

**VERO BEACH TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION
COMMISSION MINUTES
Thursday, October 18, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida**

PRESENT: Vice Chairman, Marilyn Black Dussault; Member: Cynthia Schwarz, and Alternate Member Fran Robinson **Also Present:** Grounds Maintenance Manager, Nanette Haynes (arrived at 9:02); Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absences: Barbara Leigh, Elly Manov, and Neal Roe

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Dussault called today's meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) September 20, 2018

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2018 Tree and Beautification Commission meeting. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Election of Chairman

Mrs. Dussault announced that Mr. Chris Runge resigned from the Tree and Beatification Commission, which is the reason for the Election of Chairman on today's agenda. She asked if they should do an election with only three (3) Commission members present. The Senior Administrative Assistant explained that it is not required and Mrs. Dussault, Vice Chairman, can run the meeting and fill in as the Chairman.

Mrs. Dussault said she is reluctant to hold an election without all the Commission members being in attendance. She asked if they can they bypass the election until they do the normal election of officers, since they will only have two (2) more meetings.

Ms. Stefanie Beskovoyne, Assistant City Attorney, stated that since they have a Vice Chairman she does not believe it is an issue, but she will get an answer about postponing the election. It will not affect the meeting today. Mrs. Dussault stated that they will temporarily pass on the election of the Chairman until Ms. Beskovoyne has a definite response.

B) Arbor Day Foundation - Community Canopy Program

The Senior Administrative Assistant stated that the Sarasota County Community Canopy program article was provided to her by Ms. Kira Honse, Assistant City Attorney (on file in the City Clerk's office). She said she did some research on it and found more information from the Arbor Day Foundation on the Community Canopy program for the Commission to review (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Ms. Schwarz stated that she read about this program and she really likes the tree-planting tool that allows the residents to put in their address and based on the layout of their property it will tell them what type of tree is best, the best place to plant a tree, and how to take care of it. She thinks they should move forward with this program.

Mrs. Dussault said this looks like a wonderful enterprise for them to be involved in. She asked if she could get one of the members to volunteer to follow up on this.

Ms. Schwarz stated that she would gladly look into this further, because she is interested in it. It goes along with the other tree giveaway project that they have been discussing.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Wording for Centennial Tree Plaque

Mrs. Dussault said she is not sure where they stand on the plaque for the Centennial Tree. The Senior Administrative Assistant stated that both Mrs. Dussault and Ms. Schwarz submitted proposed ideas for the wording on the plaque. Mrs. Dussault suggested that they look over both submissions and they will table this until the November meeting.

B) Update on the Cultural Arts Village Tree Plantings

Mrs. Dussault announced that Mrs. Barbara Hoffman, Cultural Council Executive Director, was unable to attend today's meeting. She asked Mrs. Robinson to give them an update on her meeting with Mrs. Hoffman regarding the Arts Village tree dedication.

Mrs. Robinson reported that she met with Mrs. Hoffman after their September meeting and Mrs. Hoffman had everything lined out. The dedication will be on November 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., and Mrs. Hoffman chose the location, which will be on the vacant lot located at the corner of 18th Avenue and 19th Street. They plan to have a podium and several tables set up. Wild Thyme Catering will be providing snacks and drinks. She said Mrs. Hoffman is looking for someone to provide music for about 15 minutes prior to the start of the event and she was hoping to have a Centennial flag available to display. Mrs. Dussault explained that there is not a flag, but Mrs. Hoffman was informed that there are Centennial banners that she can use. Mrs. Robinson commented that if the Tree and Beautification Commission would like to put out any information or literature for the public they can use any of the tables that are available.

Ms. Beskovoyne recommended that the Commission hold off on the election of a Chairman since it is so close to the end of the year. Mrs. Dussault can continue to conduct the meetings as the Vice Chairman until the election.

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to postpone the Election of Chairman and allow Mrs. Dussault to fill in as the acting Chairman since she is the current Vice Chairman. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. Dussault asked Mrs. Robinson to notify the Cultural Arts Village that she will be more than happy to make some remarks at the tree dedication.

Mrs. Robinson stated that Mrs. Hoffmann asked Dr. Richard Baker, Audubon Society, to speak about the trees and after he is finished they will have the tree dedication. She said that Mrs. Hoffman will close the event with a few remarks and then they will be conducting a walking tour of some of the historic homes in that area. They will not go into the homes, but someone has put together detailed information on the history of the homes.

Mrs. Dussault stated that Mrs. Hoffmann has been so instrumental in spearheading this event. She deserves a tremendous amount of credit for everything she has done. She hopes that they can all attend the dedication on November 10, 2018.

C) Tree Giveaway Project

Mrs. Dussault said the tree giveaway was Mr. Runge's project. She asked if they are still working on this project.

Ms. Schwarz explained that the last discussion Mr. Runge had about this project was that he was eliminating the voucher and making it a first come first serve type of program. The residents would be able to pick up the trees on the Beautification weekend and they would be handed out in the parking lot at the Police Department or at City Hall. She is not sure if they should move forward with this project, but she will try to get as much information from Sarasota, Florida on the Community Canopy program and perhaps they will be able to weave it into this project.

Mrs. Dussault read several paragraphs from page four (4) of the September 20, 2018 minutes (on file in the City Clerk's office). She asked if the Commission is going to follow through with this program.

Ms. Schwarz said that since she volunteered to do more research on this new program with the Arbor Day Foundation Community Canopy she would like to see if it might be a new option. She will come back at their next meeting with more details.

Ms. Haynes said that the biggest thing is having the right tree in the right place. They will want to make sure that the homeowners select the right spot and the correct species of tree for their property. They should have a variety of trees to accommodate properties of all sizes and that intelligent planting instructions are provided as part of the program.

Ms. Schwarz explained that based on the information they received, Sarasota, Florida offers five (5) species of trees, but she is not sure they would be the correct trees for Vero Beach. Ms. Schwarz said she personally loves Tipuana Tipu and Crape Myrtle trees. Ms. Haynes stated that there are a few other trees that she could add to the list that she really likes.

Mrs. Dussault asked Ms. Beskovoyne if the Tree and Beautification Commission is sponsoring the tree giveaway program, but the trees are being donated by vendors would they have to worry if the people

receiving the trees are City residents. The Commission is not expending any City funds for the project, so she does not know of any restrictions on the Tree and Beautification Commission sponsoring a program like this.

Ms. Beskovoyne explained that there might be people who are snowbirds and they might not have proof of residency here, or have a Florida driver's license. The enforceability is going to be impossible and if they try to get into the nitty-gritty of the program it might fail.

Mrs. Dussault stated that she wants to make sure they can do this project after they do all of the research.

D) Update on the 100th Anniversary

Mrs. Dussault reported that all of the trees for the schools were delivered on Monday and they look gorgeous. They are eight (8) to nine (9) feet tall with a diameter of about three (3) feet. On Tuesday she was present when the trees were picked up and delivered to the Charter and Private schools. All of the schools have their trees, planting instructions, care instructions, and the trees will be planted by the end of the week.

Ms. Haynes passed around one (1) of the plaques to the Commission members to see.

Mrs. Dussault said the plaque reads "Honoring the citizens who made Vero Beach successful and pledge to continue their legacy". She explained that the plaques are currently being mounted on the posts and they will be delivered to the schools.

Mrs. Dussault reviewed the school tree-planting schedule and verified that the Commission members will be in attendance at their scheduled schools. She said if Ms. Haynes could deliver the posts with the plaques to the private and charter schools that would help tremendously.

Mrs. Robinson said that she looked at the location of where the Oak Tree will be planted at Vero Beach Elementary School and she is concerned that the location will not be big enough, because Oak Trees get very large. Mrs. Dussault explained that planting and care instructions were given to each school and they were informed it would be a Live Oak and it will grow into a very large tree. For 18 months the schools have known they would be receiving a 30-gallon Live Oak Tree and they should have been doing their research on the property to choose the best location.

6. TREASURY REPORT

The Senior Administrative Assistant reported that there have been no changes in the Tree accounts since their September meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mrs. Dussault stated that it would be nice to recognize and honor Mr. Runge for everything he did for the Tree and Beautification Commission while he served on this Board. She asked that this item be placed on the November agenda for discussion.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Dussault said that each member received a copy of the revised City Ordinance that Ms. Beskovoyne drafted. She said Ms. Beskovoyne had to excuse herself from the meeting to attend another commitment. Mrs. Dussault recommended that since they only have three (3) members in attendance today that they take this with them, review it, and bring back any comments or questions to their next meeting. The other Commission members agreed.

Ms. Schwarz stated that the artist who approached her about doing the mural on the walls has respectfully declined, but the Art Club is still interested in the project.

Ms. Schwarz said that she spoke with Ms. Jessica Matthews, Indian River County Library, who heads the special events and classes at the Library. She said Ms. Matthews informed her that the Library is open late on Monday and Thursday and she could schedule the lectures at 6:00 p.m. on those days. Ms. Schwarz said she would like to sign up for one (1) of these dates in January. The 3rd, 10th, 14th, 28th, and 31st of January are available. She thought it would be nice to give away a couple of trees as part of her informational program, so she contacted Mr. Richard Baker, Audubon Society, who said they have plenty of trees and would donate trees for her to give away. She thought it would be good to do this on a quarterly basis covering different subjects. Mrs. Robinson said another resource for her might be the Master Gardeners, because they are also doing a variety lectures on a several topics at the Libraries.

Ms. Schwarz stated that the City of Vero Beach is a Tree City USA community, but she was curious to know if Sebastian, Fellsmere, Gifford, or other places in Indian River County were tree cities. Ms. Haynes stated that there are a few requirements that have to be met to become a Tree City, which includes having a Tree Board, and spending so much money per capita, etc.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – November 15, 2018

The next meeting of the Tree and Beautification Commission is scheduled for November 15, 2018.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to adjourn today's meeting at 10:21 a.m. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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