

CITY OF CAMDEN PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – September 10, 2013

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

Members Absent: Cheryl Major

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 8th @ 4PM (Training Room downstairs at City Hall)**

The meeting was opened at 4:05p.m. by Deborah. The minutes from the August 2013 meeting were reviewed. Al made a motion to accept as written, Sue seconded and all approved the minutes.

**CITY UPDATE:**

\* *Hanging Baskets* – Catherine French (Camden Garden Club President) delivered some of the light-pole brackets this week and the Garden Club plans on planting the flowers and having the baskets ready by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The city will schedule to hang them on October 2nd.

\* *Tree Crew Work* – Working on the long list for pruning and removals. Rain and staff illness has delayed the work.

\* *Tree Contract Work* – Liz still working on the RFB for several large-tree removals and pruning that city staff is unable to handle.

\* *Ailanthus Tree Eradication Project* – Liz still working on tallying the trees for the RFB.

\* *Christmas Decorations* – No news on funds to be allocated to purchase needed bows and replacement lights. Council will talk about it during their work session this afternoon.

\* *Tennis Court improvements:* Tom Couch informed Liz last week that Councilman Polk has requested that the tennis courts at Rectory Sq. Park be resurfaced and new nets be installed. Al asked about the nets at the tennis courts off of Chesnut Ferry Road as well as those at Scott Park. Liz informed him that the Chesnut Ferry Road courts are owned by the Kershaw County School District and that while the City owns the Scott Park property that the Kershaw County Recreation Dept. maintains the park. She will check and see who would be responsible for replacing those nets.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Commission Vacancy:* Two applications have been received, one from MJ Rowell (Kershaw County Master Gardeners) and the other from Thelma Rutledge (Florentine Garden Club). MJ's was received first and Liz informed the city clerk to hold it as we were expecting a second application. MJ's application was inadvertently placed on Council's agenda for consideration tonight. Thelma's application was received yesterday and unfortunately it cannot be added to the agenda at this time. Liz called Thelma to explain the situation and asked if she'd be interested in being considered for a possible opening next May as three positions are set to expire. She said possibly and to call her next April to check back.

*Arbor Day planning* – Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> is preferred date for the ceremony and tentatively will honor 'first responders'. First responders are considered to be Firefighters and Police Officers. The ceremony will be held at City Hall Park and an oak tree will be planted. Liz and Caitlin will work on

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planning the ceremony. Liz will also at Julie Lee, the city manager's secretary to place that date on Council's calendar. It was also decided to give away containerized seedlings like we did last year. Liz will check on availability and get some ordered. We will also serve apple cider and cookies after the ceremony.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Leaders Legacy Recognition Program (LLRP)*: The next bench recognition ceremony will be held on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. These benches will honor former Mayor Mary Clark and former Mayor Bennie Marshall (deceased). The benches are tentatively set to be placed near the tennis courts on the fair Street side of Rectory Square Park. Liz also shared that two more Legacy Bench nominations had been submitted and were being considered by Council later in the day. A rather lengthy discussion occurred as to the number of ceremonies to plan, locations of benches, the number of benches each location can/should accommodate, staff time involved in the program, etc. Liz suggested that the group write Council a memo sharing their thoughts and suggestions regarding the program. Al said that he'd do it provided he had a copy of the current program policy and nomination application.

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With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester