

**VERO BEACH TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION
COMMISSION MINUTES
Thursday, February 15, 2018– 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chris Runge, Chairman; Marilyn Black Dussault, Vice Chairman; Members: Daniel Downey, Cynthia Schwarz, Barbara Leigh and Alternate Member #2 Mark Rodolico

Unexcused Absence: Ms. Elly Manov

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) January 18, 2017

Mrs. Leigh stated that in the beginning under number four (4) on the January 18, 2017 agenda, Oceanside Business Association (OBA)/Dish Planters, she said that the dishes are not clay they are poly and that change needs to be made. Then on the second page “the OBA purchased the pots through membership fees and funds which were raised and they asked the City to water them.” She said that OBA asked the City to connect the pots to the irrigation system. So the City does not water them by a truck it is through an automatic irrigation system. She asked that be corrected in the minutes. Then in the sentence where it reads “somewhere along the line the ball was dropped and the hired business.... She asked that the words “the hired business was not rehired to take care of the plants” be inserted.”

Mrs. Dussault made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Swartz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Arbor Day Tree Planting – April 27, 2018

Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager, commented that with the Arbor Day planting they (Commission) usually go back and forth between Leisure Square and Memorial Island on where the Arbor Day Tree will be planted. She said this year they would be back at Leisure Square. She said that there is room for another Oak Tree at Leisure Square or they could plant a Pink Tabebuia Tree there. She would bring back some suggestions to the Commission at their next meeting. The Clerk was instructed to invite the students from Rosewood Elementary to attend the Arbor Tree Planting ceremony. They also asked her to prepare an Arbor Day Proclamation that the Tree and Beautification Commission will accept at a future City Council meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS

B) Update on the Dish Gardens along Ocean Drive

Mrs. Leigh reported that the dish gardens have been planted and they look nice and colorful. She said if they are routinely maintained they will continue to look nice.

C) Update on the 100th Anniversary

Mrs. Dussault gave an update on the 100th year Anniversary for the City. She said that the Team met on February 7th at Historic Dodgertown to have photos taken and then a meeting was held afterwards. She said that everything seems to be on track. The Centennial announcement and the new website for the Centennial will both roll out on March 1st. The meeting with the School Principals is scheduled for March 22nd and at that meeting she will present their plans for the trees, as well as the essay contest and other art projects that they are looking to promote. She said that Mrs. Dawn Mills, President of the Art Club, is now a part of the Centennial Team and she will be making a presentation in regard to the poster contest. Mrs. Dussault said that she met with Mrs. Mills, Mrs. Bursick, and Councilman Young, on Tuesday to discuss the various projects. She said that Mrs. Mills has some wonderful ideas and a lot of knowledge so this will be an outstanding project to start off the Centennial. Mrs. Dussault said that she still needs to work with Ms. Haynes on finding out more information regarding the Founders Day event. She said that she has to fill out the publicity forms for Mrs. Bev Paris, of Paris Production, so that they can get factual information of the events taking place for publicity purposes. She said there is a monthly calendar showing all the different events taking place. They want the public to know what is going on every month throughout the year.

Ms. Haynes reported that there are a couple of things concerning the tree planting at McWilliams Park for Founder's Day that will need to be tweaked. She will be getting a quote for the bronze plaque and she needs to know what the Tree and Beautification Commission wants it to say. She said there will be hibiscus plants planted by the hedge. She felt they could probably get the same size of tree like the one planted yesterday donated to the City for Founder's Day.

Mrs. Dussault commented that they will need volunteers to help with digging the holes that the trees will be planted in at the schools. The trees will be in 25 gallon pots and can be moved by hand so a bobcat will not be needed. Mrs. Dussault has a list of all the public and private schools in Indian River County and they would like to have a small plaque on each of the trees that are planted. Mrs. Bursick felt that they could get the plaques donated. Mrs. Dussault will provide to the Commission the proposed wording that will be on the plaques for their review.

D) Recap of the Beautification Weekend

Mr. Runge asked the Commission members if they participated in the beautification weekend. Ms. Schwarz said that she did some planting, Mrs. Leigh did some replanting and Mr. Runge said that he redid his driveway.

Mr. Runge felt that more publicity of the event was needed.

Mrs. Dussault thanked staff for getting the banner hung up. The Commission agreed that next year they need to do more planning for the event. It will be for the Centennial year so maybe they could have a Proclamation done and have it read at a City Council meeting. She asked what project they are planning for next year.

Ms. Haynes recalled that they talked about doing the area at City Hall near the entrance of the Utility Department. She said that there was some work done in front of City Hall by the Garden Club sometime back, so she suggested that they look at the entrance near the Utility Department.

Mrs. Dussault felt that the tile in front of City Hall needs to be cleaned so it is sparkling for the Centennial year.

The Commission agreed that next year they needed to get the forms for the banner and the signs filled out early in the year for beautification weekend. Mr. Runge said that he would be happy to sign the forms once they are available.

E) Facebook Page for Posting Tree and Beautification Items

Ms. Stefanie Beskovoyne, Assistant City Attorney, reported that she is working on a City Policy for Social Media. She reminded the Commission that anything that they post on facebook is a public record. She said that they need to make sure they are not violating the Sunshine Law when they are posting on each other's facebook sites. She said the best rule is to say nothing. She expressed that no one can control what other people are doing. So the safest method is to abstain from social media, which she knows is hard in this day and time. That is the reason that she is working on coming up with a Social Media Policy. She said that they need to be careful what they post on not just the City webpage, but also their own webpage. She said they are trying to keep up with social media, but it is moving at such a rapid pace.

Mrs. Bursick said that she would be happy to put the pictures of the new trees that were planted on the City's website and facebook page.

Mrs. Dussault commented that there were three (3) members taking pictures of the trees, but they were not at the site at the same time. She is very cognizant of the perception of the community; however it is the 21st century so they may need to communicate.

F) Report on the Tree Planting Project Along Seminole Avenue in the Right-of-Way at Crestlawn Cemetery

The Commission thanked Ms. Haynes for all her hard work in completing this tree planting project.

6. TREASURY REPORT

Mr. Runge reported that the Tree Replacement/Mitigation fund has \$49,134.75 in it and the Tree Planting Application Fees fund has \$564.06 in it.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mr. Runge commented that he has been challenging the Commission to come up with projects so he felt that he needed to challenge himself. He showed on the doc cam a project entitled "*an outreach to educate.*" He said that he would choose one (1) location beachside and one (1) location mainland for this project (drawing attached to the original minutes). He commented that the Tree Commission has money to plant trees, but not so much money to plant shrubs. He commented that maybe each of these trees will have a plaque that says what kind of tree it is and where it comes from. He asked the Commission to review the information and come back to their next meeting with comments. He said that he would fund this project for the first year. He said by giving trees away they are not spending City funds.

Mr. Runge asked that on the next agenda that they put back tree planting at Van Busch Park.

Mr. Runge was happy to report that they have finally completed a project, which is the first one (1) since he has Chaired the Commission. He said that is the planting that took place this week. He then challenged each of the members to come up with a project of their own.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Ms. Schwarz mentioned the project she brought up at their last meeting about Israel. She has tried to make contact to get this project started, but has not heard anything back yet.

Ms. Schwarz said that another project she would like to see done is having a mural painted at the cement bridges near St. Helen's Church further up on Victory Boulevard. She said that the Art Club has volunteered to help with this project. They will just need to find out how much it is going to cost.

Ms. Schwarz stated that the third project that she would like to see done is having decorative tiles similar to the ones done at Royal Palm Pointe displayed. She gave an example. She said instead of some of the hedges that are at the Police Department there could be tiles put in place that have been hand painted by students and senior citizens and placed on the cement wall. She realizes that there is a cost to doing this and logistically they have to figure out where they would go.

Mr. Runge told Ms. Schwarz that she should consider contacting the Arbor Day Foundation and joining with a Sister City (referring to her Israel project). Ms. Schwarz said that she will look into that. She said that she was amazed that Israel is such a green Country.

The Commission asked the Clerk to see if Mrs. Barbara Hoffmann, from the Cultural Council, could come to their next meeting and give them an update on the tree plantings at the Cultural Arts Village.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – March 15, 2018

The next meeting date for the Tree and Beautification Commission will be on March 15, 2018.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Lee made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 9:49 a.m. Mrs. Dussault seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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