

MINUTES

Beautification Committee

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 – 3:30 PM

Marble Hall, 600 W. Ocean Drive, Key Colony Beach, Florida &
via Zoom Conferencing.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLLCALL:** The Key Colony Beach Beautification Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy Bachman at 3:30 PM, followed by Rollcall. **Present:** Chair Sandy Bachman, Dave McKeehan, Janie Byland, Janice Mueller, 1st Alternate Jo Corso, 2nd Alternate Nancy Helme. **Absent:** Vice-Chair Pam Geronemus. **Also present:** Mayor Freddie Foster, Commissioner Kirk Diehl, City Administrator John Bartus, Administrative Assistant Par Darnall, City Clerk Silvia Roussin, Recreation Committee Chair Cindy Catto.

- 2. SWEARING IN OF NEWLY APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS JANIE BYLAND & NANCY HELME:** City Clerk Roussin administered the Oath of Office to Janie Byland and Nancy Helme.

Chair Bachman provided information on the process for submitting agenda requests and nominations for the Beautification Awards, as well as the responsibilities involved in managing the city gardens, including adding new plantings and addressing watering and landscaping needs. City Clerk Roussin offered additional comments on Sunshine Law and the Committee's role in purchasing landscaping supplies. Chair Bachman proposed developing a priority list for all gardens to facilitate future purchases, a suggestion supported by City Clerk Roussin.

- 3. AGENDA ADDITIONS, CHANGES, OR DELETIONS:** 1st Alternate Jo Corso requested adding a discussion about noise decibel levels of lawn equipment in the community. Chair Bachman asked to discuss the Purple Glory Tree. City Clerk Roussin confirmed the requested additions.

MOTION: Motion made by Chair Bachman to approve. Jo Corso seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

- 4. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Guests in attendance introduced themselves to the Committee.

- 5. CITIZEN COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 10, 2026:** There were no changes to the minutes, and Chair Bachman asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION: Motion made by Dave McKeehan to approve the minutes. Janie Byland seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

- 7. BUDGET UPDATE**

- February Budget Report
- February Giving Tree Report

Dave McKeehan presented the regular Committee budget report, including the Giving Tree Report and funds received from the Hot Dog in the Hut event. The Committee asked for clarification regarding a Home Depot expenditure, and City Clerk Roussin confirmed she would follow up.

8. GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING UPDATES

Chair Bachman mentioned that RO water is currently unavailable at the Coconut Path. Dave McKeehan confirmed that the RO water system is down due to ongoing construction and also noted that the water is functioning at the Orchid Garden.

a. State of All Gardens

1. Orchid Garden & Coconut Pathway – Janie Byland provided an update on the Orchid Garden located on 7th Street and requested clarification on the protocol for expenses she incurred for the garden. City Clerk Roussin confirmed that reimbursements for her expenses would be processed and reminded of Chair Bachman’s suggestion to create a list of improvements for all gardens to be discussed at the next meeting. After further discussion about purchasing policies, Chair Bachman noted that the topic of improvements for all gardens will be on next month’s agenda. Chair Bachman commented on the work Janie Byland completed on the Orchid Garden, including new plantings and soil, with assistance from Public Works in removing some plants. Janie Byland commented on the intention to replace the plants that were removed, and for Public Works Department Head Guarino to help with the replacement. Chair Bachman inquired about an estimate of costs for the replacement plants and soil to cover expenses.

MOTION: Motion made by Chair Bachman to allocate up to \$800.00 for the purchase of Croutons and Trinettes as well as dirt and mulch. Janie Byland seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: The Committee discussed the watering ability, with Janie Byland commenting that nothing should be planted until it has been confirmed.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

Dave McKeehan commented on planting a Purple Glory Bush and observing its growth. Janie Byland discussed the name of the Orchid Garden, noting the absence of orchids, and mentioned the inclusion in the Bee-Line regarding orchid care. Janie Byland also provided additional comments on the care and watering of the Coconut Path, and plans to add more plants if watering needs are met. Dave McKeehan offered the use of a hose from his garden to water the Coconut Path.

2. Tiki Garden by The Inn – Janice Mueller reported on mulching needs, a small area where water runoff created some gravel needs, and to revisit the garden to observe additional needs.
3. Post Office Tiki – Nancy Helme reported watering the Post Office Tiki and having completed some small landscaping, with minor debris for the Public Works Department to clean up. Chair Bachman informed that the Committee will receive more Milkweed to attract more butterflies, and Tim Heitman reported having 12 caterpillars that have hatched into butterflies. Nancy Helme stated to be new to Florida and would love to have some guidance on Florida gardening.
4. Parking Garden – Chair Bachman reported that the garden is not receiving adequate water and that several plants are exhibiting signs of cold damage. Janie Byland observed that the Trinettes appeared unhealthy and recommended renewing the garden and replacing it. The Committee discussed the overall health of the plants throughout the city and agreed to consult with Public Works Department Head, Mike Guarino, to determine next steps.

5. Detention Pond & 7th Street Color Garden: Dave McKeehan reported that crabs were transplanted into the pond and noted that the recent dry spell has negatively impacted plant health. He explained which areas require the most watering and reported that some plants are doing well and attracting butterflies when in bloom. Dave McKeehan also observed possible salt spray damage to two Holly trees, resulting in leaf loss. Mayor Foster cautioned that the plants are under warranty and advised allowing the contractor to determine appropriate watering needs and assess the plants' health.
6. Front & Boulder Garden, 1st Street Park: Janie Byland reported on the garden behind U.S. 1, noting it is currently covered in blue flowers but has been overrun with weeds, which may have killed many of the plants. She indicated that Mike Guarino is addressing the issue and that new plants and soil may be needed. Chair Bachman commented on the lack of flowers behind the main garden, and it was noted that Public Works Department Head Guarino is aware of the situation.
7. City Hall, Waterfront Garden & Sunset Park: Sandy Bachman discussed how most plants around City Hall have been replanted and plans to return next month to assess if replacements are needed. Chair Bachman reported that some flowers at Sunset Park are disappearing, but it's unclear what is causing the disappearances. Mayor Foster expressed uncertainty about the cause of the health plants' problems and requested expert advice on the issue. Chair Bachman also mentioned the possibility of replacing the plants and doing some trimming, possibly after Easter.

9. **BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE IMPROVEMENT LIST:** Nothing new to add.

10. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL**

- a. Suggestions/Ideas for 2026 Independence Day Celebration and Involvement of the Recreation Committee

Chair Bachman asked for ideas on the Committee's involvement in the Independence Day Celebration. Jo Corso asked about the possibility of installing the holiday banners, which Chair Bachman stated had to be reviewed with Public Works Department Head Guarino.

- b. Discussion/Approval on the Purchase of Mini Library for \$409.95

Chairman Bachman stated that she spoke with Public Works Department Head Guarino, who recommended the preferred option for purchasing the mini-library. Chair Bachman noted that the Recreation Committee declined the donated funds from the Hot Dog in the Hut event and suggested purchasing a mini library for the park on 7th Street for children's books.

MOTION: Motion made by Chair Bachman to allocate \$1,000.00 to purchase two mini-libraries for Sunset Park and the 7th Street Playground.

DISCUSSION: Cindy Catto informed that the Recreation Committee will consider purchasing a third mini-library at their next meeting and to have a year-round volunteer monitor the mini-libraries.

MOTION: Chair Bachman asked for a second.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: None.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

c. Continued Review of a Work Party Schedule

Dave McKeehan reported that a work party is scheduled for the following day at the golf course, including mulch spreading, grooming, and orchid plantings, along with any other activities that can improve the course before the Saturday Golf Tournament. He noted that all future work parties will start at 10:00 a.m. and discussed upcoming work parties, including East Park and Sunset Park. Dave McKeehan reviewed the remaining work party schedule through the end of the season, including a discussion about adding the Sadowski Causeway Garden between Ocean and the bridge to the schedule.

d. New Plantings for the Orchid Garden: See under 7a(1).

e. Discussion on noise decibel level on lawn equipment in a community

Jo Corso commented on ongoing concerns about the noise levels of commercial landscapers using landscaping equipment. Jo Corso discussed decibel-level standards used in other cities and expressed interest in initiating a discussion on the issue. Chair Bachman remarked on residents' comments regarding noise levels on Wednesdays. Jo Corso noted that noise levels sometimes affect her ability to stay at her house and confirmed she would be the point person to pursue research on the matter. Dave McKeehan mentioned that other municipalities in different states have limits on gas-powered blowers unless exceptions are granted, and they typically require electric blowers for smaller properties. The Committee provided additional comments on the topic and agreed to conduct further research.

f. Continued Discussion on a Purple glory tree **agenda addition **

Chair Bachman commented on questions about whether the Purple Glory is the right tree for the spot near the What's Your Hurry sign and recommended continuing to watch the test bush that Dave McKeehan has planted before making any decisions. Janie Byland talked about the soil and planting needs of the plant. The Committee agreed to put the matter on hold until next month to allow more time to monitor the planted bush.

11. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL FOR UPCOMING BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

a. 260 8th Street: The Committee discussed improvements made to the property.

MOTION: Motion made by Chair Bachman to nominate 260 8th Street for the Beautification Award.

DISCUSSION: Chair Bachman commented on the houses on 7th Street having no front gardens but rather in the back, and suggested that the beautification award sign be placed in the back.

MOTION: Chair Bachman asked for a second. Jo Corso seconded the motion.

Further Discussion: None.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

City Clerk Roussin confirmed that the March Award was given to 29 7th Street, and Chair Bachman confirmed that the award ceremony had been held.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.

13. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 3:30 PM

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia Roussin

City Clerk

ADOPTED: April 14, 2026

Silvia Roussin

City Clerk