

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

PRESENT: Chairman, Chris Runge; Vice Chairman, Marilyn Black Dussault; Members: Daniel Downey, Cynthia Schwarz, Barbara Leigh, and Alternate Member #1, Elly Manov, **Also Present:** Grounds Maintenance Manager, Nanette Haynes; Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mr. Runge announced that Mr. Mark Rodolico submitted his letter of resignation from the Tree and Beautification Commission.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) February 15, 2018

Mr. Runge asked to make a correction to a statement he made under Chairman’s matters on the February 15, 2018 minutes. The statement that reads, “he would fund this project for the first year” is incorrect. That statement refers to the tree give away project and it should read, “he would consider funding part of the tree give away project in 2019.”

Mrs. Leigh asked to have the spelling of her last name corrected from Lee to Leigh on the last page where she made the motion for adjournment.

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2018 Tree and Beautification Commission meeting as amended. Mr. Downey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Dedicatory Tree Application – Arthur and Leslie Tilley

Mr. Runge announced that they received a dedicatory tree application form Mrs. Tilley for a Live Oak Tree at the City of Vero Beach Marina.

Mrs. Leigh asked how much room is available at the Marina for tree plantings. Ms. Haynes explained that the tree is not being planted on the Marina property, but in the open field across the street by the lagoon. Mrs. Tilley lives across the street from the Marina, so that is why she chose that location for the tree dedication.

Mrs. Dussault made a motion to approve the dedicatory tree application. Mr. Downey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B) Arbor Day Proclamation – City Council Meeting, April 17, 2018

Mr. Runge announced that the Arbor Day Proclamation will be read at the April 17, 2018 City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. and he invited the Tree and Beautification Commission members to attend. He asked Ms. Rita Hawkins, Senior Administrative Assistant, to read the Proclamation, which she did.

Mrs. Dussault commented that it would be nice to include how many years the City has been issuing the Proclamation as part of the Tree City USA program requirements.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Update on the Cultural Arts Village Tree Plantings – Mrs. Barbara Hoffman, Executive Director, and Mr. Neil Sickterman, Infrastructure Committee Chairman

Mrs. Barbara Hoffman, Cultural Council Executive Director, stated that she came to today's meeting to provide the Commission with an update on the Arts Village and the trees. They are currently working on raising money for the entire tree canopy. She announced that the Sunrise Rotary Club gave \$5,000 to the Board of Education to buy 61 trees to be planted on the Freshman Learning Center property and they will become part of the Arts Village tree canopy. The Arts Village plans on having a minimum of 10 trees placed along 19th Street in time for the Centennial Celebration kickoff event in October. They will have plaques made for the 10 trees that the Tree and Beautification Commission funded and they will become the center focus of the Cultural Arts Village opening of the year long Centennial Celebration. They have been working with some great historians in the community and they plan on holding historic walking tours of the neighborhood. They want to make sure that the Arts Village is included in the Comprehensive Plan, because it is absolutely critical to the future of the Arts Village. The Comprehensive Plan should be voted on at the April 3, 2018 City Council meeting.

Mr. Runge asked if it is possible to have a picture of the box or container that the trees will be planted in and a map or chart showing where the trees will be placed. Mrs. Hoffman replied absolutely. She will submit that information to the City Clerk's office. The Vero Beach Arts Village is especially thankful for the 10 trees that the Tree and Beautification Commission funded and they want to involve the Tree and Beautification Commission in the program. They still have a lot to work out between now and October.

Mr. Runge asked if there is anything the Commission can do to help with the process. Mrs. Hoffman asked if she could attend the next Tree and Beautification Commission meeting to provide them with an update and get input from the Commission. She said the Tree and Beautification Commission is a key player in the Arts Village promotion for the Centennial Celebration.

B) Update on Arbor Day Tree Planting – April 27, 2018

Mr. Runge announced that a letter was sent to Rosewood Magnet Elementary School inviting them to the Arbor Day tree planting ceremony on April 27, 2018 at Leisure Square. He asked Ms. Haynes what type of tree is being planted. Ms. Hayne stated that they decided to plant a Pink Tabebuia Tree.

Mr. Runge asked that a press release notice be sent out to all of the media sources. He also asked if they could include a note to them that the Tree and Beautification Commission welcomes interviews on site or before any of their events.

Ms. Hawkins announced that the school chose 10:30 a.m. as the time for the tree planting.

C) Update on the 100th Anniversary

Mrs. Dussault reported that she met this morning with Mr. Tony Young, City Councilmember, and the principals of the Vero Beach public schools at the Education Center. They made a presentation and asked for their participation and cooperation. They also met with Mr. Jon Teske, Assistant Superintendent, with respect to the supervision of the planting of the trees on the school properties. Mr. Teske will be working with the Centennial Planning Committee in regards to the 16 public schools. They will still have to meet and make presentations to the principals of each of the private and Charter Schools. Once they know how many schools will participate they can give the total count of trees to the very generous donor. There are a total of 31 schools and she believes they will all take part in the program. She also understands that they have a generous donor for the plaques, so they will be working on the wording for the plaques and how they will be displayed. The feedback they received from the principals was very positive, so they are very encouraged. They also explained to them the basis of the poster and essay contests and she is still pushing for more areas of involvement, so that more of the children can participate. They could be involved with poetry, music, singing, dancing, cooking, etc. The meeting was well attended and they were able to get the information across to them without making them feel overwhelmed.

Mr. Runge asked Ms. Haynes if there is an update on the design and implementation of their project, which is the planting of the Centennial Tree and a marker. Ms. Haynes replied that she has not worked on that yet.

Mr. Runge asked if there is a date set for the Centennial Tree Dedication. Mrs. Dussault replied that there is, but she does not have that information with her. Ms. Haynes asked Mrs. Dussault to email her the date.

Mrs. Dussault continued by explaining that the schools have a sharing day and they are trying to coordinate the tree plantings at the schools on that day, because it gets tremendous publicity. She said that she will bring the most recent Centennial Celebration calendar to the next Tree and Beatification meeting, so they can see what is taking place. She commented that she and Mr. Runge started the idea of a Centennial Celebration back in 2015 when they made a presentation to the City Council and now there are hundreds of people involved.

Ms. Haynes explained that she needs to know the dimensions of the Centennial Tree plaque, so she knows what size to make the pedestal. She stated that most likely the tree will be donated and the only other expenses will be for the sidewalk and the hibiscus plants.

Mrs. Dussault said she believes they also talked about placing benches near the tree. Ms. Haynes replied that if they add benches they will use the benches that the City has available.

The Commission members discussed the possibility of the benches being dedicatory benches, but all agreed that it would not be a good idea.

Ms. Manov asked what will each private school be required to contribute. Mrs. Dussault stated that all the trees will be donated, so they do not have to purchase anything. First the schools need to decide if they want to participate. If they participate they will be required to dig the hole for planting the tree at the chosen location and determine if there are any underground utilities, water lines, etc., before they dig.

Ms. Schwarz commented that Vero Beach and Indian River County are so agricultural, so perhaps they could include people submitting recipes.

Mrs. Dussault explained that each spring the Culinary Arts program at the High School puts on a lunch, so she would love to see them create recipes based on what is raised here and what crops are grown.

Mrs. Dussault stated that the recourses for information are staggering and the reference room at the Library is amazing. There is also the Cattleman's Association, the Citrus Association, etc. Other groups involved with the Centennial include the Vero Beach Rowing Club, the Clydesdale horses will be in the parade, and Piper Aircraft wants to include a plane in the parade. It is so exciting to see the participation.

Ms. Schwarz added that cookbooks are often put together as fundraisers for celebrations like this.

Mrs. Dussault explained that the Vero Beach Art Club is trying to put together an actual showing of the winners of the poster contest at the Vero Beach Art Museum.

Ms. Haynes stated that no matter where they plant trees they still have to call for locates on the utilities. She informed Mrs. Dussault that there is a City Events Committee and there are logistics that go into planning a parade as far as road closers, barricades, etc. She wants to make sure that the Centennial Planning Committee gets the correct departments involved with the parade.

D) Follow up and Feedback on the Tree Give Away Project

Mr. Runge stated that his proposed tree give away project consists of giving away 100 Oak Trees to City of Vero Beach residents. First off, he would like to ask the other Commission members to help come up with a better name for the project. He suggested that in order to choose vendors for this program, the vendor needs to be licensed and insured in the City of Vero Beach, they need to have a footprint in the City, and have a facility available in order to distribute the trees. His thought was to get a list of local licensed landscape companies from the Planning Department and send them a letter explaining the project. He would like to see them select about five (5) vendors.

Ms. Schwarz asked if the trees have to be Oak Trees, because some yards might not be conducive to Oak trees. Mr. Runge replied no. They could also offer a flowering tree, a Palm Tree, etc.

Mrs. Dussault asked who would determine if the people are City of Vero Beach residents. Ms. Beskovoyne replied that the Property Appraisers website can provide that information.

Mrs. Dussault asked if the Tree and Beautification Commission will be responsible for authenticating their residency requirement. Mr. Runge explained that there would be a lottery where the first 100 people who come to City Hall, fill out an application, and provide proof of being a City property owner will be given a voucher to take to a participating vendor.

Mrs. Dussault asked if the people need to be residents or property owners, because there is a difference. Someone can own City property, but not live there.

Mr. Runge stated that it would need to be the property owner who participates. He asked if they would need to include commercial properties as well as residential.

Ms. Beskovoyne stated that the Commission is currently proposing the program and they are discussing it on a preliminary basis, but there are a lot more hoops to jump through.

Mrs. Leigh commented that there might be as much commercial property in the City of Vero Beach as there is residential. Ms. Schwarz stated that she would like to include the commercial property owners.

Ms. Haynes stated this program might be a good incentive for people to put a tree in their yard since there is no cost to the recipient.

Mrs. Dussault asked if they will have to put together a complete proposal to present to the City Council. Ms. Beskovoyne replied yes. As they continue to discuss the program and think of things like the commercial property verses residential they will work out the kinks to make sure they are doing it the right way.

Mr. Runge stated that he would like to see this program be part of the Beautification Weekend event in 2019.

Mrs. Dussault asked Ms. Beskovoyne if it would be possible for the Tree and Beautification Commission to create yard signs to be giving out to the people who receive the trees. The signs would be placed on their private property and state that they took part in the City's tree giveaway program. Ms. Beskovoyne replied that if it is part of their proposal they need to include it for City Council's review and make sure the signs are compliant with the sign regulations and City codes.

Ms. Haynes commented that she is not sure if the Commission can spend funds for something going on private property. Maybe it would be better to post the names of the winners on the City's website and facebook page as a way of giving them recognition.

E) Revisit Proposed Van Bush Park Tree Planting

Mr. Runge asked Ms. Haynes if she had any thoughts on planting trees at Van Bush Park.

Ms. Haynes said she is fine with this project and originally they talked about planting Sylvester Palm Trees there. If they plant them behind the benches it will provide shade for the seating area. The Sylvester Palm Trees will provide the densest shade because they can be planted closer together.

Ms. Leigh asked if they ever plant Coconut Palm Trees. Ms. Haynes replied yes, but she probably would not plant them that close to benches.

Mr. Runge asked if there is a map of the City that shows all the Parks. Ms. Haynes stated that she will get copies for them.

Ms. Schwarz asked Ms. Haynes if she offers all of the Parks as tree dedication areas. Ms. Haynes explained that she always asks what location they would like. If Riverside Park is requested she will show them what is left and provide them with a list of other possible locations.

6. TREASURY REPORT

Mr. Runge reported that the Tree Replacement/Mitigation fund has a balance of \$49,634.75 and the Tree Dedication/Planting Fund has a balance of \$564.06.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

None

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Ms. Schwarz reported that she heard back from the Jewish National Fund, so they are communicating. She also found out that the cement walls behind Saint Helen Church are City property and she has talked to the Art Club about painting murals on them. Her third project idea was a tile wall, but that might not be done for a year or so, because it is a huge project. She stated that the Art Club is on board for the murals on the cement walls and she has the name of a muralist who did some other projects around town. The Art Club asked who would be getting paid and some other questions, but she did not have those answers yet. The Art Club is a little hesitant about doing other murals since they had one (1) vandalized. She said she also noticed the hedges across from the Library near the parking garage and the Court House are half dead and need some attention.

Mrs. Dussault asked if the Court House and the Library are County property. Mr. Runge replied yes.

Ms. Schwarz said she thought it was City property, but now that she has that information she will look at other City buildings and City properties.

Ms. Haynes stated that other locations in the City include City Hall, Riverhouse, Bethel Creek House, Leisure Square, and the Community Center. She asked if they talked about adding tiles to the walls as part of the centennial tree project. Ms. Schwarz replied that she did propose that project, because there are a lot of people who want to do the tiles. It is a takeoff of the Royal

Palm Pointe tiled pillars and everyone seems to love them. This will have to be done after the Centennial event, because it will take some money.

Mrs. Leigh asked Ms. Haynes if she could show both the City Parks and the City buildings on the maps she will be providing. Ms. Haynes replied that she will make that request.

Ms. Haynes stated that the tiles might be a good project for the art students and they could be placed randomly on the walls near the centennial tree.

Mrs. Dussault thanked Ms. Haynes and her crew for planting the trees on the right-of-way at Crestlawn Cemetery. The trees look fantastic and they did a great job.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – April 19, 2018

Mr. Runge asked the Commission members if they would consider changing their next meeting date to April 27, 2018, which is Arbor Day. They could conduct a short meeting and then have the tree planting event.

Mrs. Leigh commented that they could still meet at City Hall, have their meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., and then go over to Leisure Square.

Mrs. Dussault made a motion to change the Tree and Beautification Commission's next meeting from April 19, 2018 to April 27, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. They will meet for one (1) hour and then be dismissed to go to Leisure Square to continue their celebration of Arbor Day. Mrs. Leigh seconded the motion.

Mr. Runge suggested that they have a limited agenda for the April meeting.

Mrs. Dussault modified the motion to include the suggestion of a limited agenda. Mrs. Leigh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 10:10 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dussault and it passed unanimously.

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