**Minutes from Parks & Trees Commission Meeting, Monday, April 14, 2025**

Meeting called to order: 5:41 pm

In attendance: Barb Willens, Rickey Macklin, Barbara Cantey, Diana Wenman

Minutes from March 10, 2025 approved, motion by Diana, second by Barb. All approved.

First item on agenda: Update on status of trees along Wall Street in front of hotels on U.S. 521 N. The understanding of commission members is that Mr. Patel wants trees removed to improve visibility of his hotels. It is still uncertain if his request is for the City to do so and/or take on the expense of tree removal, and of which trees exactly. Commission members agreed they are not in favor of the City taking on that expense, if that is in fact was the request is from Mr. Patel.

Second item on the agenda was an update on maintenance needs discussed at the March meeting in reference to the Camden Riverfront Environmental Park. Diana reported that the Public Works Department has begun clearing up the trail area and bench. More to be done. Question of the magnolia on the point, can it be trimmed or removed? Is it a heritage tree? Kat will follow up. Also to consider fire ant treatment near the trail. And, what about additional phases of building out at the park, i.e. bathrooms and a classroom? Kat will follow up.

Third item on the agenda was an update on signage at Kendall Park. Last meeting it was discussed that the hours of operation should be very clear for visitors to see, and that they park rules should also be in Spanish. Kat mentioned that, by ordinance, all City parks are open from dawn to dusk. Another question was whether all park rules (in parks that have rules posted) should be posted in Spanish, not just Kendall?

Fourth item on the agenda: Kat mentioned that Diana Wenman and Donna Cox would be at the end of their terms May 31st. Diana is not eligible for renewal, as this will conclude her third consecutive term. Donna was not present at the meeting. Diana said she would reach out to her. Kat encouraged members to think of people in their networks who may wish to serve on the commission. Kat will also make a public call for nominations in the local media. Nominations will be accepted until the next commission meeting on May 12, 2025. The Commission will need to make recommendations following that meeting to Council. Kat will send nomination form.

Additional concerns – Follow up on the tree removal on Lyttleton Street, two doors south of Grace Episcopal.

Next Trees4SC! workshop is Monday, April 21, 2025 at 5 pm. Topic will be the ordinance. Kat will resend existing ordinance and GIC recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.