

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – May 6, 2014

Members Present: Jane Miller, Mary Sue Truesdale, Susan White, Deborah Davis, MJ Rowell

Members Absent: Al Reed and Cheryl Major

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

**SPECIAL NOTE:** No minutes were recorded for February, March and April due to outdoor site visits to each of the city parks to evaluate their current status and make suggestions for improvements.

**NEXT MEETING:** August 5, 2014 @ 4PM

The meeting was opened at 4:11 p.m. by Deborah. The minutes from the January 2014 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jane to accept as present, it was seconded by Deborah and all approved the minutes.

**CITY UPDATE:**

*Tree City USA* – We have been approved as a Tree City USA for the 27<sup>th</sup> time. The SC Forestry Commission has our award and we'll work with them to set up a presentation to Council for this fall.

*Tree Planting List for 2014* – Approximately 25 trees have been selected at two different nurseries and will be planted soon. Liz still needs to send out request for bids.

*City Tree Crew Work* – One of the Electric crews is currently on loan to Liz. They are working on tree removals and deadwood pruning on trees scattered around town.

*Commerce Alley Improvement Project* – City staff recently reviewed the latest designs with the engineering firm of URS and making final adjustments. URS hopes to have the project ready to bid this July, with construction possibly beginning in August and lasting a minimum of 90 days or more.

*MaxWay lot* – The MaxWay Development Committee was formed a couple of months ago by City Council. Participants include Councilwoman Alfred Mae Drakeford, Councilman Walter Long, Gail Carter (First Community Bank), Robert Ariail (Illustrator), Jonathon Fike (Tenant Wealth Mgmt) and Jody Munnerlyn (Architect). The purpose of the Committee is to make a recommendation to City Council on what to do with the former MaxWay property in light of the fact that no proposals were received by developers. The Committee has met several times and with various staff members and will be meeting next week with Liz for recommendations on low-impact landscaping.

*Amtrak Station entrance* – The entranceway project is about half-way completed. The road still needs to be paved and the landscape plants bid-out and then installed. The City contracted with Howard Wallace (now of Sassafra Landscapes) to design the entrance island and irrigation system.

*Waste Water Treatment Plant* – Liz had been assisting the WWTP staff with the landscape design the plant. After consultation with Howard Wallace, the city decided to contract with him to design and install the irrigation system as well as the landscape plants.

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*Park improvements* – A new playset with timber borders and mulch have been installed at City Arena Park. Some of the new Park signs have been vandalized at Boykin Park (twice) and Archives Park. A new fence, basketball goal and swing set have been installed at Edgewood Park and timber borders and mulch will be installed soon around the playset there. The City paid David Joseph Landscaping to rehabilitate the DAR monument by replacing five (5) cedar trees, mulching all of the cedars and installing some new irrigation drip lines and a timer. The bollards for Kirkwood Park have arrived and will be installed by mid-June. The City will be getting some more park signs to have as extras.

*Other* – Lynn Bradley, the Public Works Dept. Administrative Assistant will be retiring at the end of June after 11 years working for the City. Melba Deese has just been hired to fill Lynn's position and will start work on June 2nd.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Leaders Legacy Bench Recognition Program* – Last September, the group discussed writing a letter to City Council sharing comments and suggestions regarding the LLBR program. Al drafted a letter in late autumn and sent it to Deborah. It was reviewed and discussed during this meeting. Deborah will revise and send it to City Hall (attention to City Manager Mel Pearson) before the end of the month.

*Review of updated Parks needs list* – During the month of February, March and April the group spent about 1½ hours each of those months visiting all of the city parks and greenspaces. The purpose of the site visits were to 1) familiarize everyone with the location of each park and 2) to assess the current condition and suggest future needs. Afterwards, Liz compiled the suggestions and updated the document titled 'City Owned Parks & Greenspace Inventory'. The final draft was reviewed during the meeting. Liz stated that many of the items identified over the past three months are already being worked on. Many other items will have to wait until the beginning of the next fiscal year or the following year as the list of 'to-dos' is quite extensive.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Commission vacancies* – Three terms are set to expire at the end of the month: Deborah Davis, Mary Sue Truesdale and Cheryl Major. Deborah and Mary Sue would like to be considered for a third and final term. Cheryl will not be continuing participation due to health challenges. Liz suggested contacting Ms. Thelma Rutledge of the Florentine Garden Club. She was interested in being considered last June, but her application was not received in time for Council to consider. All agreed it would be good to contact her and see if she is still interested in serving on the Commission. Liz gave Deborah and Sue copies of the City Commission's application form and asked that they complete and return it to her by the end of May. After which, she will pass the applications to the City Manager for Council's consideration perhaps during one of their June meetings.

Since this was the last meeting of the fiscal year and the beginning of the summer break, Deborah thanked everyone for their service and participation on the Commission and Liz brought light refreshments to share during the meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: August 5, 2014 @ 4PM**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester