

VERO BEACH TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, August 20, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida

PRESENT: Chairman, Marilyn Black Dussault; Vice Chairman, Cynthia Schwarz; Members: Fran Robinson (via Zoom), and Neal Roe **Also Present:** City Attorney, John Turner, Grounds Maintenance Manager, Nanette Haynes, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absence: Katherine Booth

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dussault called today’s meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

Mrs. Dussault asked if there were any objections to Mrs. Booth being excused from today’s meeting. There were no objections from the Commission members.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) February 20, 2020

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2020 Tree and Beautification Commission meeting. Mr. Roe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved 4-0 with Mr. Roe voted yes, Mrs. Robinson yes, Ms. Schwarz yes, and Mrs. Dussault yes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Tree Dedication Application for Robin Pelensky – Pam O’Donnell, Sunrise Rotary Vero Beach

Mrs. Pam O’Donnell, Vice President of the Sunrise Rotary Vero Beach, stated that Mrs. Robin Pelensky is a Landscape Architect and she has spearheaded several beautification and environmental projects in Vero Beach over the past several years. They would like to plant a tree in her honor as Past President of the Sunrise Rotary. The ideal location would be a tree near the Riverhouse because that is where they hold their weekly Sunrise Rotary meetings. She explained that Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager, visited the Riverhouse and picked out an ideal location. Mrs. O’Donnell read the wording for the plaque (on file in the City Clerk’s office).

Mrs. Dussault stated that this is a lovely tribute to Mrs. Pelensky. She is a very talented woman and she has contributed tremendously to the City of Vero Beach.

Ms. Schwarz said this is fabulous and she really likes the Pink Tabebuia Tree that was selected.

On a roll call vote, the dedicatory tree application from Pam O'Donnell was unanimously approved 4-0 with Mr. Roe voting yes, Ms. Schwarz yes, Mrs. Robinson yes, and Mrs. Dussault yes.

B) Tree Dedication Application for Marvin & Beverly Hill – Lynda Hill

Mrs. Dussault announced that the second dedicatory tree application is from Lynda Hill for Marvin and Beverly Hill. The request is for a tree near the tennis courts at Riverside Park or near Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. Mrs. Dussault read the wording for the plaque from the application (on file in the City Clerk's office).

On a roll call vote, the dedicatory tree application from Lynda Hill was unanimously approved 4-0 with Mr. Roe voting yes, Ms. Schwarz yes, Mrs. Robinson yes, and Mrs. Dussault yes.

Ms. Schwarz said she likes that the tree selected will either be a Magnolia Tree or an existing Oak Tree.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Discuss 2021 Beautification Weekend Events and City Project Ideas

Mrs. Dussault said they can certainly discuss the 2021 Beautification Weekend events and project, but they might have to rethink the plans they came up with previously. She would like to continue with the original project, but under the circumstances and with the time constraints, she does not see it happening.

Mr. Roe replied that he would like more time to reconsider a plan. He believes there is something they can still do that will not be as public. He knows that people are doing a lot of work to their yards, so maybe they can do something with that idea.

Mrs. Robinson stated that currently the Master Gardeners are not doing any public work and she does not know if that will change.

Ms. Schwarz agreed that she would still like to see them do something.

Mr. Roe said he would put some ideas together and bring it back to the Tree and Beautification Commission to discuss.

Mrs. Dussault said that Mr. Roe's idea of focusing on individual people might be very interesting and community oriented. She asked Mrs. Schwarz how would they do this from a presentation standpoint.

Ms. Schwarz replied that it would have to be done virtual.

Mrs. Dussault suggested that they put something together that will entice people to participate and then essentially film them and present it to the community.

Ms. Schwarz asked what options do they have for using city resources for filming and making a presentation.

Mrs. Dussault said she would check on that.

6. TREASURY REPORT

Mrs. Dussault reported that the Tree Replacement/Mitigation Fund has a balance of \$105,608.75 and the Tree Planting Application Fund has a balance of \$1,069.21. She said that they might want to think about some projects to do.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mrs. Dussault said she is glad that they are back to having meetings. She would like to see the Tree and Beautification Commission do some projects to enhance the City. She sincerely hopes that this community and every community will come out better, kinder, and more dedicated to each other because of what they are going through.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Robinson said she would like to thank Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager, for the butterfly garden she created at Leisure Square. She visited it after their last meeting in February and it looked wonderful. The transformation of downtown looks lovely since they removed the pots and replanted the bulb outs. She wanted to let Ms. Haynes know that people notice and appreciate those things and her department's hard work.

Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager said it was convenient that the stores were closed downtown due to the Coronavirus when they did the work. They were able to block off the streets and use the big claw truck to remove the existing vegetation. It would have been incredibly time consuming if they would have had to hand dig it all. They also used the claw truck to remove the old plants in the parking lot at City Hall while it was less crowded, so her department has been very busy.

Mrs. Robinson announced that the Garden Club of Indian River County decided to cancel Garden Fest for 2021. There was no way to get the logistics in place in time because of the pandemic.

Mrs. Dussault said it is a shame, but this is also going to happen with so many other events. She believes they can still do something for the Beautification Weekend from a small town member perspective. This will give the community something to be involved with since so many other events will not be taking place.

Mr. Roe said it was reported to him that in the public right-of-way at 18th Street and 36th Avenue there is a Palm Tree that has overgrown the streetlight. He said the man who reported it wants to know if he can trim it or who would be responsible for it.

Ms. Haynes replied that if it is in the right-of-way it is the City's responsibility, so she will have it looked at.

Mr. Roe said he is very thankful for the City and how it operates. He is very appreciative of the trash and lawn waste service and the great job they do.

Ms. Haynes said that the Public Works department and the people behind the scenes do an incredible job and they are dedicated. The City is very lucky to have them and she believes that in a small town people get better quality service.

Mrs. Dussault said that the rain garden is filling in and it is beautiful and peaceful looking. She thanked Ms. Haynes for doing such a wonderful job on it and she would love to see more of them.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – September 17, 2020

The next meeting of the Tree and Beautification Commission is scheduled for September 17, 2020.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Roe made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 9:31 a.m. Ms. Schwarz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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