

Minutes
Parkwood Park Committee
Meeting on August 26, 2013

Present:

Karna Candler
Sheri Kennedy
Bob Stewart
Steve Elmore

1. Meeting with Esther Stokes (Native Landscape Specialist)

Since our last meeting in June, Esther Stokes has visited the Park several times. She presented us with a conceptual planting plan and a plant list for the project area that fronts Ponce de Leon and runs up along East and West Parkwood to the first trail entrance on each street.

In the plan she made some recommendations for removal of several weed tree (Mulberry and Box Elder) and unproductive plants (Forsythia) in order to open up the area, as well as a recommendation to move a few of the newer plants to cluster them more closely.

But most importantly, the plan shows a diverse mixture of 25 native plants species (16 of which would be new to the Park) arranged to take advantage of differing levels of light and moisture in the project area. The plan also recognizes the different visual aspects Park. For example, around the perimeter where one moves by quickly, the plants are larger and less varied. However, in the interior and at the corners where one might stop or move by more slowly, there will be a wider variety of plants and they contain many different colors and textures.

The plan also calls for additional plants along Ponce de Leon, but still leaves a clear view of traffic on Ponce de Leon from both East and West Parkwood.

The Committee members were quite impressed with the wide variety of plants and plant types (herbaceous plants, shrubs, ferns, vines, grasses, etc.). Our task now is to review the plan in detail and be prepared to present and discuss any changes or adjustments the members want to make. Overall the plan is exactly what we had asked for, and it demonstrates Esther's knowledge in the use of native plants to make a native landscape interesting and inviting.

An electronic copy of the plan is attached.

Action Item: Committee members should review the plan and get feedback to Sheri for consolidation by September 10.

Action Item: We need to develop a ballpark cost to implement the plan so that we can include it in the Membership Campaign letter from the Park Committee.

2. Fall Workday

The fall party is being scheduled for Sunday, October 27. Last year the fall workday was the Saturday before the party. That seems to have worked quite well, so the Committee agreed to hold a workdays on Saturday October 26. The details of which tasks will be performed on October 26 will be worked out later.

There is some sense that we may want to schedule several fall workdays and focus each on a particular set of tasks – chainsaw day, etc. The details of how many days and what tasks will be performed will be worked out at a future meeting.

3. Review of Current Year Budget for Parkwood Park

Steve provided information related to the budget and funds available for Park-related activities. Sheri said she was making a \$500 donation through South Fork from her honey sales, and Karna reported \$161 in T-Shirt sales. After including these amounts and allocating funds for the removal of the White Oak (\$3,000), the South Fork funds are nearly exhausted. After budgeting funds for Esther Stokes and Bartlett Tree for invasive plant removal, the other park-related funds are also nearly exhausted.

At the Tour of Homes in April the Druid Hills Civic Association President told Sheri that we should ask for assistance in funding projects like the removal of the White Oak. Sheri had drafted a letter to the DHCA. Now that the tree has been removed and we have an actual cost, Steve will revise the letter and send it out to the Committee for review. Bob thought it should come from the President of the PGC to the President of DHCA. Steve will forward the final version of the letter to Frances (as President of the PGC) to see if she wants the letter to come from her rather than Park Committee.

Action Item: Steve and Bob will work out a few remaining discrepancies in funds available to the Park before the board meeting on Sept 9.

Action Item: Steve will revise letter to DHCA by September 2 for distribution to Committee.

Action Item: Steve forward final version of letter to Frances before September 9 Board meeting.

4. Status of Invasive Plant Removal

Bartlett Tree Service returned in mid-July to spray some areas that were missed in the May spraying. This time they used a different chemical and different spraying equipment. There does not appear to be any increased damage over and above that that occurred following the May spraying.

Bartlett has revised their bill for both sprayings downward from \$1,480 to \$740 because of the damage caused in the first round of spraying. Sheri indicated she wanted to talk with Art Morris and will seek to get the entire bill waived. She estimates that 60 plants (some quite mature and irreplaceable) were damaged or killed. Without objection the Committee authorized her to negotiate an even steeper discounting of the invoice.

5. Budget for 2014

Steve distributed some information about the 2014 budget. At a minimum the PGC budget should include the amounts for the expanded routine maintenance of the Park and, if we are going to use the plan developed by Ester Stokes to plant this fall, some funding for water and meter rentals.

Steve and Bob will work out the details for the PGC portion of the budget in time to present it at the September Board meeting. Further discussion of projects using South Fork and other Park funds were tabled to a later date.

Action Item: Steve and Bob finalize PPC budget for presentation at September 9 Board meeting.

6. Membership Campaign

As part of the Membership Campaign package, the Park Committee prepares a letter inviting PGC members to donate to the Park or to South Fork. Steve indicated that the Board wanted to assist in fund-raising for Park projects during the membership campaign. In order to do that, they wanted to determine the amount needed to address the remaining tree maintenance issues.

After some considerable discussion, the Committee tabled until the next meeting any decision on presenting how much the Park Committee needed for all its projects in 2014 and beyond.

Action Item: Develop letter explaining fundings needs to be included in the Membership Campaign materials by September 16 meeting.

7. Fundraising Opportunities and Logoed Materials

Karna indicated that she thought Powl t-shirt sales were not going to increase and that she still had a few for sale. Sheri indicated she thought some Powl or Parkwood Park Sign Thank You cards would be nice particularly for the Park Committee and the Board to send to people who assist in meetings or make donations.

8. Update of Park Pages on Website

Steve said that no work had been done on the Park web pages even those that are very out of date.

One of the changes that had been proposed was to develop a composite list of Park contributors and broadly band contributors based on lifetime contributions. Bob indicated he has consolidated everything he had gotten from former Treasurer Tom Bell into a single list. In the meantime, Steve will contact Bryan Bell and have several existing pages taken down.

Action Item: Steve will contact Bryan Bell before the Board Meeting on September 9 about removing the outdated pages.

9. Neighborhood Mulch Pile

The mulch pile at East Parkwood and the By-Pass created from the chipping of the White Oak was a big success and it's all gone. Sheri suggested getting some additional high quality mulch from Arborguard and making that more or less a permanent thing for the neighborhood.

10. Increasing Resources for Parkwood Park

Sheri had several ideas that might help the Park in the long run. One was to investigate having the Park designated as a Georgia Native Plant Society site. At this time she is not aware of the

specific requirements. Designation might include recognition of our hard work and placement on the GNPS website as a place to visit. The group thought it might be worth pursuing.

Also, Sheri said she wanted to invite Brian Williams to visit the Park and see if he might be interested in becoming an advisor to the Committee. Brian is currently the Forest Restoration Coordinator of Trees Atlanta. One of his special interests is stream restoration. He would make an excellent resource when deciding which trees to thin, what chemicals to use to maintain the cleared areas of the Park, how to address the undermining of the stream banks, etc.

Action Item: Sheri will report back about being certified as a Georgia Native Plant Society site at the September 16 meeting.

Action Item: Sheri will report back at a future meeting on discussions about having Brian Williams become a resource for the Park.

11. Purchasing Plants at Native Plant Sales

Sheri asked if there was money for her to purchase some native plants at the upcoming Trees Atlanta and other fall native plant sales. Steve said there was enough money for her to purchase several hundred dollars in plants.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 16 to discuss comments about the plan from Esther Stokes and the fund raising letter from the Park Committee for the membership campaign.

