

MINUTES

Beautification Committee

Tuesday, June 14, 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 (via phone), Kimmeron Lisle, Rob Dumas, Pam Geronemus. **Absent:** Sandy Bachman. **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 May 10th, 2022, were accepted as written with the correction of the spelling of Mayr Kohl's last name.

MOTION: Motion made by Kimmeron Lisle, seconded by Greg Burke, to approve the minutes with minor correction.

ON THE MOTION: Roll call vote. Unanimous approval.

4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sandy Bachman was excused from the meeting. Chair Greg Burke asked City Administrator Dave Turner on budget line item for Christmas decorations, which the City Administrator explained were funds transferred to the Beautification Committee from the General Fund. Kimmeron Lisle asked Dave McKeegan what account the cost of the mulch for the work parties came out to which Dave McKeegan stated he was not sure. City Clerk Gransee stated that she believed it came out of a line item from the Beautification Committee's budget. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino stated that there is about a palette of mulch left.

5. Gardening and Landscaping Updates

Chair Greg Burke asked City Administrator Dave Turner what the responsibilities are included for the city's Brightview Landscaping Service which the City Administrator explained are all the grass maintenance and plantings. Chair Greg Burke explained that a resident had come to see him about her home looking out towards Sadowski Causeway. City Administrator Dave Turner explained that it has been explained to the resident that the property in question is private and that a private landscaping company took care of the property, and the rear of the building was painted due to graffiti. City Administrator Turner further explained that the property is private and not city property. City Administrator Turner confirmed that the property in question is the Circle-K gas station and that the issue has been previously discussed. Chair Greg Burke further asked about plants by the entrance getting continuously smaller after being trimmed, to which Kimmeron Lisle stated that she believes an iguana is responsible for and that Iguana Control is aware of the problem. City Administrator Dave Turner stated that Brightview had been paid in the beginning of the season to fill in the empty spots that the Beautification Committee had brought to his attention. Chair Greg Burke recalled that these plants had been previously replaced

by the prior landscaping company. City Administrator Dave Turner explained that the Landscaping Company does not complete any trimming without his prior approval. Kimmeron Lisle said that she would like to see some additional trimming on the ixoras. Chair Greg Burke asked if the fertilizing was done which City Administrator Turner confirmed was done the week before with liquid and granules. The Committee continued discussing the problem of the iguanas for the city. Kimmeron Lisle asked Dave McKeehan for ideas where to use the remainder pallet of mulch. Dave McKeehan said that the mulch can be used in the winter or any other areas the Beautification Committee sees fit. Dave McKeehan explained that the hedge by the children's playground was not completed due to unfinished weeding and trimming. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino suggested that East Park could use some additional mulch. (The recording quality was very low on Dave McKeehan's reply due to being on the phone. My notes read that Dave McKeehan suggested Sunset Park as well for additional mulch). Kimmeron Lisle stated that she will look with Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino on what mulch is needed at East Park and will organize a work party for it as well. Chair Greg Burke reported that the Lignum Vitae Tree looks good with some short pieces of growth due to stress. Dave McKeehan replied that he received pictures of the tree and the damages look consistent to be coming from the transplanting. Greg Burke asked if there was a transplanting solution to use on the tree which Dave McKeehan explained was added when it was transplanted. Greg Burke further asked if the tree should be re-mulched which Dave McKeehan said would not hurt the tree. Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino stated that he will drop off some mulch for the tree. Dave McKeehan further addressed the issue of iguanas at the Memorial Garden to which Kimmeron Lisle reported that Iguana Control is aware of it as well as City Administrator Dave Turner.

6. Board Member Items for Discussion/Approval

a) Review/Discussion FLL Landscape Design for KCB Entrance: Kimmeron Lisle reported on the entrance design and that it does not require irrigation. Kimmeron Lisle further reported that she has been looking at available grants through water conservation grants but there is not much available. Kimmeron Lisle continued saying that she has been talking with Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino on additional options through FWC to help get rid of the invasive plants. The Committee discussed what invasive plants were removed previously and what fertilizer was used on the buttonwood hedge. Greg Burke asked what the process is on the decision that the invasive plants are removed. Kimmeron Lisle stated that once the invasive plants are removed FFL could be notified. The Committee further discussed possible cutbacks on plants and what the criteria was for hiring Florida Friendly Landscaping. Kimmeron Lisle stated that money was not the criteria for hiring the firm nor was there ever a promise for money. City Administrator Turner stated the FLL is waiting for the new site plans for City Hall to move forward with the landscaping surrounding the new building. City Administrator Turner continued saying that he recommends not spending too much time on the front entrance as the upcoming budget will be tight. Kimmeron Lisle asked on the possibility of raising money which City Administrator Turner stated has to be brought in front of the Commission for approval. The Committee further discussed water usage for the front entrance and irrigation costs associated with new plantings. Dave McKeehan stated that he put aside money in the proposed Beautification budget for the front entrance garden and commended Kimmeron Lisle for the great work she has done with Florida Friendly Landscaping. The Committee further discussed the front entrance garden. Dave McKeehan asked for confirmation that the new garden design would not require water irrigation which Kimmeron Lisle confirmed. Dave McKeehan stated that work parties could be organized for

the maintenance of the new garden. The Committee further discussed if to move forward with the new garden and what alternatives to Florida Friendly Landscaping could be used. Kimmeron Lisle explained the different reasons why FFL was chosen by the Beautification Committee to help with the design of the front entrance garden. The Committee continued to discuss estimated costs for a new garden. Dave McKeehan stated that the Committee should prepare better in the future to explain costs to the Commission in form of detailed reports. Greg Burke asked if the Committee had received a packet of the drawing from Florida Friendly Landscaping which Kimmeron Lisle said was not received. Greg Burke asked if FFL could supply the details on the area where the Public Work Trucks need to have an egress road so work could be started there. Kimmeron Lisle stated that the project could be scaled down or other ideas could be implemented. Kimmeron Lisle further stated that she will contact Florida Friendly Landscaping.

b) 2022/2023 Beautification Budget: *Dave McKeehan explained the proposed Beautification Budget for the upcoming year. Kimmeron Lisle asked for \$2,000.00 to be added for holiday supplies, and \$2,500.00 for Public Works during the holiday season. Department Head Mike Guarino confirmed that East Park had the electric done and that the Gazebo will be rewired before the holidays. Kimmeron Lisle further asked about the cost on the Holiday Special Event insurance which City Administrator Dave Turner stated was \$2,750.00. The Committee discussed the cost of the insurance and possible alternatives to it. City Administrator Turner stated that the insurance is necessary for the Holiday decorating event. Kimmeron Lisle asked if the insurance policy could be re-evaluated for coverage which the City Administrator confirmed. Greg Burke asked if the Hot-Dog-in-The-Hut event was covered by this insurance as well which City Administrator Turner stated he will check on. The Committee further discussed the need for the insurance for the holiday decorating event.*

Greg Burke stated that Commissioner Ramsay-Vickrey found an affordable vendor in Homestead for the purchase of a Eucalyptus Tree with much lower costs than were anticipated. City Administrator Dave Turner asked if a Eucalyptus Tree is considered a native tree which Chair Greg Burke stated he does not believe. City Administrator Turner explained that the Stewardship Grant requires Sunset Park to have only native plants or trees, and that the Committee must verify that the tree is considered native. Dave McKeehan suggested to visit Crane Point to verify if the Eucalyptus Tree is considered native.

Kimmeron Lisle asked Department Head Mike Guarino on his thoughts on how much money should be budgeted for Public Works for the holidays to which Mike Guarino answered \$2,000.00. Kimmeron Lisle clarified the budget line item to be 575-051 Holiday Supplies/Public Works. Kimmeron Lisle further asked for \$500.00 to be budgeted for 575-050 Holiday Supplies, as well as the line item for the Holiday insurance. City Administrator confirmed with the Committee that he will verify what is included in the insurance.

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

The Committee discussed if the sign was still posted on the previous Beautification Award winner. Chair Greg Burke stated that he will go take the sign down.

Kimmeron Lisle and Dave Turner explained that they continue having problems contacting Michelle Mularz and will keep trying to reach out to her.

8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia Gransee

City Clerk

ADOPTED: August 9, 2022

Silvia Gransee

City Clerk