

**VERO BEACH TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION
COMMISSION MINUTES
April 18, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
Training Room, Second Floor, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Chairman, Marilyn Black Dussault; Vice Chairman, Cynthia Schwarz; Members: Fran Robinson, Neal Roe, and Katherine Booth **Also Present:** Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dussault 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) March 21, 2019

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019 Tree and Beautification Commission meeting. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Updated Dedicatory Tree Specification List – Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager

This item was not discussed and it will be added to next month's agenda.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Discussion of the Arbor Day Foundation - Community Canopy Program Information and Agreement

Mrs. Dussault stated that they each received the Community Canopy Program information page and agreement and she hopes that they all had a chance to look them over.

Ms. Schwarz said that she received a reply from her contact person with the Arbor Day Foundation Community Canopy Program and she confirmed that if they go with this program they would receive locally grown trees that are native to this area. Mrs. Dussault said it is important that they receive trees indigenous to this area.

The Commission continued by discussing the possibility of going with the Community Canopy program, collaborating with the Audubon Society on their original tree giveaway program, or the possibility of supporting both of them.

Mrs. Robinson said a concern she has with the Community Canopy program is the possibility of someone requesting a tree and then they go out of town for a couple of weeks, then when they return there is a dead tree sitting at their front door.

Mrs. Dussault stated that what she likes about the Arbor Day Community Canopy Program is that it might help enhance their position and status with the Tree City USA designation. She said if they have time today they can come back to this item, or it will be placed on the agenda for their next meeting.

B) Final Wording of the Dedicatory Bench Plaque at the Centennial Tree Location

Mrs. Dussault asked if anyone had any suggested changes to the wording of the bench plaque that was proposed at last month's meeting.

Mrs. Booth asked if they are charged by the letter or word. Mrs. Dussault replied that she does not know and that would be a question for Ms. Haynes. Mrs. Booth suggested changing the wording from "all the men and women" to "all those" who have served on the Tree and Beautification Commission. Mrs. Dussault said that would be fine.

Mrs. Robinson asked if they should include the year that the Tree Commission was established, since a lot of people do not know much about this Commission. Mrs. Dussault said that is a good suggestion and she will research that. She said they can add the year, have the final wording ready for their next meeting, and then get a price quote from Ms. Haynes.

C) Arbor Day Tree Planting and Arbor Day Proclamation

Mrs. Dussault asked if there has been a time confirmed for the Arbor Day Tree planting on April 26, 2019 at MacWilliam Park. The Senior Administrative Assistant reported that Beachland Elementary School confirmed with her this morning that the first grade classes will be attending and they chose to be there at 9:30 a.m. Mrs. Dussault explained what will take place at the Arbor Day Tree planting for the benefit of the new Tree and Beautification Commission member who have not attended this event before. She said if no one wishes to speak then they usually ask the children questions, because it is a wonderful way to interact with them.

Mrs. Dussault stated that they each received a copy of the Arbor Day Proclamation (on file in the City Clerk's office). She explained that a Proclamation is issued every year and is one (1) of their requirements to maintain their Tree City USA status.

6. TREASURY REPORT

Mrs. Dussault reported that the Tree Replacement/Mitigation Fund has a balance of \$63,679.57 and the Tree Planting Application Fund had a balance of \$869.21.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

A) Update on the 100th Anniversary Events

Mrs. Dussault stated they could have their bench dedication in October, so that it is part of the finale of the Centennial Celebration. She explained that the Centennial finale is on October 26, 2019 and it will start with a parade. Mr. Roe said that he went to the STEAM program that was at the Intergenerational Center and it was amazing. Since children love stuff about trees, he was thinking they could give a group of children the opportunity to put something together and then they could put it in the parade. Mrs. Dussault said if their Commission wants to be involved with the parade she will gladly sign them up. Ms. Schwarz stated that Dr. Richard Baker, Audubon Society, has many trees that need to be planted, so maybe he would be willing to provide some trees for children to have in the parade and then they can take them home to plant. Mr. Roe asked to discuss this again at their next meeting, so they can give it some thought.

Mrs. Dussault explained that after the parade, there will be a festival along 14th Avenue with food vendors, music, dancing, etc., and she already reserved a table at the Heritage Center where they can have information available about the Tree and Beautification Commission. She said that they will probably want to have the bench dedication another day, because the finale will be a very busy day.

B) Founders Day Tree Dedication Program

Mrs. Dussault reported that the Tree and Beautification's Tree Dedication Event will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Founder's Day, which is Sunday, May 26, 2019. She said that she prepared a draft program for the Commission members to review (on file in the City Clerk's office). She said that she would like each of the Tree and Beautification Commission members to say a few words about the Commission, or why they serve on the Board, or what the Commission does. She included her short speech in this draft, but it will not be included in the final program. She wanted the Commission members to have an idea of what she is proposing to say, so they could think about their subject. Mrs. Dussault read the program aloud and asked for any suggestions or changes.

Mrs. Dussault stated that following the Tree Dedication program there is a family fun day taking place at Riverside Park from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be at least 30 faith and religious organizations participating and each of them will have tables set up. There will be bounce houses, face painting, games, music, choirs, food vendors, etc.

Mrs. Booth suggested adding the word "beautiful" before the word tree in the first sentence of the dedication recital. Mrs. Robinson said that perhaps they should include what type of tree it is. Mrs. Dussault stated that she will add, "beautiful Live Oak Tree". Ms. Schwarz said she would recommend the sentence to read, "We dedicate this beautiful Live Oak Tree ~~to~~ *in honor of* those who planted their roots here..." Mrs. Dussault said that she would note these changes.

Mrs. Dussault explained that she submitted three (3) emails to the Senior Administrative Assistant and asked her to forward them to the Commission members. They contained links to the Florida Tree City USA Urban Forestry Program, the list of the Tree City USA communities, and a slide show about the beautiful work that the Garden Club did to reestablish the Elm Trees in New Haven, Connecticut.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mr. Roe said going back to their tree dedication on May 26, 2019, where are the other festivities taking place that day. Mrs. Dussault explained that the other events will be in Riverside Park and near the Riverside Theatre. The Tree Dedication Ceremony will be publicized and she assumes invitations will be sent out to the other Commission and Boards, so everyone is welcome to attend. After the dedication, people can walk right over to Riverside Park for the rest of the festivities. She said she will check with the City Clerk to see how their event will be advertised to the public. Mrs. Dussault said that when they have the program finalized she will personally get it distributed everywhere she can. The Commission members mentioned other places to advertise, which included, the Indian River Neighborhood Association, the Garden Club, Lemon Lines, Landscape Architects, Cultural Council, and the Audubon Society. Mr. Roe said that he will contact Mr. Russ Lemon, Lemon Lines, about setting up an interview about this event. The Commission members were reminded that they will need to copy the Senior Administrative Assistant if they send out emails regarding their events.

Mrs. Robinson said when she was at the Garden Club she noticed an award they received for their Ponytail Palm Tree in front of their building. She said this award was issued by the Tree and Beautification Commission in 2008, so she knows they have recognized one (1) place. Mrs. Dussault replied that she was not aware of this award. The Senior Administrative Assistant said that she will provide the Commission members with the information on the Champion Tree Award Program.

Mrs. Booth said that since the City Ordinance changed to where they can install irrigation she thought that they could revisit Mr. Runge's idea about planting a tree in the triangle on Atlantic Boulevard and San Juan Avenue. She said she understands that there are going to be some meetings on the Power Plant, Sewer Plant, and the old Postal Annex properties, so that the citizens can say what they would like to see there. She was told that these properties would probably have a mixed use to try to accommodate everybody's desires. She thought that perhaps they should look at these parcels to see if they could save or preserve any of the trees when the properties are redeveloped. Mrs. Dussault replied that she tries to follow the City Council meetings because that is where they will learn what is really happening with development. If these City parcels are leased to private enterprises then the Tree and Beautification Commission's role might be to look at what is there and if there is anything that should be preserved. The Commission will not have any say on who the property is leased to, but they can emphasize on what is going to be removed.

The Commission members discussed several properties in the City and the County that have recently been developed, or are being developed. They talked about how or if they could obtain information about upcoming properties that are being developed or redeveloped, so they could have some input. They also discussed how to address the issue of relocating trees without overstepping the property owner's rights.

Ms. Schwarz asked Mrs. Booth if she was all set to give her presentation at the Library on May 16, 2019. Mrs. Booth replied yes. Ms. Schwarz stated that she still has two (2) Mango Trees left from the first Library informational session that she did and she will see if Dr. Baker can donate a few more for the May lecture. She asked to have the Library meeting listed on the City's website to help advertise it.

Ms. Schwarz commented that they should think about programs for children. Mrs. Dussault said she agrees that they need to see if they can get involved with the schools, especially since the

County does not have a Tree Commission. Mrs. Robinson said that Vero Beach Elementary school has a program with a wonderful teacher that teaches them all kinds of stuff in the garden. She said the object is to start them early, so that maybe some of the children will develop an ongoing interest in plants and trees.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – May 16, 2019

The next meeting of the Tree and Beautification Commission is scheduled for May 16, 2019.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Roe made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 10:46 a.m. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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