

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES – August 6, 2013

Members Present: Deborah Davis, Susan White, Jane Miller, Sue Truesdale and Al Reed

Members Absent: Cheryl Major

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 3rd @ 4PM (Training Room downstairs at City Hall)

The meeting was opened at 4:10 p.m. by Deborah. The minutes from the April and May 2013 meetings were reviewed. Al made a motion to accept both as written, Jane seconded and all approved both month's minutes.

CITY UPDATE:

- * *Sidewalk Construction* - A sidewalk will be installed in the coming weeks along a portion of York Street from just behind the Price House to the corner of Market Street. Approximately 6 small trees will be removed to make room for the sidewalk. Due to the weather, the project has been delayed.
- * *Hanging Baskets* – Due to summer vacation schedules the Camden Garden Club will be ordering and planting hanging baskets for the fall months. A total of eight baskets will be hung along Broad Street between DeKalb and Rutledge. The City has agreed to install and maintain them.
- * *Eagle Scout Project* – Cameron Small with Troop #901 recently completed an Eagle Scout project for the City. He built three wooden picnic tables to replace old and decrepit concrete ones as well as built three blue bird houses. Two tables and two bird houses have been installed at City Hall Park and the other table and bird house have been installed at Armory Park.
- * *Commerce Alley and Haigler Lane Construction Projects* – These two locations will be redesigned and renovated, paved and planted sometime this fall/early winter. A variety of trees and shrubs will be planted as a component of the project. Liz has reviewed the plans and approved the plant/tree list.
- * *Tree Crew Work* – One of the tree crews is on-loan to the Urban Forester for three months. There are at least 125 work orders for pruning and 20 work orders for tree removals.
- * *Tree Contract Work* – There are about six very tall trees around town that need either pruning or to be removed. These trees are too large for city crews to work on. Liz will be sending out RFBs by the end of the month so that we can plan on getting them worked on.
- * *Ailanthus Tree Eradication Project* – Liz discovered this past May the presence of a very invasive tree in town – ailanthus. There are locations scattered all over the city and she is in the process of tallying the locations, sizes and numbers of trees. The tentative plan is to eradicate or at least control the presence of

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this tree through chemical application. She will be sending out a request for bid to qualified consultants to see how much it will cost. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

* *Christmas Decorations* – Several city depts. met last month to review and discuss Christmas decorations, installation and the need to purchase new bows, lights, etc.

* *Heritage Tree Nomination* – Liz is working with Paddy Bell to submit a Heritage Tree nomination form for the Lafayette Cedar, which is located on the grounds of the Kershaw County Courthouse. This award program is sponsored by Trees SC, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship of urban forests. Liz has been a member of this group since 1993 and served on their Board for many years.

OLD BUSINESS

Procurement of Park signs: The signs have been made and are currently in storage until the Parks Dept. can install them. A total of 20 signs were made; each park will get one sign but a few of them will get two signs due to their size (Hampton Park, Rectory Square, Kirkwood Common, Boykin Park and Monument Square). See attached photo.

Public Tree Ordinance - A final draft of the public tree ordinance was reviewed by City Council during a work session in mid-May and by the Pope Zeigler Law Firm in early June. A revised version passed first reading on July 23rd. A second reading is scheduled for August 13th and is expected to pass.

Leaders Legacy Recognition Program (LLRP): The dedication ceremony for the LLRP was held on the afternoon of Friday, July 12, 2013 at the Archives & Museum building. Benches were dedicated for former Mayor James Anderson, former Mayor Phil Minges, former Mayor Austin Sheheen, Ruby Minton, and Paul Joseph, Sr. The mayor's benches were placed at the Archives and the benches for Minton and Joseph were placed under the live oak tree in Monument Square. A gathering of over 100 people attended the event. Many thanks to the Street Dept. for building and installing the benches, the Fire Dept. for setting up and cleaning up chairs, Julie Lee and Peggy Bowers for setting up and cleaning up the refreshments, Caitlin Corbett for organizing the ceremony & set-up, formulating the agenda and mailing out the invitations, Johnny Deal for taking photos and Katherine Richardson for helping to host. In addition, two new bench nominations (proposed by Councilman Willard Polk) have been submitted and approved by Council. These benches will honor former Mayor Mary Clark and former Mayor Bennie Marshall (deceased). Both benches will be placed in Rectory Square near the tennis court. A ceremony will be planned for early October 2013.

Broad Street Elm Tree: no new updates

NEW BUSINESS

Commission vacancy – There is a full term vacancy open on the Commission. Liz contacted one person over the summer about serving but she is unable to. A notice was posted in the Chronicle-Independent regarding several city commission vacancies and Parks & Trees was listed.

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Liz suggested contacting the various garden clubs to see if there's any interest in a member serving. The group thought it was a good idea so she will send a letter to each one next week. Deborah asked if any of the Kershaw County Master Gardeners might be interested. Al suggested contacting MJ Rowell as she lives within the city limits. He will contact her and let us know.

Arbor Day planning – Due to the dates of various community events on consecutive weekends in November and December (United Way Chili Cook-off – 11/9, Colonial Cup - 11/23, Thanksgiving weekend - 11/30, Christmas Tree Lighting – 12/5 and the Christmas Parade – 12/7) the group thought it would be good to celebrate Arbor Day in early November. The 8th is preferred but penciled in the 15th as a back-up date. We all agreed that a simple and low-key ceremony would be ok this year as the past several years ceremonies have been quite involved. A location, the type of tree to plant and an honoree is yet to be decided. Liz will share the tentative dates with City Hall.

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester

Approved