

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - January 8, 2013

Members Present: Cheryl Major, Sue Truesdale and Susan White

Members Absent: Al Reed, Deborah Davis, Kim Cates, Dan Cantey and Jane Miller

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4th @ 5PM (Training Room downstairs at City Hall)

The meeting opened at 4:10 p.m. by Liz. There were no minutes available to review from the November 2012 meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

- * The Arbor Day ceremony went well. Thanks to many city staff as well as the Fire Dept., Parks and Streets Dept. for helping to plan, setup and host as well as the Camden Tree Foundation for providing the replacement willow oak tree. Thanks also to Deborah, Al, Sue and Kim for bagging up the seedlings and to Deborah and Al for helping with refreshments and setting up.
- * Christmas decorations were delivered later than expected but installed in time for the holidays. Many thanks to the Streets and Electric Departments for their dedication and patience in working overtime after Thanksgiving to get it all completed. All decorations are in the process of coming down and being stored until next November.
- * The Tree City USA application for recertification for 2012 has been completed and submitted to the SC Forestry Commission for review and approval. This year the city spent approximately \$418,294 collectively on community forestry management/maintenance, which works out to be almost \$60 per capita. We removed almost 70 trees, pruned about 125 trees and planted 70 trees.
- * The tree crew who had been on loan from the Electric Dept. to the Urban Forester completed over 50 work orders, including tree removals and pruning. Only a handful of low-priority work orders were turned back in to the Electric Supervisor to be complete at a future date. The crew did a great job and have now gone back to their regular duties until the next fiscal year.
- * Two of the live oaks at the Town Green will be replaced on Thursday, January 11th. The parking lot will be temporarily and partially closed that day as a crane and large transport truck will be needed to accomplish the task. Liz has notified in-person 24 of the 27 merchants surrounding the Green to inform them of the parking lot closing.
- * The bronze statuary of Larry Doby and Bernard Baruch are being made and will be placed on the Camden Archives front lawn. The Street Dept. is busy preparing the site for a concrete pad on which, the statues will be positioned. A formal unveiling ceremony is planned for Friday, March 28th.

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CURRENT BUSINESS

Kirkwood Park Improvements: Liz shared that there is approximately \$2,600 remaining in the capital improvement fund for the Park. Two items still remain to complete the project - the purchase of a seesaw and some shrubs for the fence that is adjacent to the basketball court. She will work on these things in the coming weeks.

Margot Rochester Landscape Award (MRLA): It is time to begin planning for the award program and Liz shared a task list associated with all of the duties associated with implementing the program. Since there was not a quorum, the Commission members could not get too far in planning the timeline and assigning tasks. Liz said she would meet with Deborah in the coming days to review the list and make assignments.

Leaders Legacy Recognition Program (LLRP): Liz shared with the group that former Mayor Jeffrey Graham had submitted five (5) nomination forms this past November for various folks to be recognized under this program, which was developed and adopted last calendar year. This program is designed to recognize the significant contributions of individual residents and benefactors to the City of Camden. Nominees are recognized via a steel park bench with a dedication plaque and placed in a public park or along a street. The nominees submitted by Mr. Graham are: former Mayor Phillip S. Minges, Jr., former Mayor James L. Anderson, former Mayor Austin Sheheen, Sr. as well as Ruby Minton and Dr. Paul Joseph, Sr. As written in the program procedures, City staff is responsible for procuring the benches and the Parks & Trees Commission is responsible for helping to decide where the benches are placed as well as help plan the dedication ceremony.

The group discussed possible locations for bench placement. Liz shared that former City Manager Bronson suggested last month that the three benches for the former Mayors be placed on the grounds of the City Archives and all members present thought this was a good idea. Susan White suggested that the other two benches be placed in the northeast quadrant of Monument Square, which is without any amenities at this time. All members present agreed this was a good location. Liz said she'd check with City Hall to see if the bench locations have to be approved by City Council as the LLRP procedures do not specify.

Tree Replacement: Liz has started work on the list of tree replacement sites for the 2013 planting season. In addition to the 15 container trees planted in the parks for Arbor Day, she hopes to plant another 40 trees throughout the city. The remaining budget is approximately \$12,000.

OTHER

Kim Cates has taken a job in Charlotte, NC and will no longer be able to attend the Parks & Trees Commission meetings. Kim asked via email what she needed to do to resign from the Commission. Liz informed her she needed to submit a formal statement stating the resignation.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester