



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

March 22, 2022

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The Beautification Advisory Board of the City of Fort Myers, Florida, met in regular session at Oscar M. Corbin, Jr. City Hall 2200 Second Street, on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Elaine Gulati, Debbie Hughes, Piper Smith, and Pattie Robinson. Also present were Jose Parrilla, Parks & Beautification Interim Manager, Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Committee Member Matthew Lincolnhol

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG AND ROLL CALL

Chair Willis led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a roll call was taken by Ms. Jones.

PUBLIC COMMENT

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Minutes of the February 28, 2022 Beautification Advisory Board Meeting

MOTION: Board Member Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Smith; motion carried unanimously.

2. Centennial Park

Jose Parrilla discussed with board members the landscape plan that was done by Johnson Engineering in 2020.

3. Riverside Park Entrance Sign Project

Mr. Parrilla discussed that he cleared out the bed and is making it oval with the front of the bed a little larger. Mr. Parrilla stated that he will be repainting the sign poles next week before installing the new sign. Discussion about going over plant choices at the next meeting when Mr. Lincolnhol brings in the plan.

4. Beautification Awards

Mr. Parrilla discussed the Beautification Awards that will be given out on Monday, March 28th to Cynthia Fleming, 2928 Lincoln Boulevard at 9:00 am for ward 3, and William Ballantine, 1392 Plumosa Drive at 10:00 am for ward 4.



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5. Naples Botanical Gardens Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Parrilla stated that Councilman Bochette would be able to explain the Naples Botanical Gardens Memorandum of Understanding the best. Councilman Bochette discussed how the Naples Botanical Gardens would be able to assist in upcoming projects ahead.

6. Other Business

Councilman Bochette discussed with board members items that were discussed at last night's City Council meeting and what will become of the City Nursery if the land is sold. Councilman Bochette said it will go out for 30 days and see if an acceptable offer is received from Budweiser.

Councilman Bochette discussed McGregor improvements that he had points for discussion and development for Wards 4 and 5 that included: brick/stone medians and crosswalks for safety concerns and traffic calming, concrete trash pick-up pads, repair irrigation lines, trim growth over roadway and out of the royal palms, sidewalk lighting, plant guide for homeowners, ingress/egress on corner lots that access side roads, and mailboxes.

Councilman Bochette discussed wanting to provide a guide for homeowners with a suggested list of plants. Ms. Hughes asked if it's something that he wants the committee to come up with and be available online. Councilman Bochette said it could be something that could be put on the city's website. Ms. Hughes said she believes that the committee could come up with a list of trees, palms, and shrubs. Councilman Bochette asked if it would be something that they would want Naples Botanical Gardens to do with them and suggested they may be able to help distribute it. Ms. Gulati discussed the need for a pamphlet because not many people would be looking online and said she thinks they should collaborate with the Naples Botanical Gardens. Councilman Bochette suggested to review what literature is out there already and suggested working with some of the Garden Clubs. Ms. Hughes mentioned about South Florida Water Management District's water wise plant guide and Mr. Parrilla mentioned FPL's plant guide called plant the right tree in the right place. Councilman Bochette suggested to board members to find a model, get an introduction, rationale, then break into categories, followed by the conclusion. Ms. Smith discussed using IFAS database and that she finds it simple to read compared to paperwork or literature. Board Members discussed different ideas on what would help homeowners. Councilman Bochette said if they pursue it and come up with a price of printing then he could take it to city council to get funds as a special assignment. Ms. Smith said she is willing to do some research on it to see what is out there and bring some examples back for they can come up with a format.

Ms. Robinson discussed Lincoln Boulevard and the need to beautify that area as other areas have been done in the city. Councilman Bochette and board members discussed



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the budget, water restrictions in the city, and how the project could be brought before City Council.

Ms. Hughes asked if we can put Flanders Park on the agenda for next month because there is a resolution plaque that needs to go where there is a bench on Alhambra Drive.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Committee member Robinson; seconded by Committee member Smith; to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 p.m.