

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – April 2, 2013

Members Present: Al Reed, Dan Cantey, Susan White, Cheryl Major and Deborah Davis

Members Absent: Jane Miller and Sue Truesdale

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 7th @ 4PM (Training Room downstairs at City Hall)**

The meeting was opened at 4:02 p.m. by Deborah. The minutes from the March 2013 meeting were reviewed as presented. With no corrections, a motion was made by Dan and seconded by Cheryl and all approved.

**CITY UPDATE:**

- \* The swing set bought for City Arena Park has been delivered and will be set up in the coming weeks.
- \* The Urban Forester is in the process of coordinating community projects in partnership with Boy Scout Troop 348. This Troop is supported by The Church of Latter-Day Saints and volunteers each year for a service work day. This year it will be Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 30 to 50 people will participate in one of three projects: trail rehabilitation at Kendall Lake Park, build and install two picnic tables at Armory Park and install ornamental plants in above-ground containers at the Town Green.
- \* No other noteworthy updates to report.

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

**Kirkwood Park Improvements:** The see-saw for Kirkwood Park has been installed.

**Margot Rochester Landscape Award (MRLA):** All tasks are on schedule. We received 4 landscape nominations: First Baptist Church, The Camden House English B&B, Mullikin Law Firm and Grace Episcopal Church. The judges are in the process of visiting the nominated sites and will be meeting at the Habitat Store Friday April 12th at 5PM to decide the winner. Liz will ask Public Works Director Tom Couch if it's ok for Street Dept. worker Michelle Torres to take photos of the winning landscape for use in the award poster. The award poster should be completed before the ceremony on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Tree Replacement:** Bids for transportation and installation have been sent, received and chosen. Wavering Place Landscaping will be planting the trees this week.

**Commission Vacancy:** Jane Miller was officially appointed by City Council to fill the vacancy left open by Kim Cate's resignation. Both Dan Cantey's and Al Reed's terms will expire at the end of May 2013. Deborah asked if anyone knew of someone who'd be interested in serving. No names were mentioned.

**Leaders Legacy Recognition Program (LLRP):** City staff has solicited quotes to procure the benches and Leisure Lines, Inc. was selected. The 5 benches have been ordered and will take 4 to 6 weeks for manufacturing and shipping. It is likely that a dedication ceremony may be planned for late June 2013. Three of the benches will be dedicated to past judges and two will be dedicated to citizens.

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The bench locations will be grouped as such; Mayor's benches to be placed at City Archives and the citizen benches placed in the northeast corner of Monument Square. Liz asked if we should try and plan two separate ceremonies and the consensus of the group was to have one ceremony for all 5 people.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dan asked about the request from a downtown business merchant to remove an elm tree growing almost directly in front of his business awning along Broad Street. Liz provided background information to the group regarding the situation and informed everyone that she had met with the merchant and was trying to come up with a solution. Pruning the tree for visibility of the awning would remove most of the canopy and most likely kill the tree, replacement with another tree would create visibility conflict in the future, replacement with a shrub or placing an above-ground container with plants in it would impede visibility of motorists exiting Clyburn Lane onto Broad Street.

Site visibility or lack thereof, of the business name seems to be the primary concern and contributor for the tree removal request. Since the building is a stand-alone structure and has an open view-shed corridor on both the north and south-bound lanes along Broad Street, several alternatives were mentioned: a) paint the business name on either or both sides of the building, b) have a stand-alone sign on the sidewalk which faces perpendicular to the street or c) remove the tree and replace with something else that doesn't grow as tall.

After much discussion as whether to allow or not the removal of the tree, there were mixed thoughts. The general consensus of the members, except for Dan Cantey, was not to cut the tree and to have Liz investigate the options mentioned by following up with Zoning Director John Burns to see what is allowable and then follow up with the merchant.

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester