

**Parks and Parkways Commission  
January 8, 2018**

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

Present: Scott Discon, Karin Crosby, Lee Frederick, Anne Marie Fargason, Nancy Clark, and Jess Cole

Absent: Marilyn Osborne

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of December 4, 2017, seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

**Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:**

Ms. Fargason moved to nominate Scott Discon as Chairman, seconded by Ms. Frederick and was unanimously approved.

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

**New Business:**

**Update on the Florida Street Tree Planting**

Mr. Discon stated as an update that the total number of trees for the businesses was 15 trees. Ms. Osborne had reported that she was working with Walgreen's to plant 3 trees. Ms. Cole and he were discussing tree planting with Saia's. Ms. Spranley reminded the board that parking spaces may need to be removed to have a place for planting. The parking requirement should be confirmed with St. Tammany Parish so the business would not be out of compliance. Ms. Crosby said there was a Keep St. Tammany Beautiful group that should be contacted.

Ms. Frederick said the Palm Motors owner would like to plant trees. There was an area on his property that held water that he had requested to remove the concrete and install limestone and landscaping, but St. Tammany Parish would not allow the removal of the loading bay. Mr. Discon said the tenant threatened to move out if the trees were planted. The board decided not to pursue the planting to prevent any problems between the owner and the tenant which sold cars.

Mr. Discon had located 45 gallon trees and Ms. Scott was agreeable to the purchase. Ms. Casanova would contact Dottie to mark the utilities on the sites. The trees should be delivered in 2-3 days.

The intent was to have a photo opportunity when the trees were planted and the article could also promote the tree giveaway on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Clark had spoken with Will Afton, County Agent, who was concerned about the decline of the live oak trees at the Post Office and suggested starting a second generation of trees. It was discussed that permission must be given by the Federal Government, possibly the local Postmaster.

**Girod Street Improvement Plan**

Ms. Casanova said landscaping work was continuing on a portion of Girod Street. Page 2 of the plan was the planting on Lakeshore Drive by Donz. The plan was to remove the bushes, brick the area and plant new trees. Ms. Crosby asked about using horse trough planter boxes similar to the ones used in Covington. Ms. Casanova said trees would be the easier option and



still allow the bar patrons to stand in the area. Ms. Crosby suggested placing cast iron grates around the trees to disperse the weight of the people next to the trees. The plan indicated that the tree species was Drake Elms. Ms. Casanova said she did not know what the cost would be and it was not included in the budget. Generally, the trees grew out of the grates. Mr. Discon said he thought the purpose of the grates was to get the trees started. Ms. Casanova said they would need to be removed when the trees grew and there would be an additional cost. Ms. Clark said it was a design element nowhere else on Girod Street. Ms. Crosby said she was trying to protect the trees from compaction with the bar patrons standing on it. Ms. Casanova said the area would be heavily mulched.

The second part of the project was on stop signs on the corner of Lakeshore Drive and Girod Street. The three options were brick, grass or bushes. The suggestion would be to replant the drift roses removed on Girod Street with juniper. Mondo grass was suggested but it did not grow well in between the pavers. Ms. Casanova said the drift roses were doing well where planted, and it was agreed to transplant the drift roses with an additional planting of juniper. This would provide symmetry on both sides of the street and would have planting on the corners.

The third part of the project was from Monroe Street to the Trailhead. The dead Indian Hawthorne and declining maple trees would be removed. The remaining cypress and maple trees would remain and additional Drake Elm trees would be planted to continue the line of trees. Rosemary would be added as an under planting. The planting would be similar to the plantings south of Monroe Street. Ms. Crosby asked about the corner across from the Rusty Pelican, and the century plants would be removed and the area would be replanted. Ms. Crosby said Turks cap was planted on Girod Street south of the pavilion, and asked for additional plantings.

Mr. Discon said the parking lot across from the Lalou Restaurant was cleared and was covered in weeds. Ms. Casanova said she would develop a landscape plan for the parking lot area. The board suggested it match the rest of Girod Street.

Mr. Discon said the back side of the Trailhead, where the recycle dumpster had been located, did not look like it was maintained. Ms. Crosby asked if the Public Works Department could clean the street area.

#### **Causeway Underpass Update**

The City Council had approved Dana Brown's contract and an initial meeting was scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Clark asked if Ms. Brown could review the lakefront playground pads with the runoff.

#### **Cemetery Update**

The dirt pile was back by the main gate at the Trailhead. Ms. Casanova said there were other active projects and the staff was waiting on information about the mausoleum to move forward on any cemetery plans.

#### **Marigny Avenue Update**

Ms. Casanova would send out the bid this month. She was waiting to set up a meeting date with Cleco about tree removal since they have limitations. She had tried to contact the Cleco representative several times and would follow up again the next day. Mr. Discon asked if Cleco would grind the stumps and Ms. Casanova said that was one of the issues to discuss.

Franklin Kyle had reviewed the plan and agreed with the species and placement. It was agreed to work on the bid documents while waiting to meet with Cleco.

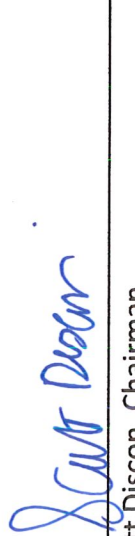
Ms. Frederick asked about the Tyler Thomas Park. It was requested to discuss with Mayor Villere if a letter had been mailed for input or if a letter from Morning Star Baptist Church would be sufficient. Ms. Frederick requested a copy of the plan and she would discuss it with the pastor of the Morning Star Baptist Church for input from the congregation.

**Staff Update**

Mr. Discon would meet with Mayor the following week to discuss moving forward on construction of additional benches for the lakefront.

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

  
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Lori Spranley, Secretary

  
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Scott Discon, Chairman  
Parks and Parkways Commission

