

**Parks and Parkways Commission
Public Hearing
October 5, 2015**

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

Present: Karin Crosby, Scott Discon, Dodie Marshall, Lee Frederick, and Nancy Clark

Absent: Robert Santopadre and Anne Marie Fargason

Also Present: Louise Scott, Planning Director; Mayor Donald Villere

Highway 190 Review of Plans and Plant Lists

Ms. Scott presented there would be a repair/replace of the irrigation and a brick course for a uniform design on the Girod Street improvement. There would be the removal of plants and trees if overgrown for the site and replanted based on the approved plan. Adam Perkins was under contract for the project and was handling the bid documents. There were three bids received and would meet the next day to move forward. The Public Works Department would remove the damaged pavers.

Ms. Scott said there no design yet for Highway 190, but Mayor Villere wanted to move forward on landscaping/signage for the intersection at Girod Street and Highway 190 with the carwash owners for the beautification on all four corners. The signage would be on the south side entering Old Mandeville. When the process had moved further along, she would bring it to the board. Ms. Crosby asked to have the carwash landscape be of a similar design if possible. Ms. Scott said there was a landscape plan. Mayor Villere said with Mr. Perkins being involved there could be some different elements since he knew what should be planted. He could also make suggestions to the carwash to change some of their planting.

Mayor Villere said the Girod Street project would move forward in sections at a time. Instead of stopping at the middle of intersection, the City would construct the whole intersection and stop in the middle of the block. Ms. Crosby asked about replacing the dead plants on Girod Street. The plan was to repair and replace from Monroe Street south. Ms. Crosby hoped the project would take place during the fall planting time. Ms. Scott said Mr. Perkins would walk the area and make a replacement plan.

There were some general conceptual plant lists. Ms. Crosby requested a copy of the conceptual plant list review. Ms. Scott said it would be developed from what was appropriate for highway planting but there was no detail plan yet. Ms. Clark suggested planting the trees first. Mr. Discon asked about the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Ms. Scott said it was complete and she was trying to move forward with the Parish. Mr. Discon asked about the tree list. Ms. Scott said once a plan was developed with the Parish there must be get a permit issued through DOTD.

Ms. Crosby asked about any plants to be removed on Girod Street. Ms. Scott said there was a lot of Indian Hawthorne. Ms. Crosby asked if they would be transplanted. Ms. Scott said it was not yet discussed. She would meet with Mr. Perkins the next day. Ms. Crosby suggested relocating them to the cemetery. Ms. Clark said the root ball might be took much to move. It was suggested if there was replanting, to place it along the fence and let it grow wild. Ms. Scott would rather wait on a plan at the cemetery but along the fence line would be fine. Ms. Crosby said there was Leyland cypress by the gate that had died.

Pottery Oak Tree Bollards

Mayor Villere asked the board how many bollards would be needed to protect the tree and what should be placed in-between. Ms. Crosby suggested ropes. Ms. Marshall said the bollards at Mandeville High had ropes. Mayor Villere asked for a plan. The board suggested installing 6' x 6' posts with rope.

Kurt Frosch suggested round pilings would look better at 6" in diameter. Lumber Supply Company carried them since they were often used for bulkheads. Ms. Scott asked for a location, size, type, and style to be submitted. Ms. Clark said a sign had been discussed. Ms. Scott would look for a survey of the property. Mr. Frosch asked where the bollards would be placed. Ms. Clark said only on the east side of the street. Mr. Frosch asked if it would prohibit launching on the south end. Ms. Clark said the board wanted to keep trailers from going down and compressing the tree roots. The board wanted to prevent vehicular traffic but encourage pedestrian traffic.

Eagle Scout Projects

Ms. Crosby said the board was approached last year approached to participate in a scout project. She asked the board to compile a list of small topics or areas if the board was approached again. Ms. Clark suggested measuring the live oak trees with instructions on how to measure. Ms. Frederick suggested mulching the trees and she had adopted the city lot on Oak Street. A Cub Scout group had approached her to help and they could load up the mulch on a wheel barrow. She asked permission and the Mayor thought it was fine to get the help. He would like to recognize them for their efforts. Another area would be Community Garden on Kleber Street. Mayor Villere said it was replanted the last Saturday with barrels full of fresh dirt and winter crops. St. Tammany Parish Hospital had received a grant for healthy lifestyles. There was a meeting with the restaurants to promote menu items through the evaluation to reduce salt and sugar with a healthy stamp on the menu. Pastor Burris would make sure the garden was watered. Pastor Burris, Mayor Villere, three ladies from the hospital and a group of kids had replanted the garden. The Advocate was there taking pictures.

Kurt Frosch said tried to start a community garden on his vacant land, but was told he needed to come before the Parks and Parkways Commission. The property was located on Livingston Street by Clause Street in the middle of the block. Mr. Frosch wanted the city to install a water spigot on the lot. Mayor Villere said a previous Councilwoman had passed a resolution for the City to install a spigot on the property of a community garden. The board had tried to find people for community gardens.

The Samaritan Center had received permission to use the adjacent property for a community center and the City had provided water to them. They provided fresh vegetables to those in need. Mr. Frosch said he wanted to grow indigenous trees for the low area. It was explained to Mr. Frosch that the City would provide a water outlet, but it was the responsibility of a group to plant and maintain the garden. Mayor Villere suggested meeting with the hospital to get a group together. Ms. Crosby said the Ag Center had a school program for garden project and Woodlake Elementary was across the street. The Master Gardeners could be helpful.

Tree Plantings

Ms. Casanova, City's temporary Landscape Inspector, had provided a possible list of seedlings. The board decided to order shumard oak, southern red oak, red bud, beauty berry, and persimmon. The City would check with the Nature Center to determine who would be ordering bald cypress trees. It was also decided to order bald cypress for the schools.

The Street Tree program would continue with the existing list.

CLURO Changes for Tree Protection

The Special Event Committee would be holding a special meeting on October 6th at 6:30 p.m. to further discuss Resolution 15-01 and Ms. Crosby asked the members to attend.

The board had developed a list of suggested CLURO amendments.

Heritage trees

The board wanted to provide a higher protection status. Mayor Villere said he thought maintenance items were policy. Ms. Clark asked if there as a live oak protection in the CLURO and it was and it was answered yes. Ms. Scott said it was regulatory to include more trees. It was suggested to create a definition and allow heritage trees the same protection as a live oak tree. Ms. Crosby said she had researched that each city had their own guidelines or requirements depending on the species. Ms. Clark asked to find a city with a definition that suited Mandeville. Ms. Crosby said the Tulane plan had a specific requirement for girth. Ms. Scott said Ms. Casanova could do the research and create the language. The species, size and language would be further discussed.

- B. protection with fence rather than orange fencing. Dr. Guidry suggested this because the orange fencing was not permanent enough for protection. Ms. Scott agreed there was a problem with people rolling over it. With large live oaks more protection was required.
 - c. This was included in the resolution, and should be copied as part of the CLURO. It was listed as number 4 on the second page. Ms. Scott said it would be general tree protection items. It was discussed that there should be some type of matting required if vehicles need to get close to a heritage tree. The matting could be large timbers similar to those used for bulldozers disbursing the weight like a big pallet.
- Additional mulch should be spread to the area during construction to prevent compaction of soil. A 4" layer of mulch should be spread into a tree zone to protect the roots.
- Port-a-lets should not be located not under the trees. Ms. Crosby said on West Causeway Approach there was permanent fencing around the live oak tree. It was suggested to plant jasmine, liriope or monkey grass instead of mulch. Ms. Clark said someone had to plant it and make it get established. Ms. Crosby said Dr. Guidry said that was acceptable since it would be more long term. Ms. Clark said someone would have to maintain it in the beginning. Ms. Crosby said it could be established in the fall for spring.

Other items were Dr. Guidry's suggestions.

