

COV - HMDAC February 2 and 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present on the call for the City were Jason Lacey, James Olson and Rick Navarro, and **for HMDAC**, Byrne Conley, Chris Brittle, Bob Schussel, and Kathy and Allen Wildermuth. Also present was Brian Kilian, landscape architect retained by the City.

Brian circulated initial plans (attached) which we discussed.

Page L-1. The Parkway is divided, for the first 1/3 from the Fountain down the trees are primarily crepe myrtle and oak, then are sycamore for the next 2/3. There are mixed groups of planting interrupted by bare spots.

There is no difference in the materials used for irrigation, telling Brian that irrigation was not replaced when planting was done at either end, near the Fountain or Welcome Center. In other words, the laterals are all the original ones that were installed in the 1990s and as repaired or patched over time since then.

Page L-2. The main goal is to work with the existing trees, add small patio trees, and fill in with low planting. (The only trees to be removed would be diseased or damaged trees.) They will install one gallon juniper ground cover, small fernium (sp?). They will reintroduce ginko trees on the West side.

Page L-3. The 2012 plan was incorporated, but scaled back per HPOA feedback. Brian would like to remove 50% of the 18,000 SF of lawn to comply with water conservation regulations. [We discussed this; the Committee is in favor the suggestion to remove all lawn on the west side after the Fountain in favor of plants and ground cover, as Brian suggests; on the East side, the Committee was split, and the consensus was to remove lawn around the fountain and up the hill from the Hiddenbrooke sign, with some lawn along the Parkway in front of the Hiddenbrooke sign, only. I (Byrne) noted I would remove all the lawn in favor of ground cover and plants.] [We also asked the City to check on plans to put a roundabout at the intersection near the fountain, which plans might cause the curb in front of the Fountain to be moved back a little. Brian recalled this from the earlier, 2012 discussions.] There will be a rotational flower system at the base of the Fountain and helicto-triyhon (sp?) ground cover in front.

Page L-5. There will be cobblestone collaring the light poles. It will be rounded, and have rock-filled space in the middle so maintenance crews can get to light pole bases if needed.

Page L-6. There will be 3 trees 50 feet apart between the light poles. There will be large formiums, 6' by 6' between the trees to add color, and keep down maintenance and irrigation costs. They will be chocolate brown or apricot green (lime/yellow) in rhythms. There will be ground cover in front of the sidewalks.

Page L-7. There will be yellow lantana on the “opposite” [East] side with yellow/gold/red flowering, low maintenance.

L-8. This is the recommended palette of plants to be used.

Cost – the general rule of thumb for landscaping is \$6.75 per square foot in cost. At a prior meeting we pointed out that the controllers and main lines were already in, and this would be replacing laterals and some plants, with only a few trees added. Brian indicated that might drop the price to \$4-5 per SF, though it is a public project so it would include prevailing wage should increase the bid costs. Brian will have a better idea of cost in the next step, when he analyzes what we can reuse, and what is being replaced.

Bob Schussel indicated most drivers pay the most attention at the Fountain entrance and Welcome Center, the rest should be green and colorful but does not have to be ultra-expensive. We need to make the brown vacant areas look better.

Kathy pointed out that we need plants that do not grab and hold the sycamore leaves, and that the current contractor is not cleaning them up enough.

Byrne noted the low flat junipers seem less likely to catch and hold leaves. He wondered if there are sections that can be saved, with current plants, to cut down on the SF in the budget. He asked if we could install laterals from the edge of the planting in some spots and leave the existing landscape intact. Brian indicate there could be problems handling irrigation where new plants need more water than established ones. It will probably be best in the long run to replace all laterals, cutting down on future repair tasks.

We talked more about the light poles, round collars of cobblestone, with room for base access.

February 5, 2021. The Committee walked the Parkway with the City and landscape architect. We want the focus to be on the area between the sidewalk on the West side and the street; where there are cutouts in the street, the area west of the sidewalk should have a few feet of landscaping so the drivers do not see bare dirt. Otherwise, the areas west of the sidewalk should be left open, perhaps with new trees where there are bare spots from prior trees having been removed, and bushes in a snake fashion to break up large expanses of bare ground, but no intensive landscaping. It was felt that drivers will not see or notice the areas west of the sidewalk, if there is colorful landscaping at the curb of the road. On the East side, some of the area drops off sharply, landscaping along the curb is all that is needed. On the East hill just after the Hiddenbrooke sign coming in, there are some olive trees, a couple at the front should be removed and replace, otherwise it should be left as is. All of the lawn west of the Fountain at the entrance will come out, and all of the lawn on the East side except right in front of the Hiddenbrooke sign. Uphill and east from that sign, there are some trees, but no real need for additional landscaping (and certainly not grass to water), in fact most drivers cannot even see that area because it is blocked by trees when exiting and by median plantings when entering.

Future calls are planned for Wednesday, March 3 at 10 a.m. and Monday, March 15 at 10 a.m. by Zoom.