



PARKS & TREES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – April 4, 2017

NOTE TO THE FILE: There are no minutes from the March meeting as many members of the group took a field trip to some of the city parks that had not been visited last year.

Members Present: Maureen Renault, Bob Williams, Diana Wenman and Jane Miller

Members Absent: Mary Sue Truesdale, Barb Willens and Thelma Rutledge

Staff Present: Liz Gilland, Urban Forester

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: May 2, 2017 at 4:30pm / meet at Kendall Lake Clubhouse

The meeting was opened at 4:38 p.m. by Liz. The minutes from the February 2017 meeting were reviewed, and several corrections were made. Diana motioned to accept the minutes, Jane seconded and all approved.

CITY UPDATE:

Arborist Intern – The hiring process is progressing well and we hope to bring Samantha on board in early May

Tennis Complex – The ground breaking ceremony occurred on March 28 and the lot is being cleared and graded. A 12 ft. tall cedar tree growing on the lot was transplanted to a parking lot island at city hall parking.

Kendall Lake – Aquatic weed treatment is planned for May/June. Liz has drafted a letter to the property owners around the lake to notify them about the treatment. It will hopefully be sent out in the coming weeks. In addition to the herbicide treatment, the city also plans on biological treatment of the aquatic weeds by stocking the lake with triploid grass carp in October. This type of fish, which is sterile, will eat weeds that the herbicides won't affect.

Chestnut Hills subdivision – Liz is in the process of trying to get bids for sidewalk replacement and working on tree replacement planting

Camden Elementary School – Liz has received and is in the process of reviewing the landscape plans for the proposed elementary school which will be constructed on the site of the old middle school off of Laurens Street.

Park Irrigation – Bids for irrigation system installation at four city parks have been received and Sassafras Landscapes was awarded the job. Unfortunately, there's only enough money in the budget this fiscal year to do two of the parks – Monument Square and City Arena Park. Work should be complete at those locations by the end of April. The other two parks: City Hall Park and Edgewood Park will hopefully be done next fiscal year.

OLD BUSINESS

Citizen Park Survey – On Friday morning, March 10th, Diana, Maureen and Liz distributed 154 surveys in the Edgewood neighborhood. A total of 26 surveys were returned, about a 17% response rate, which is pretty good. Liz tallied all of the responses into a spreadsheet and in general most respondents answered all of the questions and they were mostly positive answers. The group met on March 24th at Diana Wenman's home to review the results, discuss possible revisions to the survey and lay out the next steps. Several of the questions were



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tweaked and it was tentatively decided to focus on surveying the Boykin and Kirkwood communities next. In the meantime, Liz reviewed the city map and counted the approximate number of homes in Kirkover Hills (200), Burndale (60), the Mill Village to include Park Circle (90) and Kirkwood (175). She was not able to get a count on the number of homes for the Boykin Park area because she wasn't sure what geographical boundaries to use.

Liz suggested that the next step should be to do Kirkover Hills and Kirkwood neighborhood and that perhaps the Parks Dept staff could do the Burndale neighborhood and the Mill Village – all were in agreement. The following dates were set to distribute the surveys: April 28th, May 5th and May 12th. We will meet at a designated location around 9am.

Side note: On April 6th, Liz consulted with Sanitation Dept. Supervisor, Shelly Salmond who suggested that for the Boykin community, the borders be Wylie Street to the west, Laurens Street to the south, Broad Street to the east and Pine Street to the north.

NEW BUSINESS

Leader's Legacy Bench Recognition – There was a newly approved bench nomination for Jimmy Green (former City Councilman) and his brother H. Davis Green, Jr. Council has agreed that both can be named on the same plaque on the same bench. The nominator's have requested that the bench go in either Hampton Park or Rectory Square. Everyone was ok with approving either location but are still wondering at what point those parks will be considered saturated with these particular benches.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Gilland, Camden Urban Forester