Nurse trees – piece of trunk. Ms. Scott said it was a problem because it was not bolted into the ground and could float away. The City would not want to be responsible for them getting loose. Ms. Clark said anchoring under the trees could also be a problem. Ms. Scott said in a V zone there could be undermining and wash out. Ms. Clark said there was not enough return for it. Ms. Clark felt that mulch accomplished the same thing.

When removing trees, use organic material to stay within the City limits. Ms. Scott would talk to the tree cutters. Much of the time it was used for firewood. If disposed, we would want to keep it.

Ms. Crosby asked to request Cleco, the other utility companies and tree cutters to have the green stay. Ms. Scott said she would coordinate with Cleco and all others that were within the Cleco right-of-way.

3. hammocks – Dr. Guidry did not recommend chains or hooks. Ms. Crosby said there was much discussion on this item. Ms. Scott said people were building hammock stations with a designated area. Tracy Elsensohn said people always climbed the trees. Mr. Discon said there were comments about multiple people in hammocks. Ms. Marshall said by the bridge there were numerous hammocks.

4. no fertilization and mulch should be sufficient.

Becky Rohrbough said she observed piles of mulch in the 2500 block of Lakeshore Drive that sat there for three weeks and killed the grass. She asked why there was such a delay to help the trees. Mr. Discon agreed that the mulch should have been dumped it under the trees. Ms. Rohrbough asked about fencing to rope off critical areas, and could it be utilized to protect private property close to the edge of the private property line. Ms. Clark said the board had discussed bollards and if that could be the same process.

Ms. Clark asked what could be legally done. Ms. Scott said if it was in the public right-of-way the City could protect it. Ms. Crosby said there were live oak trees on private property that had roots go onto the public area. Ms. Clark asked to have Ms. Casanova walk the lakefront and identify the vulnerable root systems.

Jeff Lyons asked what legally constituted a tree protection area. Ms. Scott said it was the canopy of the tree. The CLURO dealt with private property for development. It was applied to any trees impacted by the construction, and required trees to be preserved. Mr. Lyons asked if a chain-link fence would be considered semi-permanent. Ms. Scott said only during construction. The barrier should be of some material that the contractor could not just push out of the way to park under the trees. Mr. Frosch suggested using wooden stakes instead of t-posts.

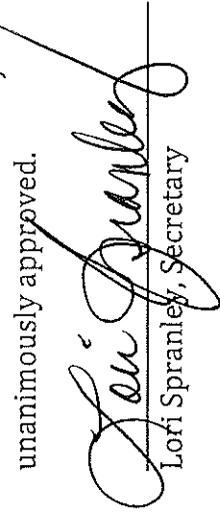
Tracy Elsensohn asked about the reunion using golf carts on the walking path. Ms. Clark said it was on the green area. Mayor Villere said the path was not supposed to be used for any vehicle. Ms. Marshall said during the reunion it was used. It was discussed that on a special event the requirement could be waived. Ms. Elsensohn asked about using stakes under the canopies of the trees. There was a discussion that stakes should not be used. Ms. Elsensohn said hooks were the size of a straw. Ms. Frederick said exceptions could be made. Ms. Crosby said Dr. Guidry said no tents and did not specify any particular type of tents. Ms. Clark suggested making a map of the tents on the application. Ms. Frederick suggested putting in on the edge of the canopy.

Parks and Parkways Commission
Public Hearing
October 5, 2015
Page 5

Ms. Crosby said this was rehashing the public meeting and the issues would be discussed at the next night's meeting. Ms. Crosby said these were general recommendations.

Ms. Clark said there were inchworms attacking the cypress trees. She contacted Will Afton at the Ag Center to find out what impact they were having. He said he did not know if it was damage or not. When we know what it was, the City would let the public know in an ebriefs or on the website. Ms. Scott suggested making an announcement at the City Council meeting and have the media pick it up.

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


Lori Spranley, Secretary


Karin Lorenz Crosby, Chairwoman

