

A meeting of the Park and Tree Advisory Committee was held on **May 23, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** in City Hall, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Chairman Barb Farrow, committee members Liza Hill, Gordon Fritz, and Chuck Rushing, and Heather Spade, city staff. Joel Newman was absent.

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 Farrow called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Rushing made a motion, second by Mr. Fritz, to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2018 PTAC meeting. Ms. Hill recused herself because she was not yet on the committee. **The motion to approve the minutes as submitted passed 3-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Hill said she had checked on the power line to the pump at Southside Park, and it was working at that time.

Chairman Farrow said there had been a request for signs on the trail at Southside Park, and she doesn't know if that has been done. There needs to be follow-up on the grand opening of the trail/park.

Mr. Fritz made a motion to follow up on the status of installing the signs on the trail. Mr. Rushing seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Spade said she would be filling in for **Brian Franklin** as the PTAC staff liaison until a new planner is hired; she is the planning tech and has been the staff liaison for the Design Review and Historic District Review Boards.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT BOUNDARY STREET MAINTENANCE

Ms. Hill said she wanted to know what maintenance, if any, is being done on Boundary Street and by whom. She talked to **Robbie Anderson**, the parks supervisor, who told her Public Works/the parks department was supposed to take it over from the contractor, but Ms. Hill doesn't know if that has happened.

Mr. Fritz said he's seen herbicide being sprayed on the plants on Boundary Street, and he's also seen a trailer full of plants that have been pulled up. Some of those plants may have been killed by the herbicide, he said.

Ms. Spade said she'd get an update on what's happening with the plants on Boundary Street and would send an email about her findings to the committee.

Ms. Hill said there are herbicides that could be used that won't kill the plants. There was consensus that PTAC would like to know what selective herbicides Public Works is using, and why they removed plants along Boundary Street.

Ms. Hill made a motion that PTAC should be advised as to why plant material has been removed, and if it will be replaced by drought-tolerant, native plants, as was in the original plan for plants on Boundary Street. In addition, PTAC respectfully requests to be informed *before* any other plant material is removed, and of any other plant material that will replace it or what has already been removed. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rushing made a motion, second by Ms. Hill, that a staff member ask the Public Works director and parks superintendent to cease and desist with the removal of plant material until PTAC can meet with them to discuss the issue at their earliest convenience. The motion passed unanimously.

PLANTING REPLACEMENTS REMOVED IN WATERFRONT PARK

Ms. Hill said she knows what was in the park and what is missing, and she would request that **Linda Roper** come to the next PTAC meeting to chat about "a lot of missing plant material." She said some of it might need to go, but there "a lot is gone." Mr. Rushing said the committee could offer to help Ms. Roper with a plan for planting there.

Ms. Hill volunteered to call Ms. Roper to talk to her about Waterfront Park plants in general.

CITY PLANS FOR STREET PLANTINGS

Mr. Fritz said **Brian Franklin** had shown the committee plans to plant trees on certain streets and where the plantings could be. He thought it was a great plan. Ms. Hill said she'd love to see it, too.

Ms. Spade said she would look for the plan, which was discussed at the 3-22-18 PTAC meeting, according to the minutes.

TREE FARM AT SOUTHSIDE PARK

Chairman Farrior said she has 10 trees at her house, and she had thought of adding them to the tree farm, minus whatever is needed for the Spanish Moss Trail. Ms. Hill said there are 10 trees left from a grant for 27 trees; they have to go into a public space. All 27 weren't needed for Chairman Farrior's garden club, Ms. Hill said. Two are needed for the Spanish Moss Trail, and Ms. Hill said she could put 3 on the King Land Trust. Chairman Farrior said irrigating them there would be a problem, and the current weather is severe.

Ms. Hill said she would ask the parks supervisor to water the trees that were originally planted and could ask about planting 3 trees on the King Land Trust property, then

taking the ones at Chairman Farris's house to the tree farm at Southside Park.

Chairman Farris said for the remaining trees, Ms. Anderson had the idea of taking them to Public Works and putting them in pots to keep them watered. Ms. Hill said per the grant, they have to be planted on public property. Ms. Spade asked if there is a timeline by when they have to be in the ground. Ms. Hill said, "Yesterday."

There was a general discussion about the cost of street trees.

Chairman Farris told the group that the trees her garden club planted on the Spanish Moss Trail were girdled twice, so they had to be planted 3 times.

Ms. Hill said Friends of the Spanish Moss Trail bought 2.5 gallons of Roundup to spray around the trees on the trail. Chairman Farris said her club had purchased 34 trees and planted them on Highway 21, and then they were stripped at the base by weed eaters, which killed them.

Chairman Farris said there really isn't an update on the tree farm, so the committee needs to know if there is irrigation there. Ms. Hill suggested that PTAC could make a site visit to Southside Park with the Public Works director and the parks supervisor.

Ms. Spade said she would be concerned about planting anything in the next few months that needs water. Ms. Hill said that would be a mistake on Boundary Street, but there is irrigation at Southside Park, if they plant trees there.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Fritz said the city just finished "a really nice bathroom" at Washington Street Park; he asked if the city had funded it, and he was told that the city got a grant for it.

Mr. Fritz said Whitehall really needs bathroom facilities; Ms. Spade said that is managed by the county; **Stephanie Nagid**, the passive park coordinator, has drafted a passive park ordinance, and there are plans in the works for that.

Mr. Fritz asked what role PTAC plays at Whitehall, a park that is shared by the county and the City of Beaufort. They need parking and signs, he said, and it would be nice if they had swings or something like what they have at Waterfront Park, Mr. Fritz said.

Ms. Hill asked if PTAC could be invited to Ms. Nagid's meetings; Ms. Spade said she thinks it would be best to invite her to PTAC meeting. **Paul Butere** spearheaded the Whitehall Park effort, Mr. Fritz said. PTAC "could draw on his group," too, he thinks.

Ms. Spade recommended that the committee look on the Beaufort County website to learn about the passive park program, and it might answer some of their questions and help them construct some questions they could give to Ms. Nagid before she came to a

PTAC meeting. The address is www.beaufortcountysc.gov/planning/passive-parks/index.html.

Ms. Hill said she's friends with Ms. Nagid, so she could ask her to come to a PTAC meeting.

Ms. Spade said she doesn't know where plans are for Whitehall at this time.

There was a discussion about the origin of and plans for Whitehall Park.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Rushing made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fritz, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.