

**VERO BEACH TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION
COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 17, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chairman, Chris Runge; Vice-Chairman, Daniel Downey; Members: Cynthia Schwarz, Marilyn Black Dussault, Barbara Leigh, and Alternate member: Elly Manov **Also Present:** Grounds Maintenance Manager, Nanette Haynes, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) September 15, 2016

Ms. Schwarz stated that in the September minutes it listed the title for Ms. Nicole Mosblec as a teacher, but she believes she is the Club Coordinator or Sponsor and not a teacher.

Mrs. Dussault suggested that they just remove her title from the minutes.

Ms. Schwarz stated that she would like to have Ms. Mosblec's title changed to Club Sponsor as it was listed on her email.

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2016 Tree and Beautification Commission meeting with the one (1) correction made. Mrs. Dussault seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Runge asked to modify the agenda and move public comment to later in the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

This item was discussed after item 5-E).

Mrs. Barbara Hoffman, Executive Director of Vero Beach Cultural Arts Council, explained that the Cultural Arts Council is doing the Cultural Arts Village project, so she chairs them as well. She is standing in for Mr. Neil Sickterman, who is the Chairman of the Committee and is responsible for developing all the infrastructure work they are doing in the Village. She started the Power Point presentation and showed the tree plan for the project (on file in the City Clerk's office). They are recommending the Simpson Stopper Tree, because it has so many great qualities. For the first five (5) years the trees will be planted in pots, because the City has a five (5) to six (6) year plan to move the existing water main which runs directly below where the trees would be planted. The trees will form a canopy along 19th Street from 14th Avenue to 20th Avenue. The diagram shows the existing water main and sidewalks. They plan on incorporating benches and pavers to make it very attractive. Initially the trees will require daily watering while they are in the pots, which will transition to a three (3) month daily watering routine once the trees are planted in the ground. The water usage will be metered and paid for by the Cultural Arts Village. After the trees are planted in the ground, the pots

will be repurposed into container gardens that will be arranged throughout the Arts Village. She continued with the Power Point and showed the diagram of the typical street plan (on file in the City Clerk's office). She explained that the light green tree symbols are the trees they will be planting and the dark green ones represent the existing trees.

Mrs. Dussault asked if existing trees will be removed.

Mrs. Hoffman replied no. She explained that they have been working on the Arts Village for almost two (2) years and they want to add trees to the existing ones. The Freshman Learning Center is in need of some attention and the School District has been very cooperative and working very closely with them. The Cultural Arts Village plans on adding an outdoor performance stage on the Freshman Learning Center property that will face 14th Avenue so that the sound does not disturb the residential area. They also presented a plan to the School District for doing a facade on the outside of the Freshman Learning Center building to make it look more like the old High School. She continued by displaying and reviewing their budget for the Arts Village project (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mrs. Leigh asked what are the pots made off. It says trex finish, but she is not sure what that is.

Mr. Runge explained that it is an artificial wood.

Ms. Schwarz commented that it is the same material that they use for decks.

Mr. Runge asked Mrs. Hoffman if they have come up with long-range funding, because this is a long-range project.

Mrs. Hoffman explained that they have an individual responsible for that and he is in the process of doing that now.

Mr. Runge said that he believes this is a project that the Tree and Beautification Commission would be interested in helping with. This is right in line with their vision for beautifying the City.

Mrs. Hoffman encouraged each of them to visit the Vero Beach Cultural Arts Village website, because it includes their entire plan. They have been as transparent as possible with every step of the process. She has gone before the City Council on several occasions, they have held neighborhood meetings, conducted a public charrette, and sent letters to property owners and residents. They have developed four (4) professional advisory groups for recommending services for businesses to utilize. They include banking, insurance, lawyers, and realtor services.

Mrs. Dussault commented that they have done an excellent job doing their homework.

Mr. Runge asked the Arts Village to come back to the Tree and Beautification Commission when they have a final budget. He said that when the trees are planted they become City property, so he would like to suggest that they be used as dedicatory trees.

Ms. Haynes replied absolutely, as long as the Arts Village approves it and there is enough room to install the stakes that the plaques are attached to.

Mr. Runge said they will keep this on their agenda for further discussion.

Ms. Haynes stated that Mr. Sickterman met with her and Mr. Monte Falls, Engineering and Public Works Director, to go over their entire plan for the Arts Village and it is extremely detailed with a lot of nice features.

The Commission thanked Mrs. Hoffman for attending their meeting and they all agreed that her presentation was excellent.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Introduction of new Tree and Beautification Commission Alternate Member

Mr. Runge welcomed Ms. Elly Manov as the new Alternate Member on the Tree and Beautification Commission.

Ms. Ely Manov stated that by education she is a Civil Engineer. She holds licenses as a Professional Engineer and Planner. She has served on numerous community committees including 10 years as the Chairman of the Zoning Board in New Jersey. Currently she is retired and has lived in Indian River County for the last 18 years and participates in various community activities.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) 100th Anniversary Celebration and Tree Planting for the City of Vero Beach

Mr. Runge stated that they are still waiting for the City Council to put together a group of people who will spearhead this project. He said he believes it is vitally important. The other Commission members agreed.

B) Update on Proposed Tree Planting Project along 14th Avenue from 16th Street to 18th Street

Mr. Runge asked Ms. Haynes for an update on this project. He stated that Mr. Falls informed him that a letter was sent to the property owner.

Ms. Haynes stated that she does not believe he (Mr. Falls) has received a response to the letter.

Mr. Runge suggested that they talk with Planning and Development, because he knows there are restrictions on how close driveways can be to corners and property lines. Maybe they should start looking at that to find some space for planting. This way if they do hear back from the property owner they know what they have to work with. He proposed that they look at a second site and work on both of them at the same time. He would like to recommend the landscape triangle on State Route 60 across from Nino's Restaurant and the laundry mat.

Ms. Haynes explained that when the widening project takes place on 43rd Avenue that island will be going away. The plans that she reviewed showed a much smaller island that will be closer to Nino's Restaurant.

Mr. Downey commented that they also talked about the Crestlawn Cemetery site.

Ms. Haynes agreed that they did discuss planting in the right-of-ways along Old Dixie and/or Seminole Avenue.

Mr. Downey stated there is irrigation already in place and the City owns the property.

Mr. Runge explained that the Bridge Club has an array of trees across the street on Seminole Avenue. He asked Ms. Haynes if she could get them a count on how many Oak Trees the Bridge Club has, so they can replicate them on the Cemetery property. He also asked her to create a budget and bring it back to their next meeting.

Ms. Haynes said just to give them an idea, she planted three (3) large 6-inch caliper Oak Trees in the new section of Cemetery and they cost \$1,300 each.

C) Vero Beach High School Students Involvement with 100th Anniversary – Ms. Cynthia Schwarz

Ms. Schwarz reported that she has not heard back from anyone at the High School and she emailed them twice.

D) Fourth Grade Forestry Program Update

Mrs. Dussault explained that they are trying to get all the schoolchildren involved in the 100th anniversary of the City of Vero Beach, but in order to do that they need a response from the City Attorney. In the past this Commission only used the children and schools that are in the City limits. In researching this it has come to their attention that all of the schools are part of the Indian River County School District, so they would like to include all of the schools in the 100th Anniversary celebration. She cannot find anything in the regulations prohibiting this, so she provided a proposed letter that will come from Mr. Runge for him to present to the City Attorney (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mr. Runge replied that he read the letter and he does not see any problems with it.

Mr. Downey made a motion approving the letter for Mr. Runge to sign and to send it to the City Attorney. Ms. Schwarz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E) Selected Location(s) for the City Beautification Weekend Project – Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager

Ms. Haynes said she thought they originally chose Charles Park and the area under the Banyan tree near the tennis courts at Riverside Park.

Mr. Runge stated that he is in favor of supporting the Police Department and doing whatever needs to be done to spotlight them.

Ms. Haynes said if they could focus on just one (1) project that would be helpful, since they lost a month due to the hurricane. If they select the Police Department as the City's beautification project, then she would like to clean up all the non-performing grass areas in the front. It is so shaded there so the grass will not grow. She would spruce it up and make it more presentable with shade loving

ferns and other plants. There are shrubs that have died that need to be replaced, and the cement planters need help.

Mr. Runge asked if this project would include trimming the trees to allow more light to filter through.

Ms. Haynes explained that the tree trimming is handled by the City's Streets Department, but they do not do the tree thinning that they are talking about.

Ms. Haynes asked if their Commission is planning to help with the funding.

Mr. Runge replied yes.

Mrs. Dussault commented that they don't want to be too economical if they are going to do this project. She asked Ms. Haynes if there are any restrictions to hiring a contractor to thin the trees to allow more light on the property.

Ms. Haynes replied that there is not, as long as they can find someone who knows exactly what they want.

At this time item 3) on the agenda was heard.

6. TREASURY REPORT

Mr. Runge reported that the Tree Replacement and Mitigation Fund has a current balance of \$61,885.60 and the Tree Dedication Fund has a balance of \$1,602.06.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Runge reported that he received a letter from Sebastian River Farms stating that they would like to donate a Tipuana Tipu tree for Troy Moody Park (on file in the City Clerk's office). It is to replace a dedicatory tree that was destroyed by the hurricane.

Ms. Haynes said that she has been in contact with Sebastian River Farms and the family who dedicated the tree. She is working on getting a price to have the tree picked up and installed at Troy Moody Park.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Dussault said at their next meeting she would like to see if they can come up with a way to push the City Council along to start getting them ready for the centennial celebration.

Mr. Runge suggested that the Commission members attend the next evening meeting to address the new City Council and discuss the 100th Anniversary project.

Ms. Haynes stated that it might be helpful to be very specific on what action the Commission wants the City Council to take on developing a Committee.

Mrs. Dussault stated that she has been doing research on the City's past anniversary celebrations, so she will list what took place at each of those to give the City Council some fresh ideas.

Ms. Haynes stated that she has traveled through the City many times and she cannot find an area that stands out as the perfect location for the centennial tree planting.

Mr. Runge suggested the little Park area where they used to have the topiaries at MacWilliam's Park. There is plenty of parking and it is visited by people all the time, especially those who park there to walk the bridge.

Mrs. Dussault asked what about City Hall.

Ms. Haynes replied she walked the City Hall property several times, but there is not enough room. She said she thought it would be nice to involve local artists to design a sculpture to be installed by the tree when they select a location.

The Commission members discussed other ideas such as starting a competition to design a poster, a 100th Anniversary logo, and individual tiles designed by artists to be added to a wall or benches near the tree.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – December 15, 2016

The next meeting of the Tree and Beautification Commission is scheduled for December 15, 2016.

Ms. Manov asked for an excused absence from the December meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

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