

Parks and Parkways Commission December 4, 2017

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

Present: Scott Discon, Lee Frederick, Anne Marie Fargason, Nancy Clark, Jess Cole and Marilyn Osborne

Absent: Karin Crosby

Also Present: Catherine Casanova, Landscape Inspector

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the minutes of November 6, 2017, seconded by Ms. Fargason and was unanimously approved.

New Business:

1. Update Florida Street Streetscape Planting

Ms. Frederick said she had an agreement with Creole Tomateaux and the Crescent City Pain Store that was given to Ms. Casanova. She was in discussion with Palm Motors. The property owner was in agreement, but the renter did not want a large oak tree would block the view of his cars. She was negotiating for another tree species to be planted. There were two businesses she could not contact so would visit the site. Ms. Clark suggested beginning the planting to encourage other businesses to plant a tree. Ms. Casanova said there was a commitment for four trees and potentially an additional two trees. Ms. Osborne said she visited Deboscq Jewelers which was a possibility and she would follow up in the next week. Ms. Cole volunteered to help visit other businesses.

Mr. Discon said he would have an article written and a photo opportunity when the trees were planted. Ms. Casanova said she would have to order the trees, but live oak trees were hard to find at this time. Ms. Clark suggested January 19th which was the Louisiana Arbor Day as the planting date and asked for an update by the end of the week if an order was placed. It was decided to order six trees with four confirmed and two businesses close to committing.

2. Neighborhoods

Ms. Clark said the Neighborhoods plan provided the definition of a Rain Garden as: A shallow area of land planted with native vegetation that is strategically placed, most often near impervious surfaces, where the vegetation is used to reduce water flow and filter pollution from runoff.

She suggested the area by the swing sets on the lakefront could become rain gardens planted to catch the run off from the concrete and become an educational opportunity. Ms. Clark also suggested placing a sign by the Marigny Avenue rain garden.

Regarding Neighborhoods, only the boardwalk was constructed which was in good condition. Ms. Clark asked how the City could implement the other parts of the plan. Ms. Casanova said the first step would be to have the neighbors and Council Member David Ellis in agreement. Ms. Clark suggested sending the plan to Mr. Ellis and ask him to get input from his constituency.

Staff Update

1. Dana Brown's contract would be on the December 14th Council meeting for approval. She will then start drawing plans.
2. There was a plan for Girod Street by Donz to remove the plants, plant more trees and pavers. People would stand there no matter what was planted there. It would be easier to keep clean. There were three schemes on the curb. As is, drift roses and

- trees would be planted, and the third option was to just install pavers. Ms. Osborne said she did not think people would step on the drift roses. Ms. Casanova said they could not put a tree in that corner. They would reuse the drift roses and plant junipers. Mr. Discon said the drift roses were surviving. The Girrod Street side needed help. Ms. Casanova said there was one tree and three more trees would be planted with pavers. The mulch disappears with the rain. Mr. Discon said the corner across the street on Girrod Street needed refurbishing. He suggested the corners match and it was the most important corner in the City being the main road.
3. Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church live oak tree on West Causeway Approach - there was a work order for mulching.
 4. Benches – the West End playground benches fell apart when they were moved for the hurricane and would replace them with the new benches when built. Mr. Discon said all of the benches were picked up for the hurricane. Ms. Casanova said they were being built when there was time.
 5. Marigny Avenue – Cleco was waiting on their right-of-way crew to verify the plans and the staff would be notified of the steps.
 6. Franklin Kyle was good with the plan and the soil was good to move forward on the bid documents.
 7. Someone needed to plant six long leaf pines on City property. Ms. Clark suggested the Kierr Garden. These trees were replacements for City removal by a homeowner. Mr. Discon suggested another location could be by the bridge on the lakefront. Ms. Clark said long leaf pines would not be good on the lakefront. Ms. Casanova said Kierr Garden was a better location and it had a water source.

Ms. Clark moved to open the agenda for the Lang House Garden, Chenier median, safe passage in Old Mandeville, property between Woodstone, seconded Mr. Discon and unanimously approved.

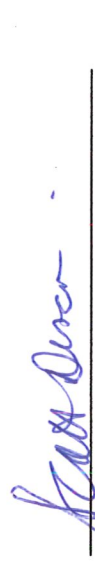
1. Woodstone Subdivision – vacant property had been purchased on West Causeway Approach and Ms. Frederick suggested contacting the new owner about the new under brushing of vegetation regulations.
2. Lang House work day for the kitchen garden. It was a Master Gardener service project with 20 volunteers. The work day was for the masonry work for the raised beds. Ms. Casanova had pine straw delivered and the Public Works Department cleaned the entrance to the bunny trail and re-mulched the entire trail.
3. Median garden beds by the Chenier Center – it looked better but one section was shredded and it should be mulched. Mr. Discon suggested planting grasses all the way down to the Pelican Athletic Club for a consistent appearance. That would be a trial area for the grasses. He thought the grasses could be planted in phases while the commission was waiting on more trees to be planted. Ms. Frederick said the more beautified an areas became, the more people would want to plant. Ms. Clark said if could be a balance of planting during the entire planting season. Ms. Clark said areas needed to be identified, plan drawn up, recommendations and prices. Ms. Casanova said there was a need for stamped plans to DOTD approval.
4. Issues in Old Mandeville were water, traffic and the streets were narrow. A solution for safe passage would making the non-primary streets one-way with half of the street becoming walking/bike paths. It would minimize thru traffic. It was a suggestion because the streets could not be wider, no one wanted more concrete and the City did not want to cover the drainage ditches. Ms. Clark said Girrod Street was one way for a few years which did not work and reverted back to two day. There was a discussion that the boulevard streets could be two way. With the population density there was a need to create one-way streets. Ms. Spranley suggested forwarding an outline to Ms. Scott for implementation into the Bike and Pedestrian Committee discussions. Ms. Frederick said it was important and the commission did not want more sidewalks and protect the trees. Ms. Osborne suggested using the bunny trail type of construction for sidewalks. In other areas

there were wooden pathways for bikes. Ms. Frederick suggested pervious pavers.
Ms. Clark said originally Old Mandeville had wooden sidewalks.

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



Lori Spratley, Secretary



Scott Discon, Chairman
Parks and Parkways Commission

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