

# COV - HMDAC March 29, 2021

## Meeting Minutes

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**Present on the call for the City** were 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 updated “95%” plans (attached) which we discussed.

We asked Brian if any of the current planting could be saved. He said it was a subjective call, some areas had plants that might look OK on the exterior right now but had dead parts internally, in some areas it was a “mish mash” of save-able vs. non-save-able plants. He kept in mind our desire to keep what we could, so where some were large enough and fit, he made the call to save them. The bid price will be the reality check, in some cases it may cost more to save existing plants and work around them than to install all new material, but if they were big enough to save, he marked where he thought we could do so.

Rich indicates there could be some minor tweaks in the plans as we go from design, to irrigation plan, to planting plan. James Olson of the City would be the construction inspector. Brian indicated that on a project of this scale, the contractor is not worried about minor variations relating to individual plants.

We went through the pages of the 95% plans. Page 1 covers the whole parkway and notes where the subsequent pages fill in.

We went backward from L-12 first, the area “past” the Welcome Center as one drives in. Most of the lawn will come out, in favor of native grasses and a large holiday tree near the large utility box. Such a tree could cost \$1000 to \$4000 depending on the initial size and cost to transport. We favored the 8 foot tree, at about \$1K to \$2K, mounded up a couple of feet to give it sufficient height from the first year. Alan pointed out we would need to include plans for power to the spot for lighting.

Going back to the entrance, page L-2, we will remove 75% of the lawn. We will clear the upper slopes but keep the trees intact. There will be native grasses installed, but not wisteria or shrubs (Kathy noted). We will add cobble in front of the Hiddenbrooke sign, and refurbish it. Wing walls will provide a more stately entry feeling.

L-3: cobble and DG around light poles. Keep trees, infill. Rows of native grasses, blue oak, and “lamandia” (sp?) alternating with low juniper borders with center accent shrubs. On the East side, ginko trees 50 feet apart center to center, tame fall colors, yellow and orange. Understory lantana (yellow), toriaster, vase shaped juniper. [*I was writing this down as quickly as I could, but Brian was using a lot of terms of art for landscaping that I was not familiar with.*] At the turnouts, crepe myrtls. (Sp?)

L-4 continued along median, cobble at light poles.

L-5; end of first 1/3 – end of ginkgo street tree planting. Different trees, so different infills on median.

L-6; sycamore trees on median, 60 feet apart center to center, infill trees shown, putting back in more sycamores where needed to fill gaps. On the median, 3 bold fernium shrubs, mourovian red alternating with radianoto yellow/green. [*Again, this is phonetic, he raced through the terms.*] On the West side, double row grasses adding selecting grouping of shrubs, crepe myrtles. Not using fragile ornamental grasses, but native type plants.

L-7; demolition not shown, will be on construction plans. “Jumble” will be cleaned out, let trees carry more visual weight. No planting on drop-offs (as hill drops away and plants would not be visible to drivers).

L-9 (marked as L-5 erroneously): Crepe myrtles 40 to 50 feet apart establishing a rhythm.

L-10 more densely planted and colors as we approach the Welcome Center

L-11 (marked as L-5 erroneously) scaling down plants, coming into existing landscaping, might fill in 1-2 trees. Maybe replace individual trees if dying out.

L-12; take out the Redwood tree right in front of the Welcome Center. Add seasonal color in the median, through edge too. Brian explained the Redwood is a 90s design, meant to be a coastal tree, would never exits naturally in our valley, and blocks the view of the Welcome Center. He is not taking other redwoods out, only this one because it is out of place.

We asked about landscape maintenance work going forward, and if this plan would generate maintenance cost savings going forward. Brian noted that the Parkway will need seasonal attention going forward, especially the fountain, main entry sign and Welcome Center. The rests are perennials, not meant to be sheared. The sycamore leaves will still be a maintenance issue. There will be yearly fertilizing. Landscape maintenance will need to trim and clean up the crepe myrtles each January if we want them to pop. Carpet roses will need a little fertilizer and extra maintenance, clipping to get flowers, if we want them to look “spectacular.”

We discussed the overall price, which Rick had estimated at \$1.3 million, though he would allow 20% overage that could bring the number to \$1.6 million, but these are preliminary estimates, the bid itself will determine what we spend. The City will likely add overhead charges for administering the contract and inspections, which are not included in those numbers.

We discussed phasing. The committee members all though this would be better done as a single project. We would like it to be funded with HID funds, instead of putting pressure on the HMD budget, which adjusts from year to year. HID funds are, after all, for capital projects. This is a 28 year old irrigation landscaping system, and upgrading it now should extend its life and reduce maintenance costs and water costs going forward, as well as greatly improving the Parkway appearance. Traffic will be affected during construction; but better to do this all at once than have traffic interruptions year after year for a project that is seemingly never completed. We need to explain to HOA members that this is an aging irrigation system and deteriorated

landscaping due to the droughts, and that this project will refresh the Parkway for years going forward. There is maintenance funding in the HMD budget, but this can be used elsewhere (for example, on Bennington after the Welcome Center, heading toward the golf club) beyond the scope of this project.

We discussed putting a DG path to the mailbox near the Welcome Center; there is no sidewalk now, and the road itself is not safe to walk on, with somewhat heavy traffic at times. Brian agreed that a DG path would be helpful, and better than concrete as in keeping with the design overall.

We will report to the Board. Rick Navarro indicated there might be minor tweaks going from the 95% plan to 100%, but not a lot. He will meet with Jason Lacey to talk about dollar numbers and soft costs. They might try to calculate seasonal savings in expected maintenance costs. Lighting for a holiday tree will be kept out of this contract.

**Our next HMDAC call with the City will be Monday April 26 at 10 a.m.**