



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

April 26, 2022

1 | Page

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, April 26, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Elaine Gulati (arrived at 4:16 p.m.), Debbie Hughes, and Pattie Robinson. Also present were Councilmember Bochette (arrived at 5:00 p.m.), Jose Parrilla, Parks & Beautification Interim Manager, Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Committee Member Piper Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 4:06 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 March 22, 2022 Beautification Advisory Board Meeting

MOTION: Board Member Willis moved to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2022 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Robinson; motion carried unanimously.

2. Centennial Park

Jose Parrilla stated that the amphitheater opened on Friday and that completion of the playground should be by the end of June.

3. Beautification Awards

Mr. Parrilla discussed the two awards that were presented to the homeowner's last month. Mr. Parrilla stated that in June a search for homes in wards 5 and 6 can be done.

4. Riverside Park Entrance Sign Project

Matthew Lincolnhol presented two landscape concepts he completed for consideration for the Riverside Park entrance sign project. The first concept consisted of Florida Thatch Palm, Queen Emma Crinum Lily, African Iris, Green Island Ficus, and Society Garlic, and would require the removal of the Holly that is currently there. The second concept consisted of Silver Buttonwood, Caribbean Century Plant, Emerald Blanket Natal Plum, and Mexican Petunia. Board Members discussed plant choices and



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

April 26, 2022

2 | Page

constraints due to the overhead power line, sign height, and irrigation. Board Members discussed the size of bed, plant choices of both concepts, and agreed that due to size of sign that they liked the first concept. Mr. Parrilla stated that he will remove the Holly in the rainy season and price out plant material to have at the next meeting while board members can look into raising funds. Board members discussed where they could go for the different plant material and ask for donations.

MOTION: Board Member Gulati moved to approve the selection of first concept; seconded by Board Member Robinson; motion carried unanimously.

5. Brochure of suggested Plants/Trees

Mr. Parrilla stated we would put this on hold since we are busy with other projects and waiting on Ms. Smith to bring information back.

6. Flanders Park

Ms. Hughes discussed the park at the end of Alhambra Drive that consists of a bench with two bottle palms with pavers. Ms. Hughes stated that Mr. Flanders will have everything they need by next meeting for paver to be engraved with resolution that will be placed into existing pavers at his expense. Mr. Parrilla stated that he doesn't see a problem with that but will run it by Ms. Lovejoy and will bring it up at the next meeting.

7. Other Business

Ms. Robinson discussed the overgrowth blocking both signs at the bridge. Mr. Parrilla said he will get it taken care of.

Ms. Hughes discussed looking at Lincoln Boulevard that was discussed previously by Ms. Robinson. Ms. Hughes said she seen the difficulties that Mr. Parrilla discussed of adding flowers to that area due to the Mahogany trees and boulders. Ms. Hughes stated that she was impressed at the renovations in the area. Ms. Robinson discussed the ditch by Ford that use to be kept clean and there is a problem now with trash. Mr. Parrilla stated that every Monday and Friday they do a trash run and discussed the amount of trash that is picked up. Ms. Gulati discussed about the possibility of having signs made up that say something like "Don't be a litter bug". Mr. Parrilla stated that Public Works oversees putting up metal signs and discussed how it would need to be approved. Mr. Parrilla stated that he will check and let them know at the next meeting.

Councilman Bochette discussed the 5-points area landscaping plan and the need for a crosswalk where the Hampton Inn is located and where Vantage-16 story apartments are planned.



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

April 26, 2022

3 | Page

Councilman Bochette discussed McGregor Boulevard by Virginia Avenue, Larchmont Avenue, and other areas of McGregor with suggestions of removal of a Ficus, planting of Palms and Washingtonians. Board Members discussed the traffic problems in the area and different ideas of landscaping.

Councilman Bochette discussed the renaming of downtown Park of Palms “Vivas Palm Park” that will be up for consideration at the next City Council meeting. Councilman Bochette discussed the history of the Vivas family with board members.

Councilman Bochette discussed about meeting on Thursday about the Yacht Basin proposals and spoke with board members about the importance of them endorsing one.

MOTION: Board Member Lincolnhol moved to make a motion that after the RFP’s go through for the Yacht Basin, and whoever is selected to provide their visual preferences to the Beautification Advisory Board for review; seconded by Board Member Hughes; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lincolnhol spoke to Mr. Parrilla about a safety issue of an oak hanging over roadway southbound on Cortez at Braman that is blocking a stop sign. Mr. Parrilla said that he was called out there yesterday and he will be getting it taken care of.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Committee member Hughes; seconded by Committee member Robinson; to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.