

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT) – January 6, 2015

Members Present: Jane Miller, Susan White, MJ Rowell, Thelma Rutledge and Bob Williams (guest)

Absent: Sue Truesdale and Al Reed

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

NEXT MEETING: February 3, 2015 @ 4:00PM

The meeting was opened at 4:05 p.m. Liz welcomed Bob Williams to the meeting. Bob submitted an application for consideration to fill the recent vacancy by Deborah Davis. His application will be reviewed by Council on January 13, 2015. The minutes from the December 2015 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jane to accept as presented, a second was made by MJ and all approved.

CITY UPDATE:

Christmas decorations – Staff is in the midst of removing all of the decorations. It will likely take about 1 ½ weeks to get it all down.

Commerce Alley Improvement Project – Still need to complete the bollards and speed hump and then the punch-list but parking is now open. A rain garden landscape for the transformer area in the northern part of the parking lot has been designed by Liz with the help from Jackie Jordan (Clemson Extension Agent). We hope to have it installed starting this month. David Joseph will do the work.

1001 Broad Street – The lot is now closed to parking. We are waiting on the Electric Dept. to remove the Clock Tower lights and then the utility poles. We hope the landscape work will begin on Jan. 12th, weather permitting. David Joseph will be doing the work.

Kendall Park improvements – The project had been progressing great and the trail is almost complete. However, due to variation in the trail depth, the originally estimated qty of materials has been depleted and there is still 783 linear feet to lay the shredded rubber. The good news is that we are actually getting a trail that is 2 ½ to 3 inches thick instead of just 2 inches thick. Due to needing more rubber, the holidays and the fact that the installation contractor has been ill and is out-of-state, the work will not resume until Jan 12th to finish up, hopefully.

Town Green – The City will be creating a larger landscaped area around the Haigler/Kershaw statues. First Class Landscaping will do the work and start on it in the coming weeks.

CURRENT BUSINESS

Park Use Policy Review – This item has been deferred until next month's meeting as not everyone had a chance to review the material.

Margot Rochester Landscape Award Program – MJ shared with the group that she was unable to proceed as Award Program Chair due to a recently arisen and serious health condition with her husband. It is unclear, at this point in time, if she will be able to continue to serve on the Commission. Therefore, Liz asked the remaining members to consider stepping up, taking the lead and to think about it until the February meeting.

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This is a program of the Commission's, first and foremost, with support from the City. If no one volunteers to Chair the program then it will be deferred until 2016.

NEW BUSINESS

Leader's Legacy Bench Recognition Program – Liz informed the group that four new nominees have been approved. They are: Dr. David Joseph, Sr. (deceased), and former Councilmen Pat Partin, Walter Long and Willard Polk. The requested bench locations for each person was reviewed and approved by all. Dr. Joseph's bench will be placed in the southwest quadrant of Monument Square, Pat Partin's bench will be placed in Hampton Park, Walter Long's bench will be placed in Kendall Park and Willard Polk's bench will be placed in the northwest quadrant of Monument Square. Liz stated that before the City could proceed with procuring the benches and planning the dedication ceremonies for these folks that the City first had to install and recognize former Mayor Mark Clark with her bench at 1001 Broad Street and Dr. Watkins with his bench at Hampton Park.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 3, 2015 @ 4:00PM

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester