

MINUTES

Beautification Committee

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Marble Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL: The regular meeting of the Beautification Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair Greg Burke. **Members present:** Chair Greg Burke, Vice-Chair Dave McKeegan, Kimmeron Lisle, Rob Dumas, Sandy Bachman **Absent:** Pam Geronemus. **Also Present:** City Administrator Dave Turner, City Clerk Silvia Gransee, Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino.

2. Introduction Of Guests: Chair Greg Burke introduced Commissioner Beth Ramsay-Vickrey as guest.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the April 11th, 2022, were accepted as written.

4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sandy Bachman reported no updates on the budget report for April. The Treasurer further reported on having deposited \$1,003.00 from the 'Hot-Dogs-in-The-Hut' event to the Giving Tree account bringing the total account balance to \$7,344.64. Dave McKeegan asked if a check from the Fishing & Boating Club was received in the amount of \$600.00. The Committee was unsure if the check was received, and Treasurer Sandy Bachman stated she will follow up with Sue Redding on the status.

5. Gardening And Landscaping Updates

a. Dave McKeegan reported on a successful move of the Lignum Vitae tree and thanked Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino on his help with moving the tree. Kimmeron Lisle asked if Dave McKeegan to share the group picture of moving the tree so it can be published on the Beautification Page. Kimmeron Lisle further thanked Dave McKeegan on all the work he has done since January in preparation for moving the tree and his extraordinary efforts to save the tree.

b. Dave McKeegan shared the updated work party schedule with the committee and staff. Dave McKeegan reported that the work parties started somewhat late this year in February and gave an update on which once were completed. Dave McKeegan reported that the Memorial Garden was mostly done by Mary Kohl and thanked for her help on the Beautification Committee. Dave McKeegan continued by updating on the tentatively scheduled East Park and Areca Hedge Garden and was not sure if they would be addressed this season. Greg Burke stated that the Public Works Department cleaned the trailer lot and stated that he will continue working on it. Dave McKeegan reported that the Barrier Garden was completed, as well as the Coconut Path which is now a certified Butterfly Garden. In addition, Sunset Park has not been completed, but a request for a rainbow eucalyptus tree was received. Dave McKeegan stated that he would like to allocate monies this or next year to buy a replacement tree. The committee was unsure of the origin of the original rainbow eucalyptus tree but agreed that it was lost during Hurricane Irma. The committee further discussed how to plant the rainbow eucalyptus tree and associated pricing. City Administrator Dave Turner asked on where the tree was located which Sandy Bachman explained was near the parking area on the right. Dave McKeegan stated that this is a preliminary idea and

that a location map on where to plant and costs would have to be determined first. Sandy Bachman suggested that a tree could possibly be purchased in Miami and recounted that the Trefry's used to be in charge of watering the previous tree when it was planted. Dave McKeehan stated that at the next committee hearing the issue could be discussed again with more specific details. Dave McKeehan further updated on the 'Janie's Walk' garden where the main event was the move of the Lignum Vitae Tree. Dave McKeehan stated that there are a few more plants that he would like to harvest including a Prickly Pear and a Robellini Tree. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino stated that he believes that the Robellini Tree could be pulled with the small tractor and asked if the Committee had a place in mind for transplanting. The Committee did not have a location yet but decided that the golf course might be a good place for transplanting. Dave McKeehan stated that he will talk to Daryl Rice and will get back to the Committee on the issue. Dave McKeehan further reported on the Boulder and Orchid Garden, as well as on the Island Litter Patrol, which were tentatively scheduled for this year. Greg Burke stated that he has been working on the Orchid Garden and had been transplanting some to the Gumbo Limbo Tree. Sandy Bachman asked on the issue of iguanas and how to keep the orchid flowers from being eaten. The Committee discussed on different ways to keep the iguanas in check. City Administrator Turner reported that the 'Iguana Control' company is starting the following week with every city property being controlled. The City Administrator further reported that residential properties can sign up for the service of iguana removal as well. City Administrator Turner reported that the service provided is accurate and all city property is included. The City Administrator stated that flyers for residents will be available next week, and that pricing is reasonable. The City Administrator further said that service will be weekly which will hopefully help with the reproduction. Greg Burke reported that in the late afternoon on 8^h Street many Iguanas can be seen lined up on the grass. The committee continued talking about where iguanas can be seen.

c. **Pickleball Fence North Possible Solution:** Dave McKeehan reported that this item was added to the agenda before the Recreation Committee had decided to use netting on the pickleball courts. City Administrator Dave Turner reported that there were concerns about wind loads on the fence, and debris on the courts with plants on the fence, and that the Recreation Board voted on using netting instead. City Administrator Turner explained that he was worried about heavy weather and the fence being pulled down.

6. Board Member Items For Discussion/Approval: City Administrator Dave Turner asked on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Greg Burke asked on the responsibility of the landscaping around the new city hall which City Administrator Turner replied will be part of the City's build-out. The City Administrator confirmed that the costs will be covered by City Hall but that the Committee will have input on the landscaping in correlation with Florida Friendly Landscaping. City Administrator Turner replied that a contractor will be hired for planting and irrigation, but the Beautification Committee will be involved in the process. Kimmeron Lisle asked if the educational signage for the landscaping will be included which City Administrator Dave Turner confirmed. City Administrator Turner stated that the Beautification Committee does not have to be concerned about any funding for landscaping for the new City Hall but should concentrate on the City Gardens. Greg Burke addressed the last mound in front of the "What's-Your-Hurry" sign which has not been completed. Greg Burke further stated that money is still available in the budget for the current year. Kimmeron Lisle reported that Florida Friendly Landscaping has provided a beautiful design but requires that the invasive plants be removed. Greg Burke said that it would be too costly to remove the invasives and that the other mounds are doing fine regardless

of the invasive plants. Kimmeron Lisle explained that the new design is not a mound but a different concept with low irrigation with plants indigenous to the Keys. Kimmeron Lisle further said that the idea is to get away for the need for irrigation. Public Works Department Head also stated the

water pressure most likely would not be sufficient, and a professional would have to come out and redesign the area. The Committee further discussed the possibility of incorporating the new design and costs associated with it. Kimmeron Lisle responded that she will bring the proposal to the next meeting and also suggested the possibility of a fundraiser to cover the costs to redo the entrance to Key Colony Beach. The Committee discussed the possibility of a Zoom for the next meeting since Dave McKeehan will not be able to attend in person. After further discussion, the Committee decided to table the Zoom Meeting for now. The Committee further discussed the location of the invasive plants and what specific plants are considered invasives and how to properly remove them. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino confirmed that the invasive roots do have to be treated after being cut down. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino stated that the lighting at the entrance is outdated and insufficient and should be replaced. Kimmeron Lisle suggested solar lighting for replacement lights and stated she will get more information on it. Dave McKeehan stated that he would like to attend the next meeting via phone to be able to be part of the discussion. Dave McKeehan also said that he had an extra copy of the Gardens of Key Colony Beach and to let him know if anyone else would like a copy. Greg Burke continued by saying that the sign at the bottom of the post should be painted dark blue to match the background. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino stated that he can color match the paint and will purchase the needed paint. Dave McKeehan asked City Administrator Turner when he will need the proposed Beautification Budget which the City Administrator stated is needed by June 14th. The Committee discussed on what monies were available and used last year, and what is anticipated for next year. Kimmeron Lisle brought up the topic of storage cases for the holiday wreaths and if a purchase was needed. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino stated that he will follow up on the question if the garbage cans had lids on where the wreaths are currently stored. Greg Burke suggested the possibility of heavy cardboard boxes for storage which Kimmeron Lisle replied that plastic might be a better solution for storage. The Committee further discussed storage solutions for the wreaths. City Administrator Dave Turner confirmed that a proposed budget will work for the next meeting and explained that if the budget remains the same the committee will have \$1,750.00 for planting and about \$3,000.00 for maintenance. The Committee further discussed on how much mulch was used last year, the costs associated with and what is expected to be used next year. Dave McKeehan estimated that for the coming year about \$2,000.00 will be needed to cover the cost of mulch. City Administrator Turner asked Kimmeron Lisle to clarify that the committee is good on holiday decorations and the only need is for storage. Kimmeron Lisle stated that there is always a need for lights and addressed the cost of insurance, which City Administrator Turner stated will be going up 8%. Kimmeron Lisle addressed the issue of electricity problems at East Park which Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino confirmed was repaired before the holidays. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino stated that the electric at the Gazebo is in bad shape and that additional outlets were put in at East Park. Greg Burke asked Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino if it requires new brackets or strapping which the Department Head denied. The Committee discussed the need for an additional alternate member and possible candidates to have a quorum during the summer months. The Committee further discussed how many members are required for a quorum and agreed that they should be able to fill the requirement during the summer months.

7. Beautification Award: None during the Summer season to be started again in October 2022.

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia Gransee

City Clerk

ADOPTED: June 14, 2022

Silvia Gransee

City Clerk