

**VERO BEACH TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION
COMMISSION MINUTES
January 17, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Vice Chairman, Marilyn Black Dussault; Members: Cynthia Schwarz, and Neal Roe
Also Present: Grounds Maintenance Manager, Nanette Haynes and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Unexcused Absence: Mrs. Fran Robinson

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Dussault called today's meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and the City Clerk performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) December 20, 2018

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2018 Tree and Beautification Commission meeting. Mr. Roe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Best Practices Tree Pruning Methods – Mrs. Katherine Booth

Mrs. Katherine Booth stated that she attended today's meeting to present the Best Management Practices of Pruning Mature Trees to the Tree and Beautification Commission (copy attached to the original minutes). She stated that she is a permanent resident of Vero Beach in Vista Gardens Condo Association, which is in the County. Today she will be talking about the mature Oak Trees. She said that she also made this presentation at a County Commission meeting and she asked for their landscaping and tree protection Ordinances be updated to reflect the best management practice when pruning mature trees. She said that no vote was taken at that meeting. She met with Commissioner Adams who told her to reach out to other individuals to obtain their support. When she found out about the Tree and Beautification Commission she thought this would be a good group to hear this presentation. She hopes the Commission will support what she has to present to them. She said she is concerned about the southern Oak Trees, because of the inappropriate pruning going on throughout the State of Florida. She continued going through her Power Point presentation. She believes that Ordinances need to be enforced to protect the mature Oak Trees. She referred to the current Indian River County Ordinance and that they use the guideline of removing no more than 25 percent of the living crown on a tree. The University of Florida standard calls for the removal of only 10 percent of the foliage on a mature tree.

Mrs. Dussault asked if the University of Florida's program is the key statewide, how does the County have an Ordinance that appears to violate the State law. Mrs. Booth replied that the County uses the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) recommendations, which are standards that have been used throughout the United States for a very long time.

Mrs. Dussault asked Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager, how the County can be in such conflict. Ms. Haynes replied that she cannot speak on anything regarding the County.

Mrs. Dussault asked if the 25 percent is a national study, or are there different requirements between other Oak Trees and the Live Oak trees that are hurricane resistant. Mrs. Booth replied that the 25 percent rule is for all trees across the board, so she would like the standards updated to save the southern Live Oak Trees.

Mr. Roe asked how would this apply to companies like Florida Power and Light. Mrs. Booth said that unfortunately a lot of trees are growing right under the utility lines. If these companies know what to do they can preserve the interior of the trees and still accommodate the utility lines.

Mrs. Booth said that in the development where she lives, which is in the County, all the trees were pruned well over the 25 percent. That is what started her on this journey with trying to protect the mature trees. She continued going through the Power Point presentation.

Mr. Roe said that he does not want to be rude, but he is a volunteer and he is on the job. He wants to be educated, but this is a very lengthy presentation.

Mrs. Dussault said she agrees and stated that the Commission has a very full agenda today, so she asked Mrs. Booth to sum up her presentation. She also suggested that her presentation might fit very well with the informational sessions that they will be doing at the Library.

Mrs. Booth said that is fine. They have just had a lot of questions. She continued with the Power Point presentation and covered the important points.

Mrs. Dussault said that her presentation has been very informative and educational, but she would recommend that she start at the top with the State regulations.

Ms. Schwarz said she will be in touch with her about doing a presentation at the Library. Mr. Roe said that he will also be in touch with her.

B) Beautification Weekend Banner, Yard Signs, and Yard Debris Pickup

Ms. Schwarz said that they need to apply for the permit stickers for the yard signs. She did it one (1) year and placed them all over town, but when Mr. Runge displayed them they were consolidated in a couple of areas.

Mr. Roe said the Alzheimer and Parkinson Association has a good list of sign locations. He will check to see if they will share it with the Commission and he will email it to the City Clerk's office.

Ms. Schwarz said that during previous beautification weekends they announced that yard debris would be picked up, even if it is a large amount. Ms. Haynes said she is not sure on the amount, but the debris will be picked up on the normal scheduled day, which is Wednesday. There will not be a special pickup.

C) Recruiting New Tree and Beautification Commission Members

Mrs. Dussault reported that Mrs. Barbara Leigh resigned from the Tree and Beautification Commission. She said they are down to four (4) members and the Commission needs to see if they can come up with some sort of recruiting mechanism within the Commission. They have to do more, because being on the Commission provides such a wonderful opportunity to do so many things for the City. She also announced that Mr. Roe and Mrs. Robinson have both been moved up to full members by the City Council at the last City Council meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Pricing for MacWilliam Park Centennial Tree Plaque – Ms. Nanette Haynes

Ms. Haynes stated that she is still waiting on the company to give her a price quote on the plaque.

