

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

PRESENT: Chairman, Marilyn Black Dussault; Vice Chairman, Cynthia Schwarz; Members: Fran Robinson, Neal Roe, and Katherine Booth **Also Present:** Assistant City Attorney, Karen Emerson, Grounds Maintenance Manager, Nanette Haynes, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Dussault called today's meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

Mrs. Dussault announced that two (2) of the Commission members need to leave by 10:30. Since they started late, she would ask that they take items out of order to cover what is necessary and table any other items until their next meeting.

The other Commission members were unanimously in favor of her request.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) September 19, 2019

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019 Tree and Beautification Commission meeting. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

None

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Dedicatory Tree Application Requested by Mrs. Judy Orcutt

Mrs. Dussault stated that they received a dedicatory tree application from Mrs. Judy Orcutt. This was brought before the Commission last month but the Public Works Director had not signed it, so it was tabled. She said they were also told that the wording for the plaque would not work, so that was being addressed. Now they have the application again for the Commission's approval. She asked if there were any questions about it.

Ms. Schwarz asked if they changed the wording on the dedication plaque. Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager, replied that she is still working with them on it.

Mr. Roe made a motion to approve the Dedicatory Tree application. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B) Review Dedicatory Tree List for Incorporation into a Revised City Resolution – Ms. Nanette Haynes

This item was discussed after item 5-E).

Ms. Haynes explained that she missed marking a few of the trees with asterisks indicating they are native trees.

Mrs. Booth made a motion to table the approval of this item until the next meeting, so that the information can be corrected.

Mrs. Dussault stated that there was no second, but she believes if they are going to vote on something it has to be correct. She stated they will table this item.

C) Heritage Center Set Up for the Centennial Finale Event – Mrs. Marilyn Dussault

This item was discussed after item 5-D).

Mrs. Dussault said they received the schedule for the setup of the tables at the Heritage Center. Between 8:00 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. on October 26th, all adjustments need to be made to the tables and the Heritage Center will open at 9:00 a.m. to the public. The break down needs to be completed by 6:30 p.m. She stated that Mr. Roe will be busy that morning with the float and she will be attending another event at 5:00 p.m., so she will not be able to help with the break down. Ms. Schwarz announced that she will not be available at the end of the event either.

Mrs. Dussault said they really have not discussed what they are going to have on their table. The Commission members decided to place three (3) of the yard signs that Mrs. Dussault and Mrs. Robinson are purchasing on the float and one (1) on the table at the Heritage Center. Mrs. Dussault asked what else do they want on the table. She stated that it has to be related to the Centennial, so they could have a picture of the Centennial Tree, any articles about the dedication, as well as the trees at the schools. However, she believes they will need permission from the School Superintendent to take pictures and display them.

Mrs. Karen Emerson, Assistant City Attorney, said that she does not know of any legal reason to prevent them from taking pictures of the trees and displaying them. If the principal of the school gives them permission to be on the property to take a picture there should not be any problem displaying it.

Mrs. Dussault said that she wants to make sure that they do it right. She will check with Mrs. Bursick, City Clerk, to see if they have the photos of the trees when they were planted.

Ms. Schwarz asked if they will be displaying printed pictures, or putting them on a laptop as a scrolling presentation. Mrs. Dussault replied just physical pictures. Mr. Roe said that the table could be just a passive type of display. He would not expect all of the Commission members to be there all day long, but he will gladly come back and break down the table at the end of the event.

Mrs. Booth asked if the trees at the schools were part of the Centennial. Mrs. Dussault replied yes.

Mrs. Booth asked if any of the educational publications would be appropriate. Mrs. Dussault stated that is not Centennial information.

Mrs. Robinson asked Mrs. Dussault if she was setting up the table on Saturday morning or Friday afternoon. Mrs. Dussault replied that if they can get it done on Friday afternoon, it might make it easier.

Mrs. Booth said that late afternoon is good for her. She can staff the table from 4:00 to 5:00 and then take it down, so that way no one else would have to come back. Mrs. Booth said she does not see why they would have to man the table until after the Parade.

D) Update on Centennial Parade Float and Signs – Mr. Neal Roe

This item was discussed after item 5-A).

Mr. Roe reported that he received a notice that CW Willis was unable to provide a driver, but they are still providing the trailer and plant materials for the float. Since then, he has resolved this issue and his boss volunteered to drive his own truck and pull the trailer.

Mrs. Dussault asked if they are using a trailer from one (1) business and a truck and driver from another business, will there be any liability from an insurance standpoint.

Mrs. Emerson said it is a City Parade and the public is involved, but she cannot speak on how the City is organizing their float participants and if they have to sign anything. The City approves the participants in the Parade, so she does not see any issues related to the Commission.

Mr. Roe explained that he has to provide a copy of the license of the driver and the insurance for the truck to the City.

Mrs. Dussault asked for an update on the signs for the float. Mr. Roe explained that in their agenda packets is a proof of the yard signs from Fast Signs (on file in the City Clerk's office). Since Mrs. Dussault and Mrs. Robinson each offered to pay for two (2) of them, he asked them to go by Fast Signs and take care of that transaction.

Mr. Roes asked if they had any questions about the Parade. Mrs. Dussault said that since this is their last meeting before the Parade, she asked Mr. Roe to give them a final recap of the events.

Mr. Roe explain that he and his boss will pick up the trailer and plant materials and be at the staging area by 8:30 a.m. The event will take about two (2) hours and they will return the trailer and plant materials to CW Willis. The children from Steam Fest will join the Parade float at 19th Street. CW Willis will have the plant materials on the trailer to look like a garden going down the street. They will have signs on the trailer about the Beautification Weekend, which he will collect and bring back.

Mrs. Dussault asked if the Commission members are required to walk with the float. Mr. Roe replied that he was not expecting them to, but they can join in if they want to.

E) Beautification Weekend Plan - February 8th – 9th, 2020 - Publicity, Marketing, Who will Place the Yard Signs, and a City Grounds Maintenance Department Project

This item was discussed after item 5-C).

Mr. Roe said he submitted a Beautification Weekend plan proposal and the Commission members each received a copy of it (on file in the City Clerk's office). What he understands is that the Tree and Beautification Commission is trying to promote education, get people involved, and let people know more about the Tree and Beautification Commission. His thought was to work with the Master Gardeners, the Woman's Club, and landscape companies in terms of helping people understand how they can beautify their property. His idea is to partner with a Master Gardener or someone from the Woman's Club and do a tour on that Saturday of the landscaping at homes in the City and the trees they planted as part of the Cultural Arts Village. They could work with a Master Gardener to find out what other areas might be productive examples of good or bad plantings. His other idea would be a tour with Pam Cooper, or her designee for a historical tour in downtown but making it more about plantings, such as box plantings, or plantings they recommend showing. The thought was that people taking the tour would be educated by people who have the proper knowledge. It would be about beautification, they will learn about the Tree and Beautification Commission, and they will find out about the other agencies like the Cultural Arts Village, etc. It would be a good way to move throughout the City and in downtown specifically. It will prepare and engage people for the Beautification Weekend. They would still put out the yard signs and advertise the weekend on the City website.

Mrs. Robison thanked Mr. Roe for contacting Ms. Nickie Munroe, Environmental Horticulture Agent for Indian River County. She said Ms. Munroe brought this subject up at their last Master Gardeners meeting and they are definitely on board with this idea of the tours.

Mr. Roe said he also heard back from Mrs. Pam Cooper for the historical tour and Mrs. Barbara Hoffman with the Cultural Arts Village. They are in favor of the concept of the tours, but it needs to be put together. It will take some time to plan on what the tour will cover, so it would be best for a person from the historical tour and the Master Gardener meet as soon as possible to identify what they each want to show. He said Ms. Munroe also recommended that they suggest people attend one (1) of the programs at the main Library in January, so that they are prepared to do a beautification project in February. He said Gardenfest is the first weekend in February, so it all comes together to make the Beautification Weekend a happening event.

Ms. Haynes said she thinks this is a fantastic idea. If they are going to direct people to attend the seminars at the Library then perhaps the tours could include some of the specific types of plants or gardens, which were discussed at the lectures. That ties the two (2) events together and people will know what they are looking at.

Mrs. Robinson stated when the Cultural Arts Village did their walking tour of the homes they pointed out one (1) with quite a few native and pollinator type plants. Ms. Haynes suggested they could point out Florida friendly plants, natives, plants with correct spacing, etc. Mrs. Booth asked if City Hall would be part of that tour, because of the new rain gardens. Mrs. Dussault suggested that maybe there could be a map available to people showing the different locations of where the City has done beautification projects and what to look for.

Mrs. Dussault said she also sees this as an opportunity for Dr. Richard Baker, Audubon Society. If he will be doing his seminars in January then he can start handing out trees that people can plant for the Beautification Weekend.

Mrs. Robinson announced that the Pelican Island Audubon Society is holding their third annual *Transforming Landscapes for a Sustainable Future Conference* at the Emerson Center on January 25, 2020 and all of their topics will be addressed.

Mr. Roe asked if they could have a table or tent at Gardenfest. Mrs. Robinson replied that she is not sure. This is the Garden Club's main fundraiser and they do not let anyone participate for free, but she will speak with the group. She will ask if they could have some type of presence there, or at least their signs for Beautification Weekend.

Mrs. Dussault said everything that Mr. Roe has done is great, so she would like him to put it into a form of a proposal in case they have to present it to the City Council. She asked Mrs. Emerson if they are going to expand the Beautification Weekend by working with the Master Gardeners, Women's Club, and the Cultural Arts Village would they need to get it approved by the City Council. Mrs. Emerson said it is fine as long as individual members of the Tree and Beautification Commission are making contact with the other groups and entities on behalf of the Commission and report back to the Tree and Beautification Commission. Mr. Roe explained that they want to hold and promote two (2) tours by asking these other groups to implement and conduct the Tree and Beautification Commission's tour idea.

Mrs. Emerson suggested that they articulate their proposed additional events for the Beautification Weekend and present it to the City Council. That would be the safe thing to do.

Mrs. Dussault stated that the outline is excellent, but by their next meeting they will need to have the specifics and the assignments of the individuals, so they can create a proposal to submit to the City Council. Then by December, they will have an answer.

Mrs. Booth said she is not understanding the difference between what they are proposing verses Ms. Schwarz having her Library programs with speakers, or her publishing an article on behalf of the Tree and Beautification Commission. If all they need to do is go to the City Council to have them approved then that is what they should be doing.

Mrs. Dussault said she does not agree, because they are starting with a base (the Beautification Weekend) that they established several years ago and now they are expanding this program. She said they can get back to Mrs. Booth's issue about publications, but the Tree and Beautification Commission is not holding themselves out as experts. When you write an article and tell people what they should be doing, you are holding yourself out as an expert. Mr. Roe went to the Master Gardeners looking for people with knowledge and by doing this the Commission is not sponsoring or marketing any other event or program, like Dr. Baker's program.

Mrs. Booth asked Mrs. Dussault if she said the Beautification Weekend is going to be conducted by organizations that are experts. Mrs. Dussault replied no. The Beautification Weekend is the Tree and Beautification Commission's event. She said the Commission does not have the expertise and credentials to teach, but they can turn to people with the credentials to work with them.

Ms. Schwarz said that is what she was doing with the Library programs. Mrs. Dussault said the problem with Dr. Baker speaking is that he was going speak on his program of 100,000 trees and that would show we were sponsoring his program. That is the difference.

Mrs. Robinson explained that the Master Gardeners purpose is to educate the community without promoting a specific program.

The Commission continued to discuss the Library programs and how they are different from the tours they are proposing to expand the Beautification Weekend.

Mrs. Emerson asked to interrupt, because they have gone way off base with their discussions. She said what they were discussing before they got side tracked was about asking individual Commission members to partner and explore other unspecified events not related to the already approved Beautification Weekend. She said they do not have any details, because the individual members have not met with anyone to define the events. At their next meeting, if the board is in consensus they could submit a request to ask the City Council to have these events added to their already approved Beautification Weekend.

Mrs. Booth stated that the Beautification Weekend is not part of the four (4) standards for the City to be designated a Tree City USA community. If they are looking at what their standards are and what their Charter is, it does not include a Beautification Weekend.

Mrs. Dussault ask Mrs. Booth if she is suggesting that the Arbor Day Foundation dictates what the City decides what its Commissions do, or what the City is allowed to do to create its Commissions. Mrs. Booth replied in this case yes.

Mrs. Emerson explained to Mrs. Booth that this Advisory Commission is strictly a creature of the City. It was created by the City and it only answers to the powers given by a Resolution of the City. There is an Ordinance that creates the Advisory Boards and the rules for the Advisory Board's conduct. Every aspect of this Advisory Board is covered by the City and no other, so it is whatever the City of Vero Beach wants it to be.

Mrs. Booth said but in their Charter is states *Recommending actions necessary and desirable to maintain the City in good standing of the Tree City USA program.*

Mrs. Dussault said they are moving on. She asked Mr. Roe if he was clear that he should come up with more of a plan for the tours for their next meeting. Mr. Roe replied yes.

Mrs. Robinson asked if she should ask the Master Gardeners about having their Beautification Weekend signs on display at Gardenfest. Mrs. Dussault said that is fine. She wants to have something concrete to bring to the City Council.

Mr. Roe made a motion to prepare a proposal to present to the City Council for the Beautification Weekend on February 8, 2020 and to potentially participate with Gardenfest on February 1, 2020. The motion passed 3-2 with Mrs. Booth voting no, Mr. Roe yes, Mrs. Robinson yes, Ms. Schwarz no, and Mrs. Dussault yes.

Mrs. Robinson excused herself from the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

F) Review and Discuss the Revised Publicity News Article – Mrs. Katherine Booth

Mrs. Booth made a motion to table this item pending the discussion of item 8-A).

Mrs. Dussault said at last month's meeting they discussed Mrs. Booth's article and she was asked to provide footnotes. She stated that this item will be tabled until next month.

6. TREASURY REPORT

Mrs. Dussault reported that the Tree Planting Application Fund had a balance of \$869.21 and the Tree Replacement/Mitigation Fund has a balance of \$74,744.86. She pointed out that the Tree Replacement/Mitigation expenditures to date are \$13,908.07, which include the purchase of the Cultural Arts Village trees and several tree replacements done by the Grounds Maintenance Department.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

None

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

A) Tree and Beautification Commission Obligations – Mrs. Katherine Booth

Mrs. Booth explained that at their last meeting she was instructed to bring forward a motion, which is included in the agenda packet (attached to the original minutes). Mrs. Dussault asked Mrs. Booth if this is her motion.

Mrs. Booth said she moves that the Tree and Beautification Commission fulfill the three (3) obligations required under its Charter.

Mrs. Dussault replied that this is a huge piece of writing and they need to analyze it completely.

Mrs. Emerson stated that she keeps hearing Mrs. Booth refer to a Charter. She asked Mrs. Booth what is the Charter other than the City Resolution and the City Code. Mrs. Booth replied that she took it directly from the City's website. Mrs. Emerson said she tried to make it clear that anything to do with this Advisory Board and its creation go to the Code and then the Resolution. The last Resolution they have is from 2015 and anything else can be found under Advisory Boards of the City Code. Mrs. Booth asked Mrs. Emerson if she wants her to actually site the City Code. Mrs. Emerson stated that is how this Board was created and there is no other document.

Mrs. Emerson asked Mrs. Booth if the City website refers to a Charter. Mrs. Booth replied that on the City's website under Advisory Commissions there is a page for the Tree and Beautification Commission and that is what she calls a Charter. She said she would like to amend her motion.

Mrs. Booth said she moves that the Tree and Beautification Commission fulfill the three (3) obligations required by Code.

Mrs. Emerson said she could read the Code, which is found under municode Chapter 2, Section 102 Advisory Commissions. The subsection for the Tree and Beautification Commission section reads; *The Tree and Beautification Commission shall advise the City Council on all matters concerning trees and the beautification needs of the City, including preservation of the natural beauty of the City and recommending actions necessary and desirable to maintain the City as a member in good standing of "Tree City, U.S.A.". The Commission shall also hear and decide applications for dedication trees to be planted in the City pursuant to resolution of the City Council. To the extent practicable, the Commission shall be composed of at least one (1) member of the Nurserymen's Association and one (1) member of a local garden circle.* She continued by stating that the City Resolution is amended from time to time giving specific direction. The Resolution pertains to trees and tree plantings and it will be

updated when they submit the revised dedicatory tree list. There is nothing else they can call a Charter document.

Mrs. Booth said she moves that the Tree and Beautification Commission fulfill the three (3) obligations required under the City Code Chapter 2, Section 102, subsection Tree and Beautification Commission.

Mrs. Dussault asked what is this motion based on. Ms. Schwarz said they need more discussion.

Mrs. Booth replied that it is based on the background in the document she submitted with her motion. At last month's meeting she was instructed to bring back a motion, because as a Commission they continue to have concerns and considerations about what the Commission can and cannot do.

Mrs. Dussault said in her opinion the Tree and Beautification Commission members overall have not expressed frustration as Mrs. Booth stated in the first paragraph of her document. She said she is fully aware of what they can and cannot do and if they get to a point where they want to do more they follow the requirements of the City. It seems based on the document that Mrs. Booth is suggesting the rules, regulations, and suggestion of the Arbor Day Foundation take precedence over the City Code, but it does not.

Mrs. Booth said it seems to her that the Tree and Beautification Commission is set up so the City can be designated a Tree City USA community. If they look at what they are permitted to do and not do based on the City Code Chapter 2, section 102 that follows the three (3) missions posted on the City website. Item number three (3) of her document is about her own personal opinion and assessment based on a questionnaire she conducted on the Arbor Day Foundation's website. Mrs. Booth continued by reading item four (4) from her agenda item.

Mr. Roe excused himself from the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Mrs. Dussault read a sentence from Mrs. Booth's item number four (4). "The advice is not stated as limited to public property but pertains to the City at large". She said she cannot possibly see any right that the Tree and Beautification would have to advise the City Council of matters in respect to private property.

Mrs. Emerson said there are so many things in the article that are basically wrong, even though the intent was good. The statement "Public Works currently has ultimate authority over the Commission" is not true. Things like requesting details of the treasury report is not advisory. She said to be honest, there is nothing in the directions given to this Commission other than vegetation and trees. She noticed at last month's meeting there was an interest in benches. If the Commission as a whole felt that beautification in the parks could include dedicatory benches they could ask the City Council if they would consider including it in an amended Resolution, just like when they were setting up the Beautification Weekend. There are so many things in this document that are essentially just misunderstandings of what the Tree and Beautification Commissions capacity is. The Commission advises the City Council on items relevant to trees and beautification. She said this document goes pretty far field and she would not characterize the bulk of it as a motion, so she does not know how the Commission wants to handle it.

Mrs. Booth said Mrs. Emerson is talking about the functions of the Tree and Beautification Commission and under item number six (6) of her document, she states that the roll of the Commission could be expanded by the City Council.

Mrs. Dussault stated that the issue is not only is this Commission an advisor to the City Council they do not have any right to interfere with any City departments or staff. Mrs. Booth said she understands that and that is why she stated that Public Works makes the final decision and this Commission advises the Public Works Department of projects. Mrs. Dussault replied no Mrs. Booth. The City of Vero Beach City Council always makes the final decisions, because they are the elected officials. Mrs. Booth replied well fine. She said that Ms. Haynes is from Public Works and she either implements or rejects plans that the Commission would like to do. How this goes to the City Council she does not know.

Mrs. Dussault stated that the treasury report shows what projects the Tree Mitigation Reserve funds were used for. Mrs. Booth said only one (1) project was Commission driven and the others were not.

Mrs. Dussault explained that it is not up to the Tree and Beautification Commission to determine how money is spent. The only amount that they can semi determine is the amount that is in the Tree Planting Application Account, and even then they have to take it before the City Council and request to use the funds. Mrs. Booth said that is proving her point that the City Code is restrictive and it sounds like the Commission would like to ask the City Council to expand the City Code into other areas. Mrs. Dussault asked Mrs. Booth do you have any idea what it would take to revise the City Code Section 72.43. Mrs. Booth said she knows that it might affect other parts of the Code, but educating the public and to be able to sponsor and partner with other organizations are things they could ask the City Council if they would be allowed to do.

Ms. Haynes said she would like to know if the Commission was solely formed so that the City could be a Tree City USA member, or did the Tree Commissions existence allow them to become a Tree City USA member. Mrs. Dussault stated that she does not know the answer, but she will check on that.

Ms. Haynes explained that the City is only eligible to be a Tree City USA member based on what they do for trees on City property. She said they lost a part of it when they sold the electric, because tree pruning around the electrical lines was included in that.

Mrs. Dussault said in her opinion, the Arbor Day Foundation gives them accreditation for being a member of Tree City USA for 37 years.

Mrs. Booth stated that the Arbor Day Foundation has recommendations to be a Tree City member, but they are not required to be done by the City. Mrs. Dussault said they are exactly that, a recommendation. She stated that the Commission meets the criteria to be a Tree City USA member and they have been doing it every year for 37 years. In reading Mrs. Booth's document it sounds as if she believes that the Arbor Day Foundation takes precedence, but it does not.

Mrs. Booth asked since they are to advise the City Council on all matters concerning trees and beautification needs of the City does that only pertain to City property. Mrs. Dussault replied yes. She said they do not have any right to advise the City Council about private property.

The Commission members continued discussing information from Mrs. Booth's agenda item.

Mrs. Booth asked what does the Commission do for preservation of the natural beauty of the City.

Mrs. Emerson asked Mrs. Booth in looking at Chapter 2, Section 102 what part of this does she feel the Commission has failed to do since 1981.

Mrs. Booth stated they could advise the City Council about Code changes that they think are needed to preserve the natural beauty of the City. Mrs. Dussault said they can advise them of anything, but they would have to come up with a proposal that the Commission would vote on and take to the City Council. It cannot be a proposal that is incorrect with the law.

Mrs. Booth asked if the Commission wishes to expand into education and partnering. Mrs. Dussault said that would be up to all of the Commission members to determine. She said if Mrs. Booth wants to propose a motion to expand whatever it is she wants is fine, but it is foolish to use as citations that the Arbor Day Foundation has better rights than the City. She must also understand the procedures of making a very clear motion. They are perfectly happy to go through the procedure, but if she presents something that is not approved by the Tree and Beautification Commission it will not go to the City Council.

Mrs. Booth stated that her agenda item was a draft document for discussion. The feedback she received from the Commission helps her know what to move forward with. She asked to clarify that she does not believe that the Arbor Day Foundation takes precedence over the City Ordinance.

