

A meeting of the Park and Tree Advisory Committee was held on **April 26, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** in City Hall, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Chairman Barb Farris, committee members Amanda Flake, Gordon Fritz, and Chuck Rushing, and Brian Franklin, city staff.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d) as amended, all local media were duly notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting.

Chairman Farris called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Fritz made a motion, second by Ms. Flake, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2017 PTAC meeting. The motion to approve the minutes as submitted passed unanimously.

SOUTHSIDE PARK TRAIL PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Franklin said the pedestrian bridge should go in next week. The fencing at the entries is being put in now. The work should be completed by May 18, he said.

At the city's neighborhood association meeting last week, the Holy Trinity memorandum of understanding (MOU) was discussed, Mr. Franklin said. Many individuals from Battery Creek and surrounding neighborhoods showed up, and the majority of those present did not favor the MOU. He said there have been requests for additional meetings about concerns and questions about the MOU and Holy Trinity's proposal for soccer fields at Southside Park.

Mr. Fritz said if there is merit to the request, Holy Trinity should be heard. Chairman Farris said many people in the area around the Spanish Moss Trail were adamantly against it when the trail was proposed.

There was a discussion about the building of a tunnel at the site of two future hotels on Boundary Street, which is the reason that part of the trail in that area has been dug up. Mr. Franklin said there is a detour for the trail around the work.

BOUNDARY STREET PLANTING PROGRESS REPORT

Mulch is going into some of the planting areas, Mr. Franklin said; about 5 trees have been replaced that didn't acclimate. Lighting "is kind of dictating the landscaping," he said, and some of the south side of Boundary Street is already lit. The rest is supposed to be done this week. There will be a ribbon-cutting on the property across from Chick-fil-A on June 1.

The curb cut in front of the former Applebees building is in the process of being constructed, Mr. Franklin said. The new curb cut is very close to a very large live oak

there, so the existing root system needed to be exposed with an air knife, he said. They did so, and went 8" to 12", Mr. Franklin said, then cut some of the roots back and removed those "roots that were in the way that weren't attached."

Mr. Fritz asked when the old United Way building on Boundary Street, which currently houses county offices, would be removed. Mr. Franklin said he has heard no confirmed time for its demolition. He told Chairman Farrow he's heard a rumor that Wendy's is looking for a new location.

WASHINGTON STREET PARK PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Franklin said the city had a meeting with residents of the surrounding neighborhood, presented a concept, and got feedback. He is developing a planting plan for the park as part of a park master plan. As **Deborah Johnson** finds applicable grants, they will have this plan with "a cost estimate in place," he said.

REVIEW AND COMMENT ON PTAC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chairman Farrow said she and Mr. Franklin met with the city manager, who has been looking at the city's boards and commissions. The definition of what a PTAC member does "didn't jibe with what we do," she said. The new draft of the description, which the committee members received, makes a lot more sense than the original, Chairman Farrow said.

Chairman Farrow described some of the content of the original description, such as park design and maintenance, which wasn't applicable to what PTAC does. Mr. Fritz said it appears the scope of the committee's work is reduced from the previous version, but "that wasn't what we're doing." He suggested Mr. Franklin look at the description with an eye to how the committee can help him with his job.

Chairman Farrow said in previous years, the former Tree Board did walkabouts and noted trees, with the idea of possibly undergrounding utilities, but they haven't created an urban forest plan. Mr. Franklin said it's reminiscent of what was discussed in a previous PTAC meeting about a tree-planting plan for the city.

There was a discussion about the county maintaining some property within city parks. Ms. Flake said the county may do park maintenance for the Town of Port Royal, and the county once maintained all the parks on Hilton Head, but does not now. A county employee with PALS will be handling passive parks and trails, she said.

Mr. Franklin said he agrees with what has been written in the new draft. Committee members each bring different approaches to PTAC, he said.

Chairman Farrow said **Blake Austin** had moved to Atlanta, so he is no longer on PTAC. Ms. Flake said she is going to have to leave PTAC because she is too busy at work.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Rushing made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flake, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.