

Parks and Parkways Commission
June 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Discon and the secretary called roll.

Present: Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, Anne Marie Fargason, and Eric McQuiston

Absent: Marilyn Osborne, Will Afton and Karin Crosby

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

New Business:

1. Florida Streetscape plantings
No additional forms were submitted for planting. Mr. Discon asked about a timeline for the removal of the "suicide" lane, and the timeline was unknown. The water bags would be picked up the next day and placed on the new trees.
2. Marigny Avenue Edible Forest
The trees would be placed on a two year maintenance project. The bid would be sent on Wednesday for advertisement and the City would have prices by the end of June. The trees were removed, but the City had been requested to change the blocks for planting because some of the owners had no interest in the planting by their homes. The homeowners were concerned about maintenance and the planting would be unruly. The planting would be adjusted to the 600, 700 and 800 blocks which would require Cleco cutting the trees, approval of the plan change by Cleco and the solicitation of the maintenance bids. Mr. Discon said he had received three neighbor complaints being concerned about the maintenance. He said Mayor Villere was in support of the project and he had suggested planting the first three blocks from Florida Street as an example that it would be a good project. He asked if the whole street could be cleaned up under the maintenance contract rather than waiting for the tree cutting and planting. The neighbors were already concerned about the City not cutting the grass. Ms. Casanova was concerned with the contract being for two years, that the maintenance contract would delete some of the time for the maintenance of the plantings. If someone wanted a watering contract, they would be more willing to do a garden bed contract. Some companies only want to do grass cutting. Ms. Casanova suggested waiting for the maintenance contract until the plans were finalized.

Mr. Discon said the first block the City had already killed the grass. Mayor Villere wanted to see if the grass would regrow before re-establishing the grass. There had been concerns about not planting so close to the lake with hurricanes and flooding. The commission suggested planting the fig trees and mulching the area. Ms. Casanova would check the three blocks for the number of trees to be removed. Ms. Frederick asked to notify the neighbors that there would be a maintenance contract before shifting the block planting. Ms. Casanova said the neighbors in the first blocks by Florida Street were overwhelmingly in support of the project. Mr. McQuiston said this brought up an issue of the lack of communication. The project would be more successful with a letter requesting feedback and presented the opportunities and advantages to better the community.

Mr. McQuiston moved to maintain the original three blocks (100, 400 and 800) for planting, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved. Ms. Fargason requested to send a mailer to the neighbors on those blocks. Mr. McQuiston suggested creating a brochure to all of the Marigny Avenue neighbors including there would be a professional maintenance contract for the plantings for two years. The commission asked to include in the brochure the maintenance of the grass on the other blocks with

working irrigation. The brochure should explain that this was a pilot program for three blocks and the plans were posted at City Hall.


3. Budget projects for 2019

Ms. Casanova said she, Mr. Discon, Ms. Scott and Mayor Villere had discussed the list of projects based on the commission's list from the last meeting.

1. Highway 190/Highway 22/Underpass – the plan would be developed in-house. Ms. Frederick suggested a simple planting plan of grasses, Wydelia, and irises at the bottom. Ms. Frederick would be in charge of the planting list. There were the original plans in-house to match all sides. Mr. McQuiston suggested presenting the plan and adapting it with different species.
2. Girod Street, Phase 4 – removal of the Indian Hawthorne, replanting with rosemary and drift roses. Mr. McQuiston suggested distylium which would be evergreen with late winter flowers.
3. Pollinator Gateway – one of the projects was the parking lot at Girod Street of which the plans were being developed by Franklin Kyle. Ms. Frederick suggested installing an educational plaque under glass with the names of the plants and why they were important.
4. Kierr Gardens – camellia planting and irrigation
5. Cemetery – this project was always on the list. The City was asked to plant greenery on the fence to hide it.
6. Tyler Thomas – removal and reconstruction of the overhang structures and installation of benches. Ms. Casanova would resend the plan to the Public Works Department that insure the planting would not be hurt during construction. Ms. Frederick asked to hold planting until September since it was unsure if there was water availability.
7. Marigny Avenue – update to the three original blocks
8. Causeway Underpass – move away from Dana Brown for the project since the City had not been able to contact her. Ms. Brown's plan was very expensive and Mr. Kyle would use some of Ms. Brown's elements that were not the water features. Mr. McQuiston would work with Mr. Kyle on behalf of the commission. Mr. Kyle was the only company under contract at this time. Ms. Frederick would like to see aquatic plantings with swales. Ms. Casanova said at some time there must be a survey of what was below the ground and it was suggested to order a survey.
9. Pottery Oak – coordinate with the Historic Preservation District Commission to create interpretative areas. It was discussed to create a boardwalk down to the site and rope off the wetland areas.
10. Monroe Street plantings – plant indigo at the front entrance
11. Sunset Point – develop it with more urban plantings to become more of a natural garden, create it as a pollinator stop with milkweed for the monarchs, plants for the butterflies, and interpretative signs. It was decided to work with Mr. Kyle to create a plant palette.
12. Benches – there would be more benches for the harbor, the water park, and at Tyler Thomas Park. Mayor Villere said he would contract the benches out.
13. Yards and Neighborhood Program
14. Update Master Tree Plan
15. Educational programs for the public

Mr. McQuiston moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.


Lori Spranley
Secretary


Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission