



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

May 25, 2021

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 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Debbie Hughes, Piper Smith, and Pattie Robinson. Also present were Jose Parrilla, Parks & Beautification Interim Manager, Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Committee Members Mitzi Marckesano and Elaine Gulati

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 April 27, 2021 Beautification Advisory Board meeting

MOTION: Board Member Hughes moved to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Robinson; motion carried unanimously.

2. Code Enforcement, Casey White

Casey White, Code Officer updated Board Members on the progress of the easements and alleys that they had concerns about. Ms. White discussed the easement/overgrowth sweep handout that was given to each of the board members. She explained how the process works with code violations for vacant lots where they send out courtesy cards and residential land with homes where they send out a notice to contact letter. Ms. Robinson said she still has concerns about the overgrowth with the little strip that runs between houses on Blake and Market, from Cranford to Palm. Ms. White replied that those streets are on the easement sweep handout and that she will make sure to check the area again to make sure no violations were missed. The board members thanked Ms. White for all they have done.

3. First Street Planters, CRA

Michele Hylton-Terry, Executive Director, Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency discussed with board members about a project for 16 planters, size 24 x 24 with aquamarine trim that would be placed in between light poles on First Street between Broadway and Jackson. Ms. Hylton-Terry stated they received a quote from Interior Landscapes that would include the installation and maintenance of the



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

May 25, 2021

2 | Page

planters and that it would be a one-year pilot program to see how well it does. Ms. Hughes asked about what they will do if the businesses already have something out there and if they will try to keep everything the same. Ms. Hylton-Terry stated they have not addressed talking to the businesses yet in hopes that once they are installed, they would see the enhancement and maybe feel theirs is not necessary. Ms. Hylton-Terry discussed how this company has been used in the past and some areas are better than others so we would not want to discourage everyone from taking theirs out. Board Members agreed that the enhancements are needed and thanked Ms. Hylton-Terry.

4. Beecher Village

Jose Parrilla gave an update on Beecher Village. He stated they are waiting on the installation of the roof for pavilion and water fountain for the project to be complete.

5. MLK/Veronica Shoemaker Blvd.

Jose Parrilla gave an update on the completed landscape at the corner of MLK and Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard. He stated that the next phase will be the Call to Artist for the art piece to go on the pad that will complete the project at that corner. He stated the next phase they will begin working on the medians on MLK. Mr. Parrilla said they will start by railroad tracks by Evans Avenue working on the three islands heading out of town, and once complete they will work on the next three islands heading into town by Ortiz. Ms. Hughes discussed that the corner area is big and almost looks like there is not enough stuff and hopes when the art piece is installed it will look better. Mr. Parrilla said that once the material grows in it will look good.

6. McGregor Boulevard

Jose Parrilla gave an update on the replacement of royal palms that are dead on McGregor Avenue. Mr. Parrilla stated that they have replaced 18 and have 12 more to go. He stated that since the project began, they have had some more needing replaced due to car accidents.

7. Beautification Awards- Ward 1

Margie Willis discussed touring Ward 1 last week for the beautification award selection. Board Members looked over pictures that were taken for consideration of the award and agreed upon the recommendation of 1826 Delaware Avenue to be the most deserving.

MOTION: Board Member Hughes moved to approve the Beautification Award for 1826 Delaware Avenue; seconded by Board Member Smith; motion carried unanimously.

8. Other Business

Ms. Willis discussed a royal palm that is on the edge leaning over Manuels Branch canal behind her house that needs to be taken down. Mr. Parrilla discussed the area



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

May 25, 2021

3 | Page

and what is currently being taken care of and said he will look at the tree she has a concern with.

Jose Parrilla discussed the leaning royal palm on Palm Beach Boulevard that was discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Parrilla stated that code enforcement is working on it with the business owner.

Ms. Hughes thanked Mr. Parrilla on his help the other day about cutting the fronds that were over the traffic lights in the crosswalks.

Ms. Robinson discussed development needs to be done at Shady Oaks on the backside by the playground. Mr. Parrilla said there has been discussion of plans and he will check into it.

Ms. Robinson discussed concerns of speeding and lack of signs from MLK, Cranford to Edison where something needs to be done to help control speeding in that area and she would like to know who to go to. Mr. Parrilla said he would find out who she should talk too and let her know.

Ms. Hughes asked how Centennial Park is coming along. Mr. Parrilla said they are working on the playground design, and he will be starting soon with re-landscaping the parking lot area. Ms. Hughes said that the bricks installed by the post office look nice. Ms. Hughes mentioned that she turned in the sponsor an art sculpture to the Garden Council to see if anyone from the group would be interested.

Ms. Robinson discussed an overgrowth and dumping problem on Evans Avenue side between Blake Street and Market Street. Discussion of a vacant house with a bee problem on Blake Street that neighboring houses have complained about. Ms. Hughes recommended contacting a bee removal company to relocate them. Mr. Parrilla said he will pass the information on to Code Enforcement.

Board Members discussed the vacant positions on the board, qualifications, and trying to get them filled. Ms. Willis asked Ms. Jones to put that on the agenda for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Board Member Hughes, seconded by Board Member Willis; and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m.