

**AGENDA
BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**

January 26, 2021 @ 4:00 PM
Next Meeting: February 23, 2020



BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD						
Mitzi Marckesano	Margie Willis	Elaine Gulati	Vacant	Debbie Hughes	Piper Smith	Pattie Robinson
Mayor Appointee	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6
Mary Vogt Alternate			Wilmer Carter Alternate			

**OSCAR M. CORBIN, JR. CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2200 SECOND STREET, FORT MYERS, FLORIDA**

For full agenda Packet [Click Here](#). Larger files may take longer to download.

Please complete a "Request to Speak" form if you plan to address the Beautification Advisory Board and submit to the recording secretary prior to the start of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Roll Call

1. Approval of October 27, 2020 Minutes
2. Beautification Awards
3. Beecher Village
4. Centennial Park
5. The Forum
6. MLK/Veronica Shoemaker Blvd.
7. Treeline Water Plant

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- 8. Colonial Blvd./I-75 Interchange
- 9. Other Business

Adjourn

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Beautification Advisory Board with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Special Requirements: If you require special aid or services as addressed in the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (239) 321-7035 or for the hearing impaired, TDD telephone number (239) 332-2541.

ITEM NO. 1



MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

October 27, 2020

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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, October 27, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Elaine Gulati, Debbie Hughes, Piper Smith, Pattie Robinson, and Mary Vogt. Also present were JB Schuetz, Parks & Beautification Manager, Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Committee Members Mitzi Marckesano, and Wilmer Carter.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. Board Member Smith arrived to the meeting at 4:13 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

OATH OF OFFICE

The oath of office was administered to Debbie Hughes and Mary Vogt by Gwen Carlisle, City Clerk at 4:21 p.m.

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Minutes of the October 27, 2020 Beautification Advisory Board meeting

MOTION: Board Member Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Willis; motion carried 6-0

2. Beautification Awards

Mr. Schuetz discussed the Beautification Awards and asked if there were any new awards to talk about this month. Chair Willis said that her and Ms. Robinson will work on that next month.

3. Beecher Village

Mr. Schuetz gave an update on Beecher Village that is located on Suntrust Drive off Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard. He discussed they are currently in the process of permitting stage for the playground, sidewalk, and pavilion and that everything should be completed this budget year. Board Members asked the size of the park and the budget of the playground. Mr. Schuetz discussed the features of the Beecher Village playground and stated that it will be like what is at Jefferson and Yawkey Park, and that it consists of a little over an acre. He stated that the cost of



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playground with accessories is \$75,000, pavilion \$26,000, with Public Works providing the installation of sidewalks and water supply. Ms. Hughes asked if Habitat donated the property and Mr. Schuetz discussed how they acquired the playground space. Ms. Robinson asked if the project would begin in December and Mr. Schuetz said he hopes so. Ms. Vogt asked how long the project will take and Mr. Schuetz said the playground will take about a week to install and the sidewalks and water supply will depend upon Public Works schedule. Ms. Hughes asked about what trees are already there and Mr. Schuetz stated that the island is circled with oak trees. Ms. Hughes discussed that the Garden Council has some money for civic beautification, and she could mention that to them if you would like to request some money for a tree. Mr. Schuetz said there is room for some more and he would like to break up some of the oaks with Tabebuia or Black Olives. Ms. Hughes said that Judy who is the President of the Garden Council spoke about it at the last board meeting so if he is interested, she could let her know.

4. Centennial Park

Mr. Schuetz discussed that they are in the process of hiring a contractor for the renovation of the park. He discussed the proposed landscape that was done by Johnson Engineering. Mr. Schuetz said that they will be losing 90 trees but once the east side is rebuilt there will be 131 trees and palms, which is a net gain of 41 trees. He described the type of trees and palms that are in the proposal. He discussed that they are working with 10 local landscape companies to purchase if they have a project or give us an option on moving some of the trees to various Parks and green spaces in the city. Ms. Vogt asked Mr. Schuetz why there was going to be a loss of 90 trees. Mr. Schuetz said that it is due to the Amphitheatre and the change of the sidewalk path. He stated that the volleyball court will be removed. Ms. Hughes asked what was going to happen with Edison Fountain and Mr. Schuetz replied that it was going to remain. He explained that the other art pieces were going to be moved but specifically did not know where exactly in the park. Mr. Schuetz discussed with board members what Parks does for Arbor Day with the different schools in the city. He discussed the different types of palms in the city and that Palm Garden in front of the railroad station has some palms missing and that he would send Ms. Hughes a list of the needs. Ms. Gulati asked approximately how many people the Amphitheatre will be able to accommodate. Mr. Schuetz said that he is unsure because he has not been exposed to those conversations of the project. Discussion of the construction to hopefully start in the next four weeks and that Parks has started locates for underground utilities on the west side where the playground will be. Mr. Schuetz discussed the locates that were underway for converting the water lines that are 30 years old from 2” to 4” that will give the park more water supply. Chair Willis asked Mr. Schuetz how much of the Luminary was putting into the project. Mr. Schuetz said that they did put in some funding but wasn't sure of the numbers. He discussed that they also received some funding from the State with the help of Senator Benacquisto to help pay for the playground that will accommodate about 200 kids. Chair Willis



