

**Minutes**  
**Key Colony Beach Beautification Committee**  
**February 13, 2019 11:30 a.m. Morris residence**

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** The regular meeting of the Beautification Committee was called to order at 11:30 a.m. by Chair Janie Byland. Members present: Janie Byland, David McKeenan, Jackie Topolski, Sandy Bachman, Kimmeron Lisle, Sara Tracy, and Peter Morris. Also present: Chris Moonis, City Administrator; Gerard Roussin, Building Official; Greg Lawton, Building Inspector/Public Works; and Beverly Traeger, Administrative Assistant. Mike Tracy and Rob Dumas are excused. Public – 0.

**PRESENTATION BY GERARD ROUSIN AND GREG LAWTON, ON THE STATE OF THE STATE OF KEY COLONY BEACH, REGARDING PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:** At East Side Park - as of last week, final irrigation issues were being worked out. All irrigation is up and running on the timer. The above-ground misters are not running. They are capped off since it's not known at this time what type of plantings will be planted, but they are able to run. One of the big plans of Public Works is to make a map of the city showing all irrigation, control boxes and valve boxes to know where everything is located. At Entryway Park - the east side is believed to be fully functional. The west side is operational up to the rock island of the center garden. From that point back to What's Your Hurry sign, within the next couple of weeks Public Works will run a trencher to make a new line from the island back to the sign, and replum and rewire all that so everything is brand new. When future plantings or gardens are planned there, Public Works and the Beautification Committee should get together to determine where to put the sprinklers before anything is planted. At Tiki Hut Park - there's a new manifold box ready to be installed because there's an issue with the existing manifold system and valves.

A big concern are trees that look to be dead having dangerous hanging branches. Public Works won't cut anything without Beautification Committee approval in case the trees are dormant, not dead. Gerard gave Janie orange tape to mark which trees should be cut down.

Chris stated our water bills from Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority have skyrocketed as more things are put online. Water should be managed with cut-backs when possible because of the costs. Chris told Janie we'll send her the FKAAs so she could see the costs. It was stated once plantings are established, watering can be reduced. Gerard said watering at Sunset Park is down to about one-quarter of what it had been. For the arecas around the boat trailer parking lot at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street side, resurf water was being used. At one point there wasn't enough water to do the golf course, so FKAAs were needed. Once the arecas are established, FKAAs can be discontinued. Most of the irrigation done around the arecas was a moveable system that can be used elsewhere. Janie said they are getting ready to enhance the areca hedge and asked if they will be able to tap into that 7<sup>th</sup> Street side of irrigation to water new trees until they're established. Gerard said 'yes' – the way it's set up you can add to it or subtract from it. This system was made by the Public Works department under the recommendation of Luis Gonzalez. Janie stated she hasn't found a landscaper yet. She can't get a response from Luis Gonzalez. Gerard offered to contact him.

Janie wrote out a list of the 21 gardens the Beautification Committee oversees around the city. She stated if the City wants them to use less water, the gardens will have to be amended or have the City get used to the cost of watering. Chris stated water bills are thousands of dollars each month, but could not quote an exact amount off the top of his head. He said we could scan the bills to them or they could come to City Hall to pick up a copy. Janie asked Chris if he can compare what they're doing now to pre-Hurricane

Irma. Chris said he can chart the past five years, done on a monthly basis. He'll get Kimmeron the data and they can make conclusions based on the data.

David presented his photo report of specific trees to be trimmed from the top down of dead branches. The pictures aren't marked where to cut but he said when you get close to them it's obvious where to cut the hazardous branches off. He suggested hazardous branches in City Hall Park should be trimmed prior to Key Colony Beach Day. Gerard told Chris the Public Works bucket truck is currently under repairs. If it's not repaired in time for Key Colony Beach Day, Chris will be asked to authorize a lift rental from Sunbelt. The City Hall gumbo limbos are top priority. Chris asked about a problem tree in the park between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Streets, along the boat trailer corner. Gerard replied it has been trimmed back approximately 80%. David recommended this tree be taken down. Another tree in the area has already been taken down.

