

A meeting of the Park and Tree Advisory Committee was held on June 21, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Chairman Barb Farris, committee member Chuck Rushing, and Brian Franklin, city staff. Committee member Gordon Fritz and Gail Westerfield, the stenographer, were 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 Farris called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Rushing made a motion, second by Chairman Farris, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2017 PTAC meeting. The motion to approve the minutes as submitted passed unanimously.

SOUTHSIDE PARK TRAIL RIBBON-CUTTING DATE

Mr. Franklin said he wanted to know if the PTAC members wanted to do a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the new trail. He said if the members email him about their availability, he would find a date that works for everyone.

Mr. Franklin suggested that they might want to have the ceremony before noon because of the heat. Chairman Farris and Mr. Rushing agreed that this would be a good idea, and they discussed dates they're available. It was determined that the ribbon-cutting should be on a Friday morning. Mr. Franklin said coffee and donuts would be served for the dedication ceremony.

WASHINGTON STREET PARK PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Franklin said after receiving feedback from the Northwest Quadrant neighborhood and Washington Street Park community leaders, "we settled on a concept," and he presented Chairman Farris and Mr. Rushing with a planting design he'd "developed based on that concept." He said he's "priced it out, minus the restroom facilities" (e.g., for the pavilion, the playground, the exercise area, the ball courts), and he gave the information to **Deborah Johnson**, the city's grant writer. The various elements of the plan can be purchased "as grant monies become available," Mr. Franklin said.

The restrooms have gone out to bid, and the project may have already been awarded, Mr. Franklin said; the restrooms' construction will be the first phase of the plan for the park. He said he didn't price out the "on-street parking that rims this park" yet, but it's part of this design. The rights-of-way "are wide enough" for the parking, Mr. Franklin said, and he also indicated where the proposed street lighting and street trees would be.

Chairman Farris asked if there is a plan for irrigation of the landscaping “around the perimeter.” Mr. Franklin said the plan is for the entire park to be irrigated, and a well and irrigation were part of his cost analysis.

Mr. Franklin said there are “a couple of pieces of historic playground equipment that are currently in the park,” and they are “looking to try and reincorporate” a 40- or 50-year-old swing set, for example, as well as bringing in some new equipment. In the southwest corner, there will be a historical marker, he said, pointing out a laurel oak there that would be removed for safety reasons because it would lose limbs as it ages.

Chairman Farris asked if “the powers that be” have seen the plan. Mr. Franklin said it hasn’t been shown to them at a meeting he’s attended, but they have “signed off on the concept.” He doesn’t know if Ms. Johnson has shown it to the Washington Street Park community leaders yet.

Mr. Rushing asked the “ballpark figure on the price,” and Mr. Franklin said it could be \$500,000 or as much as \$1 million.

BOUNDARY STREET MAINTENANCE DISCUSSION

Mr. Franklin said he had emailed **Neal Pugliese** for an update. He knows there has been “some spraying” because he’s seen “some dead weeds in the beds.” Mr. Franklin said he hasn’t heard back about who’s responsible for the weeding. The landscape contractor is responsible for the watering, but they have said that according to their contract, “the maintenance for the 12 months was not in their scope of services,” he said. He’s presented Mr. Pugliese with documentation that Mr. Franklin believes shows that “it is the contractor’s responsibility [to do] that yearly maintenance.” He doesn’t know whether the contractor “passed that [information] on to the landscape company that they hired” because he “wasn’t part of that contract negotiation,” Mr. Franklin said.

Mr. Rushing asked how often Mr. Franklin thinks maintenance would need to be done on the Boundary Street plantings. Mr. Franklin said the weeding should be done “weekly or every two weeks, especially if we’re getting rain, because weeds will pop up in 3 days.” Chairman Farris agreed and said they’ll also continually “re-seed” until they’re gotten “under control.” Mr. Rushing asked if the more mature plants would “choke” the weeds “out a little bit.” Mr. Franklin said, “They can, yes.”

Chairman Farris said five trees had been replaced, and she asked about “the other trees” on Boundary Street “that are half-dead.” Mr. Franklin suggested discussing this with her after the meeting was adjourned, and Chairman Farris agreed.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Mr. Rushing made a motion, seconded by Chairman Farris, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.