

A meeting of the Park and Tree Advisory Committee was held on **June 27, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** in City Hall, 1911 Boundary Street. In attendance were Chairman Barb Farrow, committee member Gordon Fritz, and Heather Spade, city staff. Liza Hill, Joel Newman, and Chuck Rushing 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 Farrow called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **MINUTES**

**Approval of the May 23, 2019 PTAC meeting minutes was tabled because there was not a quorum of members present.**

Chairman Farrow said Mr. Rushing would be resigning from PTAC because he is moving out of the City of Beaufort, so a replacement on the board is needed.

### **FOLLOW-UP ON THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SOUTHSIDE PARK TRAIL**

Chairman Farrow said the original grand opening was supposed to be in September 2018, but it was postponed. Mayor **Billy Keyserling** wanted to have a big grand opening, she said.

Ms. Spade said **Linda Roper**, rather than Public Works, might be the staff to coordinate with. **David Prichard** suggested the event be held after August at the soonest. The committee agreed that early Fall would be best because of the heat.

### **BOUNDARY STREET PLANTS**

**6:40 Nathan Farrow** said **Neal Desai** had said Public Works took over maintenance of the Boundary Street plants, which is being done in phases. Chairman Farrow said she met with Mr. Desai, and her understanding is that there would not be any further removal of plant materials from the medians. Mr. Farrow said Public Works has stopped that removal. What was pulled out was “repotted,” he said, for reuse in other places, but he’s not sure where it was placed. Mr. Fritz said the understanding from the meeting was that the pulled-up materials would be used to fill in “the bare areas.”

Mr. Farrow said there is a new street and drainage supervisor, so he is the operations manager. Mr. Desai is the “boots on the ground” guy, he said. Public Works has been doing stormwater drainage projects, so he said he hasn’t been able to be on Boundary Street as much as he’d like.

Mr. Farrow said **Robbie Anderson** would be able to tell PTAC what is going on with the Boundary Street plants, and he’d talk to her about it when she returns from vacation. Mr. Fritz said she could also tell the committee about the herbicides that are being used

there. Mr. Prichard said he'd ensure Ms. Anderson was at the next PTAC meeting.

Chairman Farrow said the committee assumed Roundup had been used and that it restricted the growth and spread of the jasmine. Mr. Prichard said the assumption is that the growth is stunted from a broad-spectrum herbicide, but "we don't know that." Chairman Farrow said the people doing the maintenance for the first year might have used Roundup. Mr. Prichard said he would ask Ms. Anderson about the herbicide that was used in a way that wouldn't be offensive to her. The herbicide might not be the reason the plants are failing, he said.

Chairman Farrow said it was determined at the meeting that the jasmine had been replaced with centipede sod.

#### **MISSING PLANT MATERIAL IN WATERFRONT PARK**

Ms. Roper is requested to come to the next PTAC meeting to report on this.

#### **IRRIGATION AT THE SOUTHSIDE PARK TREE FARM**

Mr. Farrow said there is a well at Southside Park, but he doesn't know if there is irrigation and if it's working or not. Chairman Farrow asked him to find out if it's working and if the trees there are being provided with water.

#### **BRIAN FRANKLIN'S TREE PLANTING PLAN**

Mr. Fritz said there was definitely a plan. It was printed out. Mr. Prichard said they might need to look in **Brian Franklin's** old office. He saw storyboards in there with plans. Ms. Spade said she didn't find anything digital. Mr. Prichard wondered if Mr. Franklin had added detail to the city's streetscape ordinance.

#### **BOUNDARY STREET BED ADOPTIONS**

Chairman Farrow said she and Mr. Prichard discussed volunteer groups each adopting a single bed of Boundary Street plantings that are next to the sidewalk and making sure Public Works didn't do anything to those plants. They could show that volunteers could do this maintenance, she said. Mr. Fritz said he thinks they do this in Charleston. Chairman Farrow said Bluffton Parkway's medians look great; the oaks have grown, and it's neat and nicely maintained. Mt. Pleasant also has a huge corridor to maintain, and she feels Boundary Street could look like that.

Chairman Farrow asked what needs to be done for the bed adoption idea to move forward. Mr. Prichard said PTAC should write a formal letter to the city manager with the idea and ask how to proceed with it.

#### **REPLACING PLANTS IN NARROW BOUNDARY STREET BEDS WITH PAVERS**

Chairman Farrow said she personally doesn't want to see plants removed from the really narrow medians. She knows Mr. Desai is concerned with safety and "the hassle with DOT." Her view, though, is that those plants are established, drought-tolerant, and

appear to be doing fine except for the need to address “a few weeds.” If the weeds are gone and the plants are thriving, Chairman Farris thinks those medians should be left alone. Mr. Prichard said Mr. Desai thought the plants should be replaced with “pavers.” Chairman Farris said if they put in pavers, those would have to be hit with Roundup or something to kill weeds that will grow between the pavers. Mr. Fritz said he was led to believe that these medians were just in 2 or 3 small areas, but when he looked at them, they were 75’ to 100’ feet long, and “the plants were doing very well” in them.

Chairman Farris said she would like the record to reflect that **PTAC would like to leave the plant material in those medians**, which are drought-tolerant and healthy.

#### **DISCUSSION: OPEN PTAC POSITION**

Chairman Farris said requiring members to have a certain professional background is a challenge when it comes to filling PTAC positions (e.g., a certified arborist and two design professionals, such as an architect, planner, engineer, or a landscape architect), and they need to be a city resident, own property in the city, or have a business that has a current city business license.

Mr. Prichard said staff needs to make a note that the vacancy needs to be filled. **Ivette Burgess** advertises on the city’s website – and possibly elsewhere – for volunteers to fill open board and commission positions, he said. PTAC needs either a certified arborist or a design professional, Mr. Prichard said.

Chairman Farris said Ms. Hill is seriously thinking of moving to north Georgia, so her position may be open soon, so having another arborist on the board to fill Mr. Rushing’s spot would be helpful.

Mr. Fritz said there should be record of the others who applied to serve on PTAC when he was selected for the commission about a year or a year-and-a-half ago.

Mr. Prichard asked if a master gardener could qualify as a design professional, and Chairman Farris and Mr. Fritz agreed that that was okay with them. Mr. Prichard suggested a biologist, and it was agreed that would also work. He said staff would go ahead and post for this position, and at the next PTAC meeting, the committee could discuss the language of the post, but if staff could find someone before then, they would.

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chairman Farris adjourned the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.