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discussed how apartments don't need to be put in and that the park needs to be extended to have better views. Mr. Schuetz said those are issues that should be brought up with City Council and the new Mayor that will be coming in. Ms. Robinson asked about the fishing pier and Mr. Schuetz replied that it will be upgraded along with the irrigation, restrooms, and the large pavilion. Ms. Hughes said that they have a good choice of color for the landscaping. Chair Willis asked if the mangroves were going to remain. Mr. Schuetz discussed that we have a state permit to trim but cannot remove and that once a year we cut a window. Ms. Hughes discussed how lifting them is also a good option and has worked well for the Edison Estates. Mr. Schuetz said he will have to consider getting prices and maybe changing direction. Mr. Schuetz discussed the four trees along the Uncommon Friends water feature and how with the new landscaping that all four trees will need to be removed. Discussion of how the trees have created a maintenance problem and removing them will help with the maintenance of the water feature and the possibility of creating an illusion of water instead for the fountain.

5. The Forum

Mr. Schuetz discussed that on September 16th there was a zoom public meeting with Councilwoman Anthony with discussion on the Forum. Mr. Schuetz discussed the history of the four parcels totaling 23 acres and what amenities the park will include. Ms. Vogt asked how long the project will take to complete and Mr. Schuetz said it would probably take 24 months to complete between permitting and we will probably need additional funding to complete

6. MLK/Veronica Shoemaker Blvd.

Mr. Schuetz stated that the budget was approved for the art piece and landscaping at the corner of MLK and Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard as well as re-landscaping and irrigation of six islands on MLK.

7. Treeline Water Plant

Mr. Schuetz discussed the redesign of the Treeline Water Plant where they will be adding 23 oak trees and 48 green buttonwood trees around the fencing area with drip irrigation.

8. Colonial Blvd./I-75 Interchange

Mr. Schuetz discussed the plans of the Colonial/I-75 Interchange where the roadway will be created like the location at SR 82 and Gunnery. He stated they will be losing the landscape that was approved by the Beautification Advisory Board for a Highway Grant we received 10 years ago and discussed what landscaping Parks is trying to recycle before the project is anticipated to begin in January.

9. Royal Palm Ave./2nd Street

Mr. Schuetz discussed the history of the planting of palms on Royal Palm Ave. and 2nd Street and updated Board Members on the plans that they have going on with FPL because of the issues of them being by the power lines.



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10. Other Business

Ms. Smith discussed the idea of putting a perimeter landscape and fence around the water features to make it inaccessible for citizens to help keep the artwork from being damaged. Committee Members agreed that is a good idea and discussed what type plants would work.

Mr. Schuetz discussed the funds received for the rebuilding of playgrounds this year. He stated that Freemont Park off Palm Beach Boulevard will have new playground equipment by next September and that the pavilion at Beecher Village will be part of that money. Mr. Schuetz said if there is any excess funding it will go toward Dupree Parks playground and resurfacing the tennis courts at Lions Park. Ms. Gulati asked how many parks have sprinklers for kids in the City of Fort Myers. Mr. Schuetz said none other than the plans for Forum Park. Ms. Gulati said that she thinks it's very important that there should be more in the city and other board members agreed. Mr. Schuetz said that is something he will look into. He discussed that after three years they will finally be replacing the pavilion that had burnt down at Trailhead Park off Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard. He stated the pavilion will be 30 x 20 but will not be leaving power there.

Ms. Hughes discussed the invasive trees by the rock underneath the Edison Bridge around Burroughs Home that needs to be taken care of. Mr. Schuetz said he appreciates her letting him know and he will take a look at it. Ms. Hughes stated she noticed a bunch of landscaping work that was done at the Burroughs's Home and Mr. Schuetz discussed how Uncommon Friends takes care of the monthly landscaping while Parks helps with getting it ready for the Christmas lights every year.

Mr. Schuetz discussed the Literary Florida Brochure from February 1955 that he handed out to the board members for them to read and discussed history of the area.

There being no further business, it was moved by Board Member Gulati, seconded by Board Member Hughes to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 p.m.