



## PARKS & TREES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – January 11, 2017

Members Present: Maureen Renault, Mary Sue Truesdale, Bob Williams, Thelma Rutledge, Diana Wenman, Barb Willens and Jane Miller

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: February 7, 2017 at 4:30pm at Kendall Lake Clubhouse**

The meeting was opened at 4:40 p.m. by Liz. The minutes from the December 2016 meeting were reviewed and corrected as needed. Barb motioned to accept the minutes as revised, Jane seconded and all approved.

**CITY UPDATE:**

*Christmas* – The Electric & Street Depts. as well as First Class Landscaping will begin the process of removing the decorations this week. Someone vandalized the City Hall tree lights on Dec. 23 or 24 and as a result only 1/3 of the tree was lit. We have unplugged it.

*New parking lot* – The irrigation and landscape plans were drawn up by Howard Wallace with Sassafras Landscapes and site preparation is underway.

*Underground improvements* – Underground improvements continue throughout the historic district, the Mill Village and will soon begin on Walnut Street.

*Tree City USA* –Liz said she completed the application for recertification to the Arbor Day Foundation to maintain our Tree City status. We should get confirmation in a month that we have been approved for another year.

*Sweetgum Trail* – the connector trail planned between Scott Park and Woodward Park should be going out for bids in January and hopefully the project will start this spring.

*Miscellaneous* – The City purchased some ‘Camden’ banners to be displayed along DeKalb Street on the light poles that are standing before and after the railroad track overpass. They should be hung up in the coming weeks. The three tall metal poles at the Broad Street Park which currently are used to hang the Christmas light streamers from the clock tower will be replaced with small flag poles in the coming months. The poles will be switched out twice a year to facilitate hanging the Christmas lights. A suggestion was made tongue-in-cheek about keeping the Christmas light streamers up all year long. All agreed it would look pretty but was not practical.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Citizen Survey for Parks* – Liz reported that she met with Tom Couch, Public Works Director, Ray Peterson Deputy Public Works Director and Tony Burns, Parks Supervisor to review what the group had put together. There was good discussion amongst staff and more revisions and reformatting made to the document, which was presented during the meeting. The next step is to get approval from Mel Pearson City Manager and possibly City Council to move forward.



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Hopefully a final draft can be reviewed in February and the survey can be distributed in whole or part late early spring of 2017. The most likely scenario is that we will do a test neighborhood first via door-knockers. Lastly, the group talked about who and how to compile the data. Maureen said that she'd think about how to process the information as we'd prefer it to be statistically significant.

Possible means of marketing and/or distributing the survey could include a posting on the city website, an article in the Chronicle, postings at the library, city hall, Archives, Chamber of Commerce, notices to the various garden clubs and civic organizations, possibly do some direct mailing.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Member terms - Liz shared with the group that three of the Commission member terms expire at the end of May 2017. The terms are for Mary Sue Truesdale, Thelma Rutledge and Bob Williams. According to the Parks & Trees Commission By-laws a member may not serve more than three consecutive terms. Since Sue has served at least that many terms, she is not eligible at this point in time to serve again and will have to wait a year before being considered for another appointment. Thelma and Bob on the other hand are eligible to be considered for another term and Liz has asked them to serve again. She hopes to hear 'yes' from both in the coming months. In the meantime, we need to find someone who is interested in filling Sue's slot.

LLBR – The group was not able to approved Mr. Jim McGuirts bench location because Liz forgot to bring the nomination form listing the locations for his first and second choice.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

A request was made to check on the large logs used for climbing and playing on in Rectory Square. One of them is getting pretty rotten. Liz will check it out.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester