

# MINUTES

## Beautification Committee

Tuesday, April 14, 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, Vice-Chair Pam Geronemus, Dave McKeehan, Janie Byland, Alternates Jo Corso and Nancy Helme. **Absent:** Janice Mueller. **Also present:** Commissioner Tom Harding, City Administrator John Bartus, Mayor Freddie Foster, Administrative Assistant Par Darnall, Commissioner Kirk Diehl, Vice-Mayor Doug Colonell, City Clerk Silvia Roussin

**2. AGENDA ADDITIONS, CHANGES, OR DELETIONS:** Chair Sandy Bachman asked for agenda changes. Janie Byland requested adding two gardens to the agenda, which Chair Bachman said could be included in her report. Jo Corso requested adding a discussion item on removing power lines in the city. There were no other changes, and Chair Bachman asked for a motion to approve.

**MOTION:** Motion made by Vice-Chair Geronemus to approve the agenda with changes. Dave McKeehan seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**ON THE MOTION:** Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None.

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

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

**MOTION:** Motion made by Dave McKeehan to approve. Vice-Chair Geronemus seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**ON THE MOTION:** Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

### **6. BUDGET UPDATE**

- a. March Budget Report
- b. March Giving Tree Report

Dave McKeehan presented the March Budget Report, covering expenditures, remaining funds in the regular budget, and allocations made, and reported no changes to the Givingtree budget. The Committee discussed the end of the current fiscal year and available funds.

### **7. GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING UPDATES**

- a. State of All Gardens
  1. Orchid Garden & Coconut Pathway – Chair Bachman reported that plants had been removed and will be replanted the following month by Public Works. The Committee discussed planned landscaping work and tree removals. Janie Byland reported that the rubber tree is growing very large and that trimming and potting in a bag are possible options. Sandy Bachman reported that papaya trees are available from Florence Schmidt.

2. Tiki Garden by The Inn – Chair Bachman reported that the work party was postponed to a later date, allowing Janice Muller to attend, with some minor work to be completed.
3. Post Office Tiki – Nancy Helme reported on cleaning up the ferns and recalled prior discussions about Brightview removing the plants. Nancy Helme suggested adding orchids or other colorful plants. Chair Bachman discussed the possibility of members meeting in the gardens to educate themselves about plants and to understand where plantings should be made.
4. Detention Pond & 7th Street Color Garden – Dave McKeehan provided a slideshow and an update on recent plantings, their current condition, and the irrigation/watering plan managed by Public Works, confirming no need for a new system at this time. Dave McKeehan noted that the Holly Tree is healthy but needs staking, and that several other trees around the pond vary in health by location and may require replacement. The Committee discussed weed control and the impact of salt spray from the fountains. Mayor Foster reported that the City received a credit to replace damaged trees with different species and noted that the palm trees are recovering but still have watering needs. McKeehan emphasized the goal of maintaining a healthy ecosystem—clean water without chemical discharges—to support wildlife such as small crabs and shrimp. Chair Bachman expressed disappointment that birds have not returned; members discussed possible reasons. There was a brief discussion regarding wastewater plant overflow and potential discharge into the pond; Mayor Foster advised that follow-up information is expected from US Water and DEP. The Committee also discussed potential future improvements, including benches for residents to enjoy the area. McKeehan further reported on work completed at the 7th Street Color Garden and confirmed an established irrigation system.
5. Front & Boulder Garden, 1st Street Park – Vice-Chair Geronemus reported on trimming and placement considerations for muhly grass by the What’s-Your-Hurry Sign. Committee members discussed muhly grass around the retention pond, its high water needs, and the plants' recovery. The Committee noted that the hose by the entrance sign is missing and that its location and availability need to be confirmed. Additional discussion included Mexican Heather, general yard landscaping by Brightview, and a potential Orange Geiger tree for the entrance area. Vice-Chair Geronemus reported that 1st Street Park looks good overall but currently has no flowers; she noted recent iguana sightings and stated she will obtain vincas for seasonal color. Members noted that the Boulder Garden would be a good location for a future work party; Dave McKeehan commented on the boulders and related site considerations and confirmed upcoming work parties.
6. City Hall, Parking, Waterfront Garden & Sunset Park – Chair Bachman reported that some plants in the City Hall and Post Offices areas are declining, including one dead palm tree, and recommended leaving certain areas as-is during ongoing construction. She noted that additional monkey grass is needed and that the City Hall front garden is doing adequately, with further work planned once the facility project is complete. Chair Bachman spoke about Waterfront Garden and relocating potted desert roses, stating she expects to move them next month. Janie Byland announced an upcoming Garden Club presentation on desert roses, open to the public. For Sunset Park, Chair Bachman reported that additional trees have been planted and that several plants were recently transplanted there on a trial basis. She noted receipt of an orchid donation that will be placed at Sunset Park and stated she will obtain additional orchids as available. Chair Bachman also discussed the flowers on the bridge, noting overwatering and compacted soil; petunias and other plantings appear to be doing well, although wind conditions are challenging. Chair Bachman reported that new plants in

the Sadowski hanging baskets were installed and that petunias were recently added, and noted which plants are doing well.

## **8. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE IMPROVEMENT LIST**

Chair Bachman reviewed the Beautification Committee Improvement List.

1. Attracting Birds by the Detention Pond/Creation of an Ecosystem: Ongoing.
2. Orchid Garden: Chair Bachman suggested that these areas by the Coconut Pathway and Tikis may be good candidates for additional orchids. Janie Byland commented that the plants installed along the Coconut Pathway were previously stolen. Dave McKeehan confirmed that established orchid plantings are blooming and doing well.
3. Golf Course Landscaping: Chair Bachman reported that mulching has been completed, bougainvillea was added near the front, additional flowers were planted, and mulch was spread.
4. Golf Course Clubhouse Landscaping: Chair Bachman informed that the flowers are being maintained.
5. Lighting & Flower Baskets on Sadowski Bridge: Chair Bachman informed Vice-Mayor Colonell to take care of the flowers and noted there is not much lighting.
6. Walkway Paver on Detention Pond – deferred: Pavers will be installed in the area.
7. Plantings by the tennis/basketball court – deferred until the court is completed.
8. City Hall Mini Library – deferred until completion of the building: Chair Bachman informed that the bookcase for the Post Office has been placed and seems to be a better location than City Hall. Chair Bachman informed that the mini-libraries have arrived and will be installed, time permitting. Chair Bachman informed that Recreation Committee Chair Sally Cherry has volunteered to maintain the Mini-Libraries.

Vice-Mayor Colonell asked for an update on the status of tree orders for the Golf Course and input from the Committee. Commissioner Harding confirmed that the trees have not yet been ordered and explained that the landscaping is functional rather than decorative. Vice-Mayor Colonell expressed concerns about the Beautification Committee not being involved in the process. Commissioner Harding reported having received two landscape quotes for protection from golf balls and confirmed to send Vice-Mayor Colonell the list for review. City Clerk Roussin recalled the City Commission's approval of up to \$30,000.00 in funds for outdoor furniture and landscaping on the Golf Course, and noted that the detailed quotes would come to the City Commission for approval.

Chair Sandy Bachman asked Committee Members to share any suggestions for improvements to be added to the list.

## **9. COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL**

- a. Follow-Up Suggestions/Ideas for 2026 Independence Day Celebration: Chair Bachman asked the Committee for ideas and suggested installing the holiday banners for the event. Janie Byland suggested hanging the flower baskets in the gazebos to make room for the banners.
- b. Update on the Mini-Libraries: See under 7a.
- c. Continued Discussion on Noise Decibel Levels for Lawn Equipment: Jo Corso reported on research regarding state preemption of local regulation of gas-powered landscape equipment. Jo Corso noted that Governor Ron DeSantis signed a wide-ranging Florida Farm Bill (SB 290) that includes a provision prohibiting cities and counties from enacting ordinances that restrict the use of gasoline-powered farm or landscape equipment, such as leaf blowers. The bill is scheduled to take

effect July 1, 2026. The Committee discussed the implications for potential local action and agreed to await additional updates and guidance. Chair Bachman noted the need to review available decibel/noise standards as a possible alternative approach. Commissioner Harding and other members briefly commented on how other municipalities are addressing similar concerns.

- d. Continued Discussion on the Purple Glory Tree: See under 7a.
- e. Continued Review of a Work Party Schedule: Chair Bachman reminded on the use of the golf cart for the upcoming work party and on further work parties to be reviewed at the next meeting.
- f. Discussion of Landscaping the Area North of the Memorial Garden – Vice-Mayor Colonell commented on prior discussions about adding rocks for topsoil containment and seeding, and reported that a landscaper advised against installing grass and instead recommended creating a graded slope to improve drainage. The Committee discussed timing and agreed to wait until City Hall-related work is completed before proceeding.
- g. Discussion on Powerline in the City: Jo Corso reported on the possibility of burying powerlines in the future and, in the process, discovered that AT&T lines and boxes might be removed. