



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

March 28, 2023

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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 28, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Zane Stoneman, Elaine Gulati (arrived at 4:05 p.m.), Debbie Hughes, Piper Smith, Mathew Lincolnhol, and Pattie Robinson. Also present were Jose Parrilla, Parks & Beautification Interim Manager, and Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG AND ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Minutes of the February 28, 2023 Beautification Advisory Board Meeting

MOTION: Board Member Smith moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Robinson; motion carried unanimously.

2. Update on MLK

Jose Parrilla stated that they started the final mulching on MLK from the railroad tracks heading out of town almost halfway to Veronica Shoemaker. Mr. Parrilla discussed that they replaced all the small plants in the middle and an order will be placed for 15 Crepe Myrtle's to replace the ones that have been hit by cars through the years. Mr. Parrilla stated that it would leave two islands that need to be finished and he anticipates the project will be completed within the next couple of months.

3. Beautification Awards

Board Members discussed Ward 6 and the difficulty of finding a home to give an award because they are all in gated communities. Mr. Lincolnhol suggested getting in touch with some of the HOA's to see if they can give us a couple of their best yards. Ms. Hughes said that is a good idea and she could find out what gated communities there are because she would hate to leave that ward out. Ms. Willis passed out pictures of Ward 1 for consideration. Board Members discussed 3527 E. Riverside Drive being the first choice and if homeowners don't respond, then award will be given to runner up at 204 Manor Parkway.



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MOTION: Board Member Robinson moved to approve the selection of 3527 E. Riverside Drive for Ward 1 Beautification Award; seconded by Board Member Hughes; motion carried unanimously.

4. Rotary Clock Landscape Project

Mr. Parrilla stated that in the packet is the cost of the plant material that was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Lincolnhol stated that he sent an updated concept with a couple changes with ADA accessibility around the clock, replaced Pentas with Helen Johnson Bougainvillea, increased crush shell and plant material. Mr. Parilla stated that he could get the mulch and the crushed shell. Board Members discussed the value of the landscape drawing that Mr. Lincolnhol completed and their labor, that they think Rotary should be fine with contributing \$1200.00 for the remainder. Ms. Hughes said that she works with someone that is in Rotary and she could check to see who the contact is, and Mr. Lincolnhol said that he would get with his contact also. Mr. Stoneman stated that every quarter he looks for volunteer projects for his irrigation team so he could help, and Mr. Parrilla said he would get with his irrigation team about the zones and let him know. Board Members discussed about funding that Councilman Bochette discussed at a prior meeting and Mr. Parrilla stated that it was only for material and mailings. Ms. Gulati discussed GoFundMe might be a good option for raising money. Board Members discussed the Patron of Palms wall and that it was set up for the funding to go towards Royal Palms. Mr. Parrilla stated that it never really took off and Ms. Hughes said that maybe it's something that we need to reinvigorate. Mr. Parrilla stated that he will bring in the brochure at the next meeting.

5. Trash Collection- Code of Ordinance and Code Enforcement Contact Information

Mr. Parrilla discussed the Code of Ordinance, section 70-42 that shows waste shall be placed at curbside no sooner than 12:00 p.m. in advance of collection day and that containers shall be removed from the collection point as of 7:00 p.m. the day of pickup. Mr. Parrilla discussed that in the packet is also Code Enforcement's contact information to call if needed. Ms. Robinson discussed at the end of Palm Avenue there is a tent city that they took pictures of and there is a car lot at the corner of Palm and Blake Street. Mr. Parrilla said that she should call code enforcement and Ms. Robinson said she will pass the numbers out for them to call.

6. Other Business

Councilman Bochette discussed the funding of the Patron Wall that Mr. Lincolnhol asked about. Councilman Bochette stated that the project has been dormant, and that city council has discussed the possibility of taking one side of the wall and put Officer Widman and Chief Diggs on it without a charge. Councilman Bochette suggested that they should come up with some ideas on activating it.



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Councilman Bochette discussed and gave clarification on the action plan report that was discussed at the last meeting. Councilman Bochette said that the action items would be on the report that would be sent to Liz Bello-Matthews for she can distribute it to City Council and City Manager, and then to Directors and other boards as needed. Discussion about if there is a form that can be created, and Councilman Bochette said that he thought that was a good idea and that he would come up with a template for it stays uniform from all the committees.

Councilman Bochette discussed having a meeting about refurbishing Rachel at the Well. Councilman Bochette stated that the budget for the statue is over 50k and that the whole structure will probably be over a couple thousand, so they were discussing different ways of funding it.

Councilman Bochette discussed budget meetings that start next week and that he will be lobbying for each committee to get 5k in administrative assistance. Councilman Bochette said if they would like something on the agenda now is a good time to ask.

Ms. Hughes asked about Vivas Park since she didn't see them on the agenda. Mr. Parrilla stated they just recently trimmed all the trees, and he is working with the Utilities department about getting a meter in because we finally replaced the old lines. Mr. Parrilla discussed the landscaping that will be moved due to the high rise that is being constructed. Ms. Hughes asked if anything will be done with the statue in the park and Councilman Bochette said that the Veterans Group was wanting to contribute. Mr. Lincolnhol discussed concern of shade in the park due to the high rise that will be going in.

Ms. Robinson said that since we are talking about beautifying all of Fort Myers, McGregor, downtown, and different areas that Lincoln Boulevard is still needing beautified between Ford to Palm Avenue. Board Members discussed the current landscape, water restrictions, and plants that are needing to be replaced. Mr. Parrilla stated that there are four or five islands with landscaping on the tips. Mr. Lincolnhol asked if there is a landscape plan for the area and Mr. Parrilla said there wasn't. Mr. Lincolnhol discussed from a design standpoint the liability is high due to it being in the right of way and would need a survey of all utilities in the area since it's not an interior park like the other projects. Ms. Robinson discussed the traffic problem with speeding in the area. Councilman Bochette discussed the speeding problems in different areas and how costly the speed bumps and traffic studies are.

MOTION: Board Member Lincolnhol made a motion to advise the City Manager to open a Request for Proposal "RFP" for enhanced landscaping on Lincoln Boulevard, from Ford Street to Palm Avenue; seconded by Board Member Smith; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lincolnhol stated that there is a stop sign that is being blocked by palm fronds at the corner of Linhart and Cortez that needs to be addressed and Mr. Parrilla stated that he would get it taken care of. Mr. Lincolnhol discussed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that went out for bid and suggested that the board get to see the plan. Mr.



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Parrilla stated that it's currently going out to bid and that he could see if Elgin Hicks, Parks and Recreation Director will come to one of the meetings to discuss it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Committee member Lincolnhol; seconded by Committee member Robinson; to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m.