



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

May 24, 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, May 24, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Elaine Gulati, Debbie Hughes, Pattie Robinson, and Matthew Lincolnhol. Also present were 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 4:03 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

Michael Flanders commented on the Midpoint Memorial Park conceptual drawing. Mr. Flanders discussed the history of the area around the bridge advising that the board and Lee County need to get in touch with the Police Department to find out what has been going on at the end of the bridge and to be careful not to overload a dead-end street along the river with a lot of traffic.

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Minutes of the April 26, 2022 Beautification Advisory Board Meeting

MOTION: Board Member Hughes moved to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Lincolnhol; motion carried unanimously.

2. Midpoint Memorial Park

Matthew Lincolnhol presented a conceptual master plan that he and a colleague have been working on for Midpoint Memorial Park. Mr. Lincolnhol discussed the inspirational Tootie McGregor plaque and seeing the underutilized area of Midpoint Memorial bridge that is inside city limits and owned by Lee County Department of Transportation. Mr. Lincolnhol stated that he has spoken with the City Manager, Lee County Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, and nonprofits in the area that are in support of a Passive Park and the multi-level connectivity it would have. Mr. Lincolnhol discussed the Calusa Blueway, the existing and proposed trail systems, and how the park would make a good hub. Discussion of future bridge expansion plans, park features, parking, and houses next to bridge off San Pablo and San Marcos. Ms. Hughes asked what the homeowner's across the street say about the



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

May 24, 2022

2 | Page

concept. Mr. Lincolnhol said that they have a public meeting planned for June 9th at Saint Hilary's to get input from the community with any questions or concerns.

3. Beautification Awards

Mr. Parrilla discussed that the next two awards will be for wards 5 and 6 and that pictures can be sent to Michele for she can include them in the packet for everyone can have a copy.

4. Riverside Park Entrance Sign Project

Mr. Parrilla discussed the pricing he received for the proposed plant list for the Riverside Park entrance sign project. Mr. Parrilla stated that Ms. Gulati was able to get Palm Co to donate the Thatch Palms. Mr. Parrilla discussed taking some pictures with the sign afterwards and giving Palm Co a certificate or something for their donation. Mr. Parrilla stated he can take care of the Green Island Ficus and that will leave the Society Garlic, African Iris, and the Queen Emma. Ms. Hughes stated she can see about donating the Society Garlic and will check with the Naples Botanical Gardens about the Queen Emma's. Mr. Parrilla stated that he will install the Thatch Palms next week, and by the next meeting they can come up with a date for landscaping the rest.

5. Brochure of suggested Plants/Trees

Elaine Gulati discussed information that she received from the Lee County Extension Center on plant selection, landscape design, and classes they offer. Discussion about the information available and how to get the information out to the public. Ms. Gulati stated they offered to print them and maybe we could use the news paper on doing a plant or shrub a week. Ms. Gulati asked about the funds that were spoken of for the brochures. Mr. Parrilla stated that Councilman Bochette discussed the possibility of using discretionary funds for the project. Board Members discussed Florida Weekly and the News Press being good options for maybe doing a monthly article. Mr. Parrilla stated he would talk to the Public Information Officer to see if there is something the city can do.

6. Flanders Park

Michael Flanders discussed the resolution for Flanders Park that is off Alhambra Drive and the 12 streets in the city that dead end at the Caloosahatchee. Mr. Flanders discussed the current bench with plaque and discussed a proposed 12 x 18 bronze ground plaque that he is willing to have made and pay for himself. Mr. Flanders spoke about the existing steel trash can and bench leg bracket screws that are starting to rust, recommending that going to aluminum trash cans like the ones that are downtown would work best. Ms. Gulati said that she thinks the resolution on the plaque is a little unusual and board members discussed maybe an inspirational quote. Mr. Flanders discussed that he is fine with the resolution number not being on the



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

May 24, 2022

3 | Page

plaque and said he will come back with something a little more personal that says Flanders Park.

7. Sign- Keep Fort Myers Clean

Mr. Parrilla discussed the sign options and how they would not be allowed on the major roadways that are owned by Department of Transportation. Board Members discussed what they were looking for in a sign and what locations would be best. Mr. Parrilla discussed that he would check to see what the sign cost would be and bring back to the next meeting with pricing. Ms. Gulati discussed about the possibility of having sponsors for signs. Ms. Hughes mentioned the Adopt a Road program and maybe it could be like that and the possibility of some of the council members may be interested in putting the signs in their ward. Board Members discussed that they would like the sign to say, “Keep Fort Myers Beautiful Please Don’t Litter”.

8. Hampton Inn Landscape

Mr. Parrilla discussed the Hampton Inn landscape that was discussed at the last meeting and the landscape concept that is in the agenda packet.

9. Other Business

Ms. Willis discussed the mangroves at Centennial Park that she receives complaints that they are blocking the view of river when walking and wanted to see if they could be trimmed down. Mr. Parrilla discussed that they have a vendor that trims windows in the mangroves that require a permit to do so because the mangroves stabilize the banks.

Ms. Hughes discussed that she was asked by Rotary if there are any plans on putting anything around the new clock that is at the end of the Amphitheatre. Mr. Parrilla said that he will check on it and let her know.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Committee member Lincolnhol; seconded by Committee member Robinson; to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 p.m.