B) Update on the 100th Anniversary

Mrs. Dussault stated that the 100th Year Anniversary Celebration is going very well. The Centennial Committee's next meeting is January 31, 2019. She said she was told that the poster contest went very well. They had enough participants to create a poster with all of the children's art work and they will be selling the posters. The Tree and Beautification's Centennial tree dedication will take place in May on Founders Day. She announced that she also joined the Interfaith Committee which will be a large part of the Founders Day celebration. It is a gathering of all the churches, synagogues, mosques, etc., and the program will include music, chorus, etc. She said since this will be such a big part of the unveiling of the Tree and Beautification Commission's gift to the City she decided to be a part of the Interfaith program as well. Ms. Schwarz asked who is the head for the Interfaith group. Mrs. Dussault said that it is a variety of pastors and members of the religious community, but she does not know if there is a head person or group. They were loosely formed and they have a meeting on January 24, 2019 where they will cover more details.

C) Update on the Proposed Changes to the City Tree Ordinance

Mrs. Dussault reported that she attended the Planning and Zoning Board meeting last week. She said she did not realize that their Ordinance with the proposed changes was on the Planning and Zoning Board agenda in December, so subsequently she was not in attendance. She said she made a presentation to them and answered their questions. She explained that the invasive species portion that they asked to have removed was not done, because the Planning and Zoning Board had many questions as to why it was in there to begin with. The irrigation portion that the Tree and Beautification Commission requested is in there and they did pass it. Her understanding is that the Ordinance will go to the City Council for consideration. She continued explaining what she and the Planning and Zoning Board discussed at the meeting.

D) Arbor Day Foundation - Community Canopy Program Information and Agreement

Mrs. Dussault thanked Ms. Schwarz for providing the information and agreement that she obtained from the Arbor Day Foundation. She would like to add this to their agenda for their next Tree and Beautification Commission meeting once they have all had a chance to review it and research it further.

E) Tree Giveaway Project

Ms. Schwarz stated that the Tree Giveaway Project is on hold until they finalize researching the Community Canopy Program.

F) Update on Proposed Dedicatory Bench at the Centennial Tree Location

Mrs. Dussault said the Commission discussed this last meeting and she is not sure if they have decided on what they want the plaque to read. She envisioned that the plaque would basically state the bench is dedicated to, or in honor of all those who have served on the Tree and Beautification Commission for the City. She asked everyone to think about the wording for the plaques and this item will be on their next agenda for further discussion.

G) Review Revised Annual Report

Mrs. Dussault said that each Commission member received a revised copy of the annual report (on file in the City Clerk's office). She said she reviewed it and it looks great. She asked if anyone had any changes, corrections, additions, etc.

Mr. Roe made a motion to approve the 2018 annual report for the Tree and Beautification Commission. Ms. Schwarz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. TREASURY REPORT

Mrs. Dussault reported that the Tree Replacement/Mitigation Fund has a balance of \$62,172.57 and the Tree Planting Application Fund had a balance of \$769.21. These figures were as of December 20, 2018 and they have been added to the annual report.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

None

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

A) Inaugural Library Meeting – Ms. Cynthia Schwarz

Ms. Schwarz said she printed out copies of the tentative Library Power Point presentation for the Commission members to review (on file in the City Clerk's office). This event will be on January 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library. She also wrote an article for the Newsweekly paper, which was sent out with the agenda (on file in the City Clerk's office). She reported that Mr. Karl Zimmermann will be at the Library meeting and he requested to talk about the Tree

Ordinance. Mr. Joe Sentence, Tree Consulting Arborist, will also be there to discuss tree pruning. She continued going through the pages of her Power Point presentation. She said she would like to see the Tree and Beautification Commission give presentations in April, July, and October at the Library. She will invite Mrs. Booth to give per presentation on mature Oak Trees at the April session.

B) Newsweekly Article – Ms. Cynthia Schwarz

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – February 21, 2019

The next meeting of the Tree and Beautification Commission is scheduled for February 21, 2019.

Mrs. Dussault said that she will not be available for the February 21st meeting. They can either change the meeting date if that will work for the other members, or they can have the meeting without her. She suggested changing the meeting to February 14, 2019 if there are no conflicts with that date.

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to change the February Tree and Beautification Commission meeting from February 21 to February 14, 2019. Mr. Roe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Roe made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 10:24 a.m. Ms. Schwarz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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