



## MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

June 27, 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, June 27, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Zane Stoneman, Debbie Hughes, and Pattie Robinson. Also present were Jose Parrilla, Parks & Beautification Interim Manager, and Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Elaine Gulati, Piper Smitch, and Matthew Lincolnhol

### **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 April 25, 2023 Beautification Advisory Board Meeting

**MOTION: Board Member Hughes moved to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Robinson; motion carried unanimously.**

#### 2. Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Jose Parrilla stated that Elgin Hicks, Parks & Recreation Director could not make it to this meeting so he will come at another time to discuss. Mr. Parrilla discussed that Mr. Hicks wanted the board to know that they are looking for 20 people to be on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee and that if they know of anyone that is interested to let him know. Mr. Parrilla stated that by the next meeting he will have more information on when and where the meetings will take place.

#### 3. CRA- Passive Park at MLK Boulevard & Hough Street

Mellone Long, Assistant Director, Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency gave a presentation of plans for a passive park at the corner of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Fowler Street. Ms. Long stated that the land was released by the Florida Department of Transportation to the CRA. Ms. Long discussed that they are working with Naples Botanical Gardens on the plant selection for the park. Stephanie Caldwell with Greensite Engineering spoke about the concept plan that was created by Coastal Vista Design that honors the historic Gardners Park neighborhood. Ms. Hughes asked if the oak trees would remain, and Ms. Caldwell said the plan is to



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preserve the oak trees. Ms. Long stated that this project is a little further behind so it will probably be a year or so before it will be completed.

### 4. CRA- Pocket Park at 2208 First Street

Mellone Long, Assistant Director, Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency and Greg Diserio with David M. Jones, Jr. and Associates discussed with board members plans for a Pocket Park at 2208 First Street. Mr. Diserio gave a presentation that showed the location that would be a 15-year lease on property, existing conditions, preliminary plans for site that included planting, benches, trash receptacles, pavers, fencing, lighting, irrigation, and drainage for the project. Mr. Diserio stated that the suggested name for the park is Common Ground Park that has not yet been approved by the CRA yet. Ms. Hughes asked about what happens after the 15-year lease. Ms. Long discussed how the piece of land would be hard to build on due to the size and that 15 years is all they could get at this time. Mr. Diserio discussed the type benches and that they could be easily moved. Ms. Robinson asked when the project came about and Ms. Long stated that they signed a lease agreement in January. Ms. Robinson discussed her concerns and asked where McCollum Hall is on the priority list. Ms. Long stated that McCollum Hall is a high priority, that it's currently under site plan review, and looking to break ground in October or November.

### 5. Rotary Clock Landscape Project

Mr. Parrilla discussed receiving the check from the Rotary Club to cover some of the landscape materials for the project. Mr. Parrilla stated that we can wait till everyone is here to schedule a time that would work for everyone and he would have everything ready except for planting the Helen Johnson Bougainvillea and mulching.

### 6. Update on MLK

Mr. Parrilla stated that they finally completed the landscape project with irrigation on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

### 7. Beautification Awards

Board Members discussed the two houses that were submitted by Zane Stoneman in consideration of an award for Ward 1. The two houses were 1933 Knight Street and 2826 Indian Street.

**MOTION: Board Member Hughes moved to approve the selection of 1933 Knight Street for Ward 1 Beautification Award; seconded by Board Member Robinson; motion carried unanimously.**



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### 8. Other Business

Councilman Liston Bochette gave an update on City Council items. Councilman Bochette discussed the traffic control meeting that he just recently attended where the City Manager had three items that he wanted to be addressed: safety and security, historical and aesthetic value, and cost. Discussion about McGregor Boulevard and the number of palms that were lost due to Hurricane Ian. Board members discussed concerns of empty lots and trash within the city. Councilman Bochette shared some pictures of sidewalks and walls with tile work from recent trip he had taken to San Juan, Puerto Rico where they have a beautification program that overlaps with our art group.

Ms. Robinson discussed areas that have drainage problems with overgrown grass. Mr. Parrilla stated that if she sees a problem area to call Public Works, streets and drainage and they will take care of any drainage problems.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was moved by Committee member Robinson; seconded by Committee member Hughes; to adjourn the meeting at 5:02 p.m.