B) Arbor Day Tree City USA Requirements & Growth Award - Ms. Cynthia Schwarz

Ms. Schwarz said that since they have had several discussions about education, she went to the Arbor Day Foundation website. Several years ago, she tried to formulate some additional programs for the Tree and Beautification Commission to get growth awards, which is part of the Arbor Day Foundation. She said she read on the Arbor Day Foundation's website the guidelines for achieving a growth award and they have done some of these things. She read item B-1) from her agenda item (attached to the original minutes). She said this sounds like the Trees For Life program with Dr. Baker, but it says they are to partner with groups and they cannot do that. Mrs. Dussault said the key word is "City" and this Board is an Advisory Commission to the City. If Dr. Baker wanted to go to the City Council and ask them if they would like to sponsor his 100,000 Trees For Life and they chose to vote yes then the City can do it, but the Tree and Beautification Commission cannot.

Ms. Haynes explained that she submits the paperwork for the Tree City USA designation. If they were to go for a growth award, it would have to come from the City staff and not this Commission. It would be nice to get a growth award, but she has not had time to look into it. It would have to be like a project she did where the Garden Club and Lowe's partnered with her, but it was not a tree project. That does not mean the Tree and Beautification Commission cannot come up with ideas. They did the Centennial Tree and they partnered with someone who donated the tree. She does not know if that would qualify and they might require it to be a much larger project. For her department it has always been a function of what they can handle. They want things to look good for the City and if they plant things that they cannot maintain it does not look good.

Ms. Schwarz stated that when she originally proposed working on a growth award a few years ago, it was never explained to her that it had to be done by the City and not the Commission. Now that she is clear with this she can move forward.

Mrs. Dussault said there is no problem with trying to do other things with the recommendations of the Arbor Day Foundation. However, the Arbor Day Foundation does not take precedence and anything they have done or will do in the future will need to be approved by the Tree and Beautification Commission. If necessary, it will also be approved by the City Council. She said her recollection of the intention of Ms. Schwarz doing the Library lectures was to provide publication and advertising for the Tree and Beautification Commission and to bring in a specialist to give a seminar.

Ms. Schwarz explained that her purpose of the Library programs was to go for a growth award, but now she knows it has to be done by the City. Mrs. Dussault said if they see something that they think would be good for the City to do to advance them towards a growth award, they can put it in a form of a motion, discuss it, vote on it, and present it to the City Council.

Mrs. Emerson said the City of Vero Beach is the legal entity that has the designation and they already have Tree City USA award, but the growth award would go beyond that status. The Commission could send a motion to the City Council asking if they could apply for other programs to get this award.

Mrs. Booth asked if Ms. Schwarz can create a motion to approach the City Council about their approval for the Tree and Beautification Commission to meet the eligibility guidelines for a growth award.

Mrs. Dussault said that is not accurate. Ms. Schwarz can put together a program under the recommendation of the Arbor Day Foundation and take it to the City Council for them to approve. As Mrs. Emerson stated the relationship is between the City and the Arbor Day Foundation, not with the Tree and Beautification Commission.

Ms. Haynes explained that the growth award is above and beyond being a Tree City USA member. The growth award shows an increased commitment of resources. As she looks through the information from Ms. Schwarz, she does not know if the library sessions would qualify as tree care workshops. She does not know if they have to earn these points in a certain amount of time, such as a year, ten years, etc. When they get into the partnerships that is more in depth with the City. They can receive more points for the planning and management category, but projects like tree inventories are done by professionals and they are very time consuming and costly. Mrs. Booth asked if the City's GIS mapping of the trees would qualify. Ms. Haynes explained that a tree inventory involves having a person, normally an Arborist, do an assessment on the health and condition of each tree while standing in front of it. The assessment could include looking for any damage, possible disease, an age estimate, if it receives fertilization, etc., so it is an entire comprehensive report.

Mrs. Dussault said the bottom line is that any of these programs cost money and the City Council would have to approve them.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – November 21, 2019

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 11:22 a.m. Mrs. Booth seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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