

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 6, 2012

Members Present

Claire Shell  
Al Reed  
Deborah Davis

Sue Truesdale  
Fran Burns

Members Absent: Dan Cantey and Cheryl Major

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

**CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS INCLUDE:**

**April 10, 2012**

**August 7, 2012**

**May 1, 2012**

**September 4, 2012**

Claire Shell opened the meeting at 1:06 PM and welcomed those present. Claire asked for approval of the February 2012 minutes as written. A motion was made by Al and seconded by Sue to adopt the minutes; the motion was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE:**

\* Approximately 49 trees have been planted around town as a part of the tree replacement program. David Joseph Landscaping was awarded the contract to perform the work. The list of trees include: nuttall oak, swamp chestnut oak, overcup oak, 1 Chinese pistache, 2 stewartia, 3 Catawba crape myrtles, 3 Natchez crape myrtles, 3 eastern red cedar, 3 Carolina cherrylaurel, 3 eastern redbud, 3 fruitless sweetgum, 1 sweetbay magnolia, 1 bald cypress, 4 Chinese (lacebark) elm, 4 Persian ironwood, 3 black gum, 1 deodar cedar and 1 red maple. Liz will be watering these trees from now through early November. Al suggested that an article on the tree replacement planting should be written for the Chronicle Independent. This would be good educational information for folks to know about what's being planted around the city.

\* Liz is scheduled to meet with representatives from Shady Grove Nursery and the construction contractor AOS tomorrow in Orangeburg to discuss the Town Green live oaks. Al suggested that an article on the live oaks should be written for the Chronicle Independent. This pro-active approach would be good for folks to know about the effects of transplant shock and the status of the trees.

\* The ceremony planned for the unveiling of an historic sign at Boykin Park has been postponed due to severe weather. The wooden posts in the parking lot at Boykin Park along with the cable wire strung through them have been removed as they were an eyesore and had been vandalized.

\* Liz will be working with the City's grant writer, Sonia Canzater, to apply for a Playful Cities grant for playground equipment for City Arena Park located at the corner of Bull and Market Streets.

\* Liz and Tony Burns had a chance to meet with Tom Couch (Public Works Director), Mel Pearson (Assit. City Mgr.) and Kevin Bronson (City Mgr.) regarding budget requests for FY2013. Some of the funds requested were: park signage, an increase in tree planting funds, capital improvements for City Arena Park and bollards for Boykin Park.

\* Liz had a recent conversation with some folks living on Walnut Street. There are at least 2 trees marked for removal and some of the residents are interested in talking about a long-term tree plan for the street.

\* Liz presented two Power Point programs recently: one to the Planning Commission regarding the landscape & tree conservation ordinance and one to the Midlands Master Gardener Association. She is scheduled to present another program at the Archives on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

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OLD BUSINESS:

**Margot Rochester Landscape Award:** Deborah reported that she has made initial contact with the judges for 2012. We will be adding a representative from the Florentine Garden Club to the panel this year. Tentatively the judges are:

- Camden Garden Club Member – Debbie Gregory
- Florentine Garden Club – Thelma Rutledge
- Kershaw County Master Gardener President - Maryann Bowen
- Kershaw County Master Gardener Member – Janet Smith
- Kershaw County Master Gardener Member - Mary Catherine Norwood
- King Haigler Garden Club – Julie Trott

There was a brief discussion as to whether or not we needed three KC Master Gardener members. If one position was reduced that would leave a 5-person judging team instead of six.

This year's (tentative) time-line is as follows:

- March 30<sup>th</sup> – Have posters printed and distributed to various stores, etc., contact all media and provide them with necessary information
- April 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> – Acceptance of nominations
- May 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> – Judges review nominated sites
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – Judges meet to decide award winning site
- May 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> – Award winner notified, agenda finalized and award poster made
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – Host award ceremony

TASKS TO DO:

Deborah: Update PR information and email to Fran and contact radio station and provide PR information, get PR poster printed and distributed to Parks & Trees Commission members within a week or so (each member will be responsible for distributing about 5 posters), contact Maryann Bowen to see if her plate is too full to be a judge.

Deborah & Liz: Put together list of places for posters to be displayed

Liz: Email Deborah the photo of Jack Brantley's place so she can get posters printed, contact City Archives & Museum to reserve the Whitely room for award ceremony on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10AM, check on the web site address before placing the address on the PR information sheet and nomination forms, etc., update the nomination form, judging form and the general information fact sheet for the web site, make sure that the PR information and nomination form gets posted on City website, contact Mayor / City Council to notify them of award date and set up room for ceremony.

Fran: Contact the Chronicle Independent, Fine Arts Center & Chamber of Commerce and provide PR information for printing

Al: Put together and print out award ceremony agenda

Claire: make cookies for award ceremony

**Nominations for 2012 Appointments:**

Liz contacted Austin Jenkins via email and he said that he would consider it and get back to her. She has not yet contacted Dan Lovett to check his interest in serving. If Austin or Dan is not interested then we will move onto checking interest of one of the other candidates.

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OTHER:

\* Al mentioned that it would be great for all of the newly planted trees to be labeled so folks can learn what they are. Some questions to be decided on regarding signage are: size, material, color and content. Liz will work on this early summer and report back at the August meeting

\* Fran mentioned that it would be nice to plant an alley of magnolias along Hwy 521 from the Welcome to Camden to Historic Camden. Perhaps discuss at late-summer meeting or with the Camden Tree Foundation for potential project for them.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Camden Tree Foundation contacted Claire regarding their desire to plant or have planted a memorial tree. This tree would be from Toby Shehorn in memory of his mother, Betty. They would like to see an oak tree planted in Rectory Square Park. Currently, there is not a process in place to address this so Liz will contact Howard Wallace, the Tree Foundation liaison, to discuss the particulars such as: tree size, location, purchase/delivery/installation, possible signage and utility location. It is presumed that the City will be responsible for watering the tree for the first two growing seasons.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.

**The next meeting will be APRIL 10, 2012 at 1PM in the small conference room at City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester