

Parks and Parkways Commission

May 2, 2022

Page 1 of 3

Chairman Scott Discon called the meeting to order at 6:08pm

The secretary called the roll.

Commissioners Present: Scott Discon, Eric McQuiston, Will Afton, Anne Marie Fargason, Lee Frederick, and Leslie Marcello

Absent: None

Staff Present: Catherine Casanova, City Arborist; Alex Weiner, Secretary

Elizabeth Barilleaux, 201 Shaunell Dr: Said she applied for the option position on the Commission and wanted to come by and observe an in-person meeting since the last meeting she attended was via zoom. She graduated with an environmental engineering degree and helped to run a CSA farm. She also wanted to answer any questions the Commission may have.

Mr. Discon asked where she had lived in South Carolina, Ms. Barilleaux replied she lived in Columbia.

Ms. Fargason asked what vegetables were grown on the CSA, Ms. Barilleaux said it was a large variety, pretty much any type of vegetable was grown along with some edible flowers.

Ms. Marcello asked how many people helped, Ms. Barilleaux said that there were 40 volunteers

Minutes

Mr. McQuiston made a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 4 meeting, Ms. Marcello seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business:

Election of Chair

Mr. McQuiston nominated Mr. Discon as chair, and Ms. Fargason seconded, and all were in favor.

Ms. Frederick nominated Ms. Marcello as Vice Chair, Mr. Discon seconded, and all were in favor.

Pollinator Celebration

Mr. McQuiston reminded everyone that the date would be June 25 and the format would be similar to last year. Mr. McQuiston and Mr. Afton would be speaking.

Mr. McQuiston asked Mr. Abbey if Ms. Abbey would be helping again, Mr. Abbey replied that she would.

Ms. Fargason asked about any publicity, Mr. McQuiston mentioned that he would like something with the Commissions name on it.

Ms. Frederick said that the flyer and banner last year were changed to add the Commissions name on them.

Mr. Discon asked how many speakers were still needed, Ms. Casanova said that each talk would be 20 minutes with 10 minutes for switching between speakers.

Ms. Casanova said that the Native Plant Society will not be at the event, as their focus is the South Shore, but they wished us good luck.

Parks and Parkways Commission

May 2, 2022

Page 2 of 3

Mr. Discon asked if there were going to be any plant sellers at the event, as he would like to put them in the front area. Ms. Casanova said the NOLA bug lady sold plants last year.

Ms. Fargason asked if there would be any articles in the paper, Ms. Casanova said that Mr. Weiner would send a press release to the Farmer, but it would be up to them to write anything.

New Project Ideas for 2022-2023

Mr. McQuiston asked what the deadline is for this, Mr. Discon replied it was June

Mr. Discon said there were some leftovers from the 2021 budget such as the pocket parks at Sunset Point. Ms. Casanova said that Sunset point was devastated during Hurricane Ida and was being completely redone from scratch so the pocket parks would not be done.

Mr. Discon said that Hwy 190 Phase 2 should be included, and the Street Tree program would move back down to two trees instead of four.

Nancy Clark, 420 Carroll: Suggested planting some trees along the ravine.

Ernest Burguieres, 241 Wilkinson: Also suggested planting trees along the west side of Lakeshore Drive by the ravine.

Ren Clark, 420 Carroll: Said the board should insert itself in CLURO discussions going forward and should encourage water conservation.

Mr. Discon suggested the four corners project both over and under the overpass. He also mentioned that some of their budget was used for the construction and landscaping of the new flagpole.

Mr. Discon mentioned replacing the fencing along both sides of Hwy 22 South and said that the DOTD would put up the fencing if the City paid for it.

Mr. Discon asked about Sunshine Plaza, Ms. Casanova replied that the property owner does not want to go forward anymore.

Mr. Discon said that the area in front of Perlis was vacant and suggested the board come up with something to plant there.

Nancy Clark, 420 Carroll: Suggested incorporating a planting plan with the new fence, Mr. Discon said that would be included.

Ms. Fargason said the entryway to Stone Creek was very attractive.

Ms. Marcello asked when Sunshine Plaza decided to not go forward, Ms. Casanova said it was some time ago, it was a yes but then was changed to a no. Mr. Discon said that it was always tentative since the City did not own the land and would just plant on it.

Mr. Afton asked about the cemetery project, Mr. Discon said that it was moved to the capital projects budget along with Marigny Avenue which is good since that budget can roll over.

Buck Abbey, 1129 Villere: Said that 10 projects is too many for this town. You have to know the site for a good project. He said he had two example projects to show the Commission, a cypress-tupelo swamp area on Montgomery by the cemetery and a plan to landscape the JSBB Marina.

Ms. Marcello asked why not make a resolution to protect the area now.

Mr. Discon made a resolution to protect the area and be introduced at the next meeting.

Parks and Parkways Commission

May 2, 2022

Page 3 of 3

Tree Ordinance

Mr. Discon suggested breaking the current ordinance down into sections and going through and discussing them at future meetings in order to compile a master list of changes to recommend to the City Council.

Ernest Burguieres, 241 Wilkinson: Suggested introducing a tree canopy ordinance and distributed a draft copy. He said that trees other than live oaks need protection as well.

Buck Abbey, 1129 Villere: Had read the draft that Mr. Burguieres had written and recommended looking at the part about establishing a tree servitude, Mandeville could be at the forefront of this development.

Ms. Marcello wondered how the servitude was different than the current Street Tree program.

Wildflower Discussion

Ernest Burguieres, 241 Wilkinson: Said that the DOTD is opposed to wildflowers being planted along interstates because they prevent obstructions from being seen when the maintenance happens.

Ms. Marcello mentioned that DOTD also has issues with planting along high traffic and speed areas.

Staff Update

Causeway Underpass

Ms. Casanova said it is almost done, there is no power access in the area, so solar power is being used. The area is under maintenance

Hwy 190

Ms. Casanova said the area is being maintained, the mayor just needs to sign the contract

Public Comment

Wen Bonnival, 241 Wilkinson: The north Marigny sign is not level and is not centered on the concrete base

Ernest Burguieres, 241 Wilkinson: There is a grove of crape myrtles with benches by city parkway which make for a nice place to sit and rest. He recommends planting clumps of shade trees around the City.

Mr. Afton motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:43p.m., seconded by Mr. McQuiston and was unanimously approved.



Alex Weiner, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission