

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

PRESENT: Vice Chairman, Marilyn Black Dussault; Member: Cynthia Schwarz, Barbara Leigh, Alternate Member #1 Fran Robinson, and Alternate Member #2 Neal Roe **Also Present:** Grounds Maintenance Manager, Nanette Haynes; Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

Excused Absence: Elly Manov

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice 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) October 18, 2018

Mrs. Leigh said that she has a question about the information on page 4 in the first paragraph under item D. It states that the diameter of trees is three (3) feet, but shouldn't that be three (3) inches. Mrs. Dussault clarified that she was talking about the diameter of the trees root ball, so the minutes should read that the root balls were up to three (3) feet in diameter.

Ms. Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2018 Tree and Beautification Commission meeting with the one (1) correction made. Mrs. Leigh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

A) Review Proposed Changes to City Ordinance

Mrs. Dussault stated that each of the Commission members received a copy of the revised Ordinance from Ms. Stefanie Beskovoyne, Assistant City Attorney (on file on the City Clerk's Office). She explained that on page two (2) they are removing the words "removal of invasive plants" and the word "or". She read the paragraph with the recommended modifications.

Ms. Beskovoyne stated that deleting the words "removal of invasive plants" was a recommendation by Ms. Nanette Haynes, Grounds Maintenance Manager.

Ms. Haynes said she does not know why that terminology was put in the Ordinance to begin with. She does not understand why they would use money that was put into the account for mitigation to remove invasive plants. That would eat up the account very quickly. Mrs. Dussault said that many years ago it might have been placed in there because there were so many

invasive plants and they might have had to pay a contractor to remove them. She agrees that removing this from the Ordinance is the right thing to do.

Mrs. Dussault said that Ms. Beskovoyne is using examples in the new wording, so she would like to know if the examples are specifically being used to include irrigation system installations.

Ms. Beskovoyne explained that the word “planting” was already in the Ordinance, but there was a debate on what “planting” means. She figured it would be cleaner if they added some examples. If there are other examples they would like to add just let her know. Mrs. Dussault replied that she does not think that they have to delineate it, because if they get too specific then they are locking themselves in on what they might want to do with future projects.

Ms. Schwarz asked if they should make the “irrigation system installation” more broad and list it as a “water source”, or is it always going to be irrigation.

Ms. Haynes explained that when watering a tree it is always called irrigation. Whether the water is reuse, or potable, or if it comes from a canal, a pond, etc., it is still called irrigation.

Mrs. Dussault said that the Ordinance is nicely worded and she thanked Ms. Beskovoyne for the work she did.

Mr. Roe made motion to accept the verbiage changes to the Ordinance as it is written. Ms. Schwarz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Beskovoyne explained that since this is an Ordinance change, she will pass it through for appropriate Departments that are listed on page three (3) as part of the administrative review process. The City Council will hear it two (2) times because of the nature of the changes. As of right now there is only one (1) City Council meeting in December and the Ordinance will be heard on first reading and then it will automatically move onto the January agenda for the public hearing and a second reading.

B) Recognition of Mr. Chris Runge

Mrs. Dussault stated that she thought it would be appropriate to install and dedicate a bench near the Centennial Tree and plaque in honor of Mr. Chris Runge, because he was so involved with and supportive of the plans for the Centennial Tree and events. He was an outstanding leader and she thinks the bench would be a nice way to honor him.

Mrs. Leigh asked how long was Mr. Runge a member of the Tree and Beautification Commission. The Senior Administrative Assistant reported that he became a Commission member on February 16, 2010.

Mrs. Robinson said that would be a lovely idea. Mrs. Dussault commented that it will be part of the Tree and Beautification’s Centennial celebration and tree dedication.

Mrs. Leigh made a motion to allow Mrs. Dussault to pursue her idea of having a bench and a plaque with Mr. Runge’s name on it installed at the Centennial tree site. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A) Wording for Centennial Tree Plaque

Mrs. Dussault stated that they have two (2) submissions for the wording of the Centennial tree plaque (on file in the City Clerk's office). Mrs. Dussault read Ms. Schwarz suggestion for the wording and then she read her own submission. Ms. Schwarz explained that she put the amount of years in numeral form instead of words because it stands out. She said she also put the word "Beach" in parenthesis, because back then it was just known as Vero.

Mrs. Dussault said she agrees that using numerals does look better. She asked which wording would the Commission like to use, or do they want to try to combine them.

Mrs. Leigh commented that the amount of words they select might depend on the size of the plaque and the font size that is used. They still want it easy to read.

Ms. Haynes replied that the amount of words and the font size will affect the cost, because it will need to be a larger plaque. Once she knows what it will say she can bring back a price quote. A recent plaque that was made, which was 12 inches by 12 inches cost a little over \$500.

Ms. Leigh stated that she likes the phrase "legacy of dedication and commitment" that Mrs. Dussault had in her submission. She said she also agrees with the 100 years being in numerals.

Mrs. Dussault suggested that they combine the two and have it read; *"In celebration of the first 100 years of the City of Vero, we honor the citizens who made it possible and vow to continue their legacy of dedication and commitment"*.

Mrs. Leigh made a motion to accept the plaque reading as read by Mrs. Dussault. Ms. Schwarz seconded motion.

Ms. Haynes stated that the company who makes the plaques has the ability to add a symbol or logo if they wanted something else included.

Mrs. Dussault asked if they should add the Centennial logo. The other Commission members agreed with getting a price quote with the logo.

Mrs. Leigh modified the motion to have the plaque read: *"In celebration of the first 100 years of the City of Vero, we honor the citizens who made it possible and vow to continue their legacy of dedication and commitment"*. They are authorizing Ms. Haynes to obtain a price quote with this verbiage and the Centennial logo at the top of the plaque.

Ms. Schwarz suggested that they change the word *the* citizens to *all* citizens.

Mrs. Leigh modified the motion to have the plaque read: *"In celebration of the first 100 years of the City of Vero, we honor all citizens who made it possible and vow to continue their legacy of dedication and commitment"*. **They are authorizing Ms. Haynes to obtain a price quote with this verbiage and the Centennial logo at the top of the plaque. Mrs. Robinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

B) Update on the 100th Anniversary

Mrs. Dussault stated that she would personally like to thank Ms. Haynes and her department. They did a beautiful job of mounting the plaques on the posts and delivering them to the schools.

Ms. Haynes explained that it was Mr. Scott Dawson, Facility Maintenance, and his team that did the work. They worked hard at putting them together and they made sure they were delivered.

Mrs. Dussault stated that she wrote a letter to all of the people who participated in the school tree planting and dedications (on file in the City Clerk's office). She said that anyone who went to the tree plantings saw how much fun it was for the children and the schools. For her, it was so inspiring and it assured her it was the right thing to do. This project was supported by the Tree and Beautification Commission, the Centennial Committee, the Vero Beach City staff, and the City Council. She thanked everyone for their time and participation.

The Commission members shared stories on how each of the schools celebrated the planting of their tree.

C) Recap of the Cultural Arts Village Tree Dedication

Mrs. Dussault thanked the Commission members who attended the Cultural Arts Village Tree Dedication. It was a very nice event, but it was hot. She said that she made her remarks and she will submit her notes to the City Clerk's office for the record. She wanted the audience to understand what the Tree and Beautification Commission does and why they were part of the tree dedication. She mentioned the Arbor Day tree plantings, the Beautification Weekend, etc.

Mrs. Robinson said that the trees look wonderful and some are already starting to produce bright red berries. They actually planted more than 10 trees, because they had donations from other organizations and the public. Mr. Roe stated that they have an entire street plan that will eventually have trees planted on both sides of the road.

D) Update on the Arbor Day Foundation - Community Canopy Program

Ms. Schwarz reported that she spoke with Mrs. Stevie Montes, Sustainability Manager with the City of Sarasota, Florida, and she spearheads their Community Canopy program. She said Mrs. Montes suggested letting the Arbor Day Foundation take the lead, because they are instrumental with the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping program where residents who live in the City limits put in their address and the trees are mailed directly to the people. She said that Mrs. Montes explained that it costs the City about \$35 to \$40 for each 1-gallon trees, which includes the shipping cost. Included with the tree is a signed letter from the Sarasota Tree Commission explaining what the program is about and their mission. The City of Sarasota uses a local grower for the trees. They go with the species of trees that the Arbor Day Foundation recommends and what the grower can provide.

Mrs. Leigh asked if the Arbor Day Foundation actually works with the specific residents that are in the City limits. Ms. Schwarz replied yes. It is part of the GIS mapping program and Google Maps shows the City limits.

Mrs. Dussault asked Ms. Schwarz how will they structurally put this program together to present it to the City Council. Ms. Schwarz replied that she has the contact information for the Arbor Day Foundation, so that she can get more information on how they will implement the program.

Ms. Schwarz explained that the Arbor Day Foundation has a very detailed program in which they track where the trees are going to be planted. This helps them know the density of the trees in different locations and what areas may not be getting as many trees.

Mrs. Dussault stated that since the Tree Commission will be using City funds to purchase the trees they will be back to their restrictions of keeping the trees within the City limits.

Mrs. Leigh asked how do they notify the homeowners about this program. Ms. Schwarz explained that the Commission will need to do their own advertising and marketing.

Mrs. Dussault asked Ms. Schwarz to provide the Commission with a more cohesive written plan or idea of what will be involved. She would like to know the logistics of how it all works, how many trees, etc.

Ms. Schwarz explained that the Arbor Day Foundation will do the planning based on the Commission's specifications. If they want to give away trees the Arbor Day Foundation will do the legwork.

Ms. Beskovoyne asked Ms. Schwarz if she has reached out to the Arbor Day Foundation. Ms. Schwarz replied not yet. Ms. Beskovoyne said that the Arbor Day Foundation can probably provide her with the terms and conditions that will help her walk through the procedures and answer the questions that the Commission has. Ms. Schwarz stated that she will follow up with the Arbor Day Foundation and provide information to the Commission at their next meeting.

E) Tree Giveaway Project

Mrs. Dussault asked if the Commission wants to move forward with their proposed tree giveaway program, or do they want to go with the Arbor Day Foundation program.

Mr. Roe stated they need more information on the Arbor Day Foundation program.

Mrs. Dussault said that they have the details on the revised tree giveaway project, so now they will wait to get more information from the Arbor Day Foundation and then look at both options again. She recommended that they each look at the Arbor Day Foundation website so they can formulate questions for their next meeting.

6. TREASURY REPORT

The Senior Administrative Assistant reported that the Finance Department will provide them with a report at their December meeting with the yearend figures.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mrs. Dussault explained that at the end of the year the Commission is required to submit an annual report, which they will review at their December meeting. She asked each of the Commission members to think about what their contributions have been to the Commission and submit a short paragraph to the City Clerk's office. She wants to do a very thorough report, because she thinks it is important that the City Council really understands what the volunteers on the Commissions and Boards do for the City.

Mrs. Dussault said that she has an idea for a project, but she is not sure if they will be able to make it happen, or how to pay for it. She explained that as part of the Centennial, Mrs. Pam Cooper and Mrs. Peggy Lyon put together displays outlining each decade of the City of Vero Beach. She thought it would be nice to have each timeline made into 10 plaques and to place one (1) in front of each of the 10 trees they planted for the Cultural Arts Village. It is such a beautiful way of taking Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Lyon's work and displaying it for all the public to see.

Mr. Roe said there is a very similar design out in Okeechobee at a butterfly garden. He said he believes he has some pictures of them and he will share them with the Commission so they can see what the plaques could look like.

A) Thank You Letter

This was discussed under item 5-B.

8. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Ms. Schwarz stated that she talked with Mr. Richard Baker, Pelican Island Audubon Society, about going with her to the first event she wants to do at the library, but she has not chosen a date yet. She is thinking that the first meeting will be a meet and greet to let people know about the Tree and Beautification Commission and then each meeting after that they can cover a different topic.

Mrs. Dussault said she would like to see a plan of when and who will be speaking. Just providing the history of the Tree and Beautification Commission may not gather an audience. They should probably discuss what is current and contemporary like planting, pruning, or taking care of trees, which will draw the people in. History is fine, but not for a whole meeting.

Ms. Schwarz said she will put together a Power Point presentation for their December meeting so the Commission can see her ideas and what she foresees for these presentations in 2019.

Mrs. Robinson suggested that Ms. Schwarz contact Mrs. Karen Vatland, President of the Master Gardeners, because they are also doing presentations at the Libraries. She recommended that Ms. Schwarz get the information from the Master Gardeners, so that they are not discussing identical topics at the same time.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

A) Next Meeting Date – December 20, 2018

The next meeting of the Tree and Beautification Commission is scheduled for December 20, 2018.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

/rh