



## MINUTES–Beautification Advisory Board

February 28, 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, February 28, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Present were Margie Willis, Chair, presiding, Board Members, Piper Smith, Mathew Lincolnhol, and Pattie Robinson. Also present were Jose Parrilla, Parks & Beautification Interim Manager, and Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Committee Member Zane Stoneman, Elaine Gulati, and Debbie Hughes.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 4:05 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 January 24, 2023 Beautification Advisory Board Meeting

**MOTION: Board Member Willis moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023 Beautification Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Board Member Smith; motion carried unanimously.**

#### 2. Update on MLK

Jose Parrilla stated that by next month they should be back working on the last two islands on Dr. Martin Luther King from Veronica Shoemaker headed back to where the Nursery was. Mr. Parrilla stated that they have been working on this project the last couple years so after finishing them up they will go back through and replace any trees that are needed and mulch again to complete the project.

#### 3. Beautification Awards

Mr. Parrilla discussed the Beautification Award for Ward 5 that was given out to Mr. Pekol at 3895 Harold Avenue. Mr. Parrilla stated that Mr. Pekol was excited and thanked everyone for the award. Ms. Willis asked when we should be working on next award. Discussion of ward 6 and 1 could be done next because Parks has three signs.

#### 4. Rotary Clock Landscape Project

Mr. Lincolnhol discussed the Rotary Club approving the larger landscape drawing at their last meeting and they were wanting to know what is next. Mr. Parrilla stated that the next step would be fundraising and asked if the Rotary Club wanted to contribute



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anything. Mr. Lincolnhol discussed that he could reach out to the Rotary Club to see about contributing and stated they were interested in what the plant selection for hedges would be. Mr. Parrilla discussed plant selection and that Parks could do the shell rock and he could provide help with irrigation that Mr. Stoneman spoke about at the last meeting. Mr. Lincolnhol discussed sending a contractor alternatives list of five plants for Mr. Parrilla can provide a cost estimate. Ms. Smith suggested sending the cost estimate out to everyone in case Rotary doesn't want to contribute. Mr. Parrilla stated that the metal landscape edging would be the best option and discussed if it would go around the back edge and around clock. Mr. Lincolnhol discussed the black plastic edging because of the metal being expensive and Mr. Parrilla stated that the metal would last longer and looks better. Mr. Lincolnhol said he would put that into the specification to use the metal edging.

### 5. Update on McGregor Blvd

Mr. Parrilla discussed the newsletter and the options handout that he received from Liz Bello-Matthews on ways to get the word out to residents that Gina Sabiston spoke about wanting to do at the last meeting. Mr. Lincolnhol asked what the exact issues they were having, and Mr. Parrilla said it was to give the homeowners an idea on what McGregor use to look like and give homeowners tips on what they shouldn't do. Ms. Robinson discussed keeping the history, moving forward, and the Royal Palms that have disease. Mr. Parrilla discussed the inventory of the Palms and the ones that are needing replaced due to disease or being damaged from Hurricane Ian. Ms. Smith discussed the paperless billing option now that she receives that can include autopay and not sure how many people who would receive the insert due to that. Mr. Lincolnhol asked if there is any message inside the paperless and Ms. Smith said that she did not look at it. Ms. Smith said that she likes the social media option and that she has used geofence.

### 6. Other Business

Councilman Liston Bochette discussed that he spoke with Naples Botanical Gardens about doing an inventory because they will be having summer interns and that they will need something for them to do. Councilman Bochette said that they could show how many are missing, health state, and rate the health state. Councilman Bochette discussed that he prepared and circulated among Council some ideas on all the thoroughfares: ingress, egress, mailboxes along thoroughfare, trash pickup, and for them to come up with recommendations on how to help traffic flow.

Councilman Bochette discussed the private owners of the old pink Sinclair gas station that are looking to activate the property and would probably like some advice from the board on what to do.

Councilman Bochette discussed that he will be bringing up to Council the point of food distribution in the area, the issues, and ways to try to manage and help keep our



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Parks friendly. Discussion about Lion’s Park and the plans on redoing the playground, bathrooms, and pavilion.

Councilman Bochette discussed Centennial Park being a common name and they have been floating the idea of calling it Uncommon Friends Park.

Councilman Bochette discussed that he strongly recommends them making a motion to have an after-motion plan that would keep council aware of what is going on with the different boards. Councilman Bochette said when a board passes a motion, that it is recorded as an after-motion action plan that gets circulated to council.

**MOTION: Board Member Lincolnhol made a motion for staff to create an action report that is sent to the City Manager to be distributed to City Council; seconded by Board Member Smith; motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Lincolnhol asked Councilman Bochette about funding that he has spoken about in the past. Councilman Bochette discussed that he is going to sponsor a motion that all the committees have a five-thousand-dollar education print information fund. Councilman Bochette said as far as paying for individual projects, as you know the Public Art Committee (PAC) gets a percent of all new construction that use to be obligatory but now it’s by donation. Councilman Bochette explained how the PAC has an Art Consultant and that he asked the Historical Preservation Committee (HPC) to consider asking for a consultant.

Ms. Robinson discussed the problems of trash being left out by the road and how they need to start enforcing it again to make the city look better. Councilman Bochette discussed if they voted on an action report how that would help on the matter by letting the person in charge know to come up with an education program. Board Members discussed if this would go on action report. Mr. Parrilla stated that he would find out what the rule is and find out what needs to be done for our next meeting.

Ms. Smith asked if there are any plans for additional shade structures or seating around the playground at Centennial Park. Mr. Parrilla stated that they are waiting on them to restore power and they will be putting in seating and trash receptacles. Mr. Lincolnhol asked if the width of the sidewalks are going to change because they are getting clogged with strollers. Mr. Parrilla discussed that the sidewalks are final and that the areas that are sticking out are where the benches will go.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, it was moved by Committee member Lincolnhol; seconded by Committee member Smith; to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 p.m.