hindering the space. Mr. Discon said he also met with the Pontchartrain Yacht Club members that were concerned about the view being blocked from the upstairs bar. It was agreed to move eight trees out of the site line. There were discussions about new locations for the trees and it was determined that they would be replanted further south of their present location.

East and West Causeway

Ms. Gleason said she, Ms. Casanova and Dr. Guidry were shown areas where trees could be planted. The list was small but included crepe myrtles, holly, vitex, and Japanese magnolias. The planting was limited on the design of 6' from the curb so the appearance would be similar to the existing crepe myrtle plantings. On the roll over curb areas on West Causeway there would not be any planting.

Ms. Gleason said for implementation, the project should be contracted and include a maintenance contract with a December planting time. The estimate was \$40,000-60,000 for the purchase and planting of the trees and a two year contract for both East and West Causeway. There were concerns about whether a two year maintenance would be sufficient and it was decided that the specifications should include the contractor having a water truck and/or water bags or rings.

The board decided to place the item on the September agenda and the estimate was included in the proposed budget. The discussion continued that the Wildflower Garden was getting a lot of negative response and the public needed to be educated. Ms. Clark suggested a newspaper article with an explanation of the transition and that the flowers would outgrow the grass in the next season. There would be another Wildflower Garden at the intersection of Highway 22 and West Causeway.

Highway 190/Florida Street Planting Locations

The City Council had placed a condition on the \$100,000 per year funding requiring Parish participation. The Parish had stated they would provide in-kind landscape design services that had not moved forward. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement had not been finalized and they were working on their own projects. The street design of roll over curbs did not allow for the planting of large trees. The board discussed soliciting property owners to plant trees creating a canopy on private property to beautify the area with the property owner being responsible for the maintenance.

Mr. Discon and Ms. Clark had created a list of suggested locations. Ms. Scott said the City had a non-conforming shopping center requirement and she suggested having the Parish Councilman adopt those regulations with a five year amortization in the former Overlay District. The species of trees must be considered with overhead electric wires. Ms. Gleason said there must be a 20' clearance from the electric lines. Cypress trees were also suggested since they would grow up rather than out, but there was a concern that it would block the traffic view.

The next step would be to contact the owners through a letter asking them to participate in the program. It was suggested to name it the Florida Street Live Oak Planting Program. If a live oak tree was not suitable then it was suggested to plant a magnolia or poplar tree. Ms. Scott also suggested having the Parish continue their plan preparation.

It was decided that Ms. Clark would compose a letter and email it for review.

Staff Updates

- The Wildflower Garden on West Causeway was on track with ground preparation and then planting.
- There was a tree with a large branch for kids to climb that had a pile of mulch that was not spread. Ms. Sica asked if the rest of the trees would be mulched. Ms. Casanova said it was decided to spread the remainder of the mulch in the fall because of hurricane season.
- The little cypress trees on the lakel front past Marigny Avenue were being weed wacked. These trees should be mulched as well as the oak tree at Marigny Avenue.
- The price to change to a chain barrier at the Pottery Oak would be \$800. It was suggested to change to a hemp colored rope that was as large as a fist that could be purchased at a marine store.
- The oak tree by the rose garden was dead. There was an oak tree at the end of Carroll Street that had broken a branch during July 4th. The trees by the rose garden should be trimmed of the dead limbs.
- The irrigation system at the rose garden worked sporadically. One of the problems was that people keep touching it. The landscaper had suggested locking a cage over it.

Budget

The total project cost was \$450,000 including the cemetery, and the breakdown was outlined below:

- Cemetery - \$50,000
- Residential Street Tree - \$30,000
- Miscellaneous small projects - \$15,000,
- Highway 190 planting - \$100,000
- Median plantings - \$5,000
- East and West Causeway Approach planting cost would fall under the Highway 190 planting. If a grant was obtained there would be a \$10,000
- Irrigation - \$5,000
- Mulch - \$5,000
- Tree removal and pruning - \$50,000
- Tree planting - \$15,000
- Landscape materials - \$5,000
- Miscellaneous materials - \$1,000
- Contracts for RCI for grass cutting - \$55,000, Alternative Services - \$55,000, Luscious Brumfield - \$10,000, Dr. Malcolm Guidry - \$10,000, and a Landscape Architect to review commercial projects - \$5,000.
- If there was as storm the tree removal and pruning line item was heavily used.

The board decided to create a schedule for each project with a chair person to move the project forward. A priority list should be created and discussed at next month's meeting. Construction plans for the cemetery project could not be finished before the end of August.

- The Highway 190 trees would best be planted between December and February.
- The Carroll Street live oak would have selective pruning to allow the tree to be parked under instead of removing the parking space.

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


Lori Spranley, Secretary


Scott Discon, Chairman