Gerard asked everyone to let him know if they come across any spots not getting irrigation water so Public Works can figure out the reason why. He stated one of Public Works' hedge cutting priorities was at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets. If the Beautification Committee can do a cleanup there it would make the trimming easier. Janie asked Gerard if he's seen the Beautification Committee's priority list. He replied he has not. Janie gave him the list. Janie would like to go over the list systematically with Gerard. Gerard said they would like to put a small hedgerow of arecas behind Public Works along the golf course, along #9 hole, to separate between the golf course and Public Works. This would carry the same look of the boat trailer parking lot to behind the garage. Janie asked if coconut trees are out for the enhancement of the hedge on the 7<sup>th</sup> Street side. Chris said it would be ok to use there since there's no pedestrian traffic in that area.

Jay Johnson of 34 7<sup>th</sup> Street gave Janie lots of plants since he's moving to Grassy Key. Jay offered to donate Christmas tree palms for the strip of land between 7<sup>th</sup> Street and the sidewalk where coconut trees were previously located. He would plant and water them himself. Janie told him he needs to provide a plan she can present to Chris. Janie asked if there is RO water there, Chris stated there is.

Janie spoke to Paul Cole of 8<sup>th</sup> Street about how he liked the new plantings the City put in across the street from his property. He stated he would like to see more and larger trees. Janie said he can still make a donation toward doing so. Chris said he would certainly accept a donation for this, and he'd call Paul to discuss it.

Gerard said all Christmas decorations are now stored at a different place in the garage, moved from the walls to above. Public Works will have to place the decorations for storage, it cannot be done by committee members.

Gerard and Greg left the meeting 12:16 p.m.

**MOTION:** Motion made by David, seconded by Sandy, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2019.

**ON THE MOTION:** Unanimous approval.

**TREASURY:** Nothing new to report.

**CHRISTMAS WRAP UP:** Kimmeron would like to purchase 10 new storage bins with click-down lids to replace existing bins in order to preserve current ornaments and lights if there is extra money from the Christmas budget. She'll check with Janie regarding budget before purchasing bins.

**GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING UPDATES:** Janie stated the Pickleball workday clean-up on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> was a big success. The next clean-up, suggested by Gerard, is the East Park hedge. Janie thinks the hedge is too thick for Beautification members to do a clean-up, and there's no trash there just seaweed. She thinks Public Works can do the trimming without a clean-up. David suggested they do a clean-up after the hedge is cut, if needed. Sara offered to go rake the seaweed out. Janie said another problem is the corner that belongs to Casa Clara. Janie had called Casa Clara to ask something be done with their hedge, but she hasn't heard back from them. She'll call again. Kimmeron suggested contacting someone on the board, possibly Tom Alfares. Janie said another concern is the section from the hedge to the street, it's a grassy and dirty ditch. Chris explained it's a swale and it's a part of the City's storm water system. It's a project the City is working on with FEMA to do many swales all over the City.

Peter added new plantings at the bocce court. Janie groomed the Coconut Pathway and two Tiki Hut gardens and fertilized those three gardens. Jackie agreed to take care of the middle section, still needing done. Corky planted sea grapes. Janie said the soaker hose to 8<sup>th</sup> Street side of areca hedge wasn't working the last time she was there. Chris said he thinks Greg turns it on and off manually. Janie asked if we know anything about the Luis Gonzalez contract. Chris said he's waiting for a call back. Janie stated if she doesn't get a response from him in the next two days she's going to contact someone else; either Sue Casey from Homestead or Christian Landscaping.

Janie will be thanking the Fishing and Boating Club at the Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Hopefully she'll have a report to give them on progress of the hedge enhancement.

**BEYOND BEAUTIFICATION:** David spoke of planning for the hot dog event, called Hot Dogs at The Hut, scheduled for February 23. This would be presented as a Community Appreciation Project by the Beautification Committee. He handed out a tentative flyer for the event, and a sign-up sheet of duties.

Sandy requested everyone vote for the recipient of the Beautification Award. Current suggestions are: 241 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 291 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 621 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 311 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 621 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 181 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 2110 Coury Drive, The Cabana Club, and The Cay. Sandy will email the complete list to everyone. They will vote next Thursday when they meet.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Tentative locations will be either Havana Jack's Restaurant, or Jackie Topolski's residence, no address was given.

Meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Beverly Traeger  
Administrative Assistant

Post-meeting Note: As was discussed, all future meetings will be held on public property, accessible to the public. Marble Hall is the default location.