



## MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

March 23, 2021

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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 23, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Mitzi Marckesano, Elaine Gulati, Debbie Hughes, and Pattie Robinson. Also present were Jose Parrilla, Parks & Beautification Interim Manager, Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Committee Members Mary Vogt, Piper Smith, and Wilmer Carter.

### **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 January 26, 2021 Beautification Advisory Board meeting

**MOTION: Board Member Hughes moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Gulati; motion carried unanimously.**

2. Beautification Awards

Jose Parrilla discussed the Beautification Award that was presented to Cleo and Edward Morgan off Brevard Avenue in Ward 4 and showed pictures that were placed on the city's website and Facebook showing the award presentation. Ms. Hughes stated that the landscaping was beautiful and that they done a great job picking that location. Discussion of no one responding in Ward 5 for an award. Board Members agreed that they should start back at Ward 1 and pick the top three homes at our May meeting.

3. Beecher Village

Mr. Parrilla gave an update on Beecher Village that is located on Suntrust Drive off Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard. He stated that the playground has been installed, pavilion has been delivered, sidewalks are currently in the process of being installed, as well as the pad for pavilion and water fountain.

4. Centennial Park

Mr. Parrilla discussed that irrigation has been installed and they are working on permitting for playground. Ms. Hughes asked if they are working on getting the water



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basin fountains working. Mr. Parrilla stated that the bubblers are working that keep water circulating but they have an outside company that is working on the fountains. Ms. Hughes discussed the problem with the midge flies lately and Mr. Parrilla agreed saying they have a company that treats the water basin, and a treatment was just completed recently.

### 5. MLK/Veronica Shoemaker Blvd.

Mr. Parrilla stated that they have completed installing the large trees and pad for the art sculpture. He discussed that after irrigation is complete, they will regrade and complete final landscape installation.

### 6. Colonial Blvd./I-75 Interchange

Mr. Parrilla discussed that all trees have been relocated to Hanson street Extension and others they will relocating to Palm Beach Boulevard and the City Nursery. Discussion of watering the relocated plants with the Parks water truck in places where there is no irrigation.

### 7. Hanson Street Extension

Mr. Parrilla stated that all the trees that were installed at Hanson Street Extension were relocated from Colonial Boulevard/I-75 Interchange except for the Black Olives. Mr. Parrilla discussed that the landscaping goes from Ortiz/Hanson Street Extension roundabout to Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard and all that is left to do is touch up on some mulching.

### 8. Other Business

Ms. Hughes asked about a Park that was dedicated to Mike Flanders that is off the river in Ward 4. Mr. Parrilla said that he has not heard but would check into it and let her know.

Councilman Bochette discussed with board members that he was the new Liaison and that he has written a proposal for the City to get Council Members more involved in all the Committees, encourage more items be brought before City Council, and making the public aware of them. Mr. Bochette discussed how the Beautification Advisory Board along with the Public Art Committee and the Historic Preservation Commission all have inherent qualities that can overlap in areas where the committees can work together. Mr. Bochette discussed the Public Art app that shows where the art is in the city and that you can go on an art tour right from your phone. He discussed the possibility of the Beautification Advisory Board and the Historical Preservation Commission to piggyback on the app for it reflects the greater cultures of the city all at one time. Ms. Hughes asked if he was thinking about some areas of the Parks to add to the app. Mr. Bochette said that he is not the expert and would leave that up to the Beautification Advisory Board to decide. Mr. Bochette said that Tom Hall who is the art consultant for the City of Fort Myers is the best person to discuss the app. Ms.



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Jones stated that the app is called Otocast and that she has spoken to Mr. Hall who is already scheduled to talk at our next meeting in April. Mr. Bochette discussed \$2.1 million dollars that was for the Edison Extension, between McGregor and US41, that was voted down when Mike Flanders was council person. Mr. Bochette said Mr. Flanders said to make sure it does not get deposited back into general funds. He said he spoke to the Public Art Committee about the Edison Park entrance plans for the US41 side because the money is earmarked, and if the committees worked together maybe we could come up with a plan to endorse and present to City Council. Mr. Bochette said then if approved Council would legally change title of assignment. Board Members and Mr. Bochette discussed areas that need improvement, development, and problems with traffic. Mr. Bochette discussed two leaning palms that were removed and homeowner requesting one not to be replaced because it impedes on their driveway. Mr. Bochette stated that there was discussion about increasing the spread of the Palms and they are looking into what can be done on McGregor Boulevard to help beautify and calm the traffic. Ms. Robinson discussed how dangerous the Palms can be on Palm Beach Boulevard because they obstruct the view when pulling out with fast traffic. Mr. Bouchette asked what the committee thought about the triangle palm that is off McGregor by the Estates that could be moved somewhere. Mr. Parrilla stated that it could be moved to the Park of Palms or the City Nursery. Ms. Hughes discussed the problem of right of ways with trees and garbage and if there are any plans to fix the roadsides. Mr. Bochette discussed the sign ordinance that was recently voted down and how US41 is in critical condition. Board Members thanked Mr. Bochette for what he is doing. Ms. Hughes discussed with Mr. Parrilla about a previous item that was discussed with J.B. Schuetz on code issues and trying to get some of the areas cleaned up and trees replaced. Mr. Parrilla asked if they had addresses of the properties that are in decline and said that he will try to get someone to come in from code to discuss the issues. Ms. Gulati asked if there were any updates on the homelessness that was discussed at one of the previous meetings. Mr. Parrilla gave an update on how they just finished the cleanup of Lion's Park and discussed the assistance was given to them. Ms. Willis discussed that the city needs to do something about the creek at Manuel's Branch where trees are being washed out and are leaning. Mr. Bochette stated that he has seen something come through on that and Mr. Parrilla stated that Stormwater would have been the department to take care of the request. Ms. Hughes discussed about what job Mr. Parrilla would like the board to work on. Board Members discussed idea of donation of money from rotary and to work on ways to get the neighborhoods with trash cleaned up.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was moved by Board Member Robinson, seconded by Board Member Marckesano; and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m.