

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2012

Members Present

Claire Shell
Deborah Davis
Fran Burns
Al Reed

Members Absent: Sue Truesdale, Cheryl Major, Dan Cantey

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

Claire Shell opened the meeting at 1:12 PM and welcomed those present. Claire asked for approval of the November 1, 2011 minutes as written. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:

* The Town Green ceremony on 11-3-11 went well and there was good attendance. The live oak trees are still looking stressed so Liz has asked Danny Burbage, Urban Forester with the City of Charleston to come look at them and provide an opinion on their condition and if any changes should be made to their management.

* The SC Forestry Commission grant to prune deadwood out of public tree is completed. The \$9,250 in grant funds facilitated the pruning of 31 trees. There are 7 more trees that were identified for removal and 17 more trees that need deadwood pruning that did not get done due to the lack of grant funds.

* Liz completed the re-certification application for Tree City USA status under the Arbor Day Foundation as well as applied for Growth Award status which is an additional accreditation under Tree City.

* The approved tree planting list is still under development but Liz hopes to wrap up the draft in the coming week or so. This list will be used in conjunction with the public tree ordinance and the tree protection/landscape ordinance. Al suggested that the City install tree identification tags or signs for trees in our parks. There was a brief discussion on the type, placement, and actual implementation of this idea. Currently there are no City funds budgeted for something like this so it might be an opportunity to partner with the Tree Foundation or KC Master Gardeners or a Garden Club. More discussion to follow at a future meeting.

* In anticipation of tree replacement planting this winter, Liz shared that she recently visited 2 nurseries in Walterboro to start flagging trees. Among some of the trees tagged for planting are: Persian perotia, fruitless sweetgum, crape myrtle, 3 different types of oaks, black gum, redbud and 1 bald cypress – about 25 in all. She will be visiting another nursery to tag about 10 more trees. The trees will be planted in Hampton Park, Boykin Park and the historic district.

OLD BUSINESS:

Arbor Day: The Arbor Day ceremony was successful with a much bigger crowd in attendance than last year, over 80 adults and 15 children. This is due to the overwhelming support for the honoree organizations – United way, Habitat for Humanity, Mt. Moriah Soup Kitchen, New Day on Mill, Food for the Soul and CCM. Special thanks to Fran and Al for helping with refreshments and all for pitching in and helping out.

NEW BUSINESS:

End-of-year annual report: Just a reminder that Claire, as Commission Chair, will need to put together a year-end report for the City Manager by May 2012 documenting the accomplishments of the group.

Parks Site Visit and Review of Needs: As mentioned at the November meeting, it is time to visit each city-owned park and make recommendations for improvements. The group decided that Monday, January 23 at 9AM

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would suit everyone present. We will meet in the Public Works Dept. parking lot and try to all ride together. Liz will send out a list of the Parks with a brief description and inventory of amenities in each in the coming week or so.

Margot Rochester Landscape Award: It is time to start working on the promotion of the award. Here is the to-do list: schedule article / calendar of events in paper for February and March, judge nominations in April, present the award in May, update nomination form and post on website, update/revise criteria, print up promotional posters for distribution by March meeting,

Nominations for 2012 Appointments: After a brief discussion several names were mentioned as possible candidates to check interest with and bring before Council. Possible nominees include Austin Jenkins, Dan Lovett, Rose Sheheen and Kay Barlow. Further discussion of who will contact whom will be scheduled for a future meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.

The next meeting will be February 7, 2012 at IPM in the small conference room at City Hall.

CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS INCLUDE:

March 6, 2012	August 7, 2012
April 3, 2012	September 4, 2012
May 1, 2012	October 2, 2012

Respectfully submitted by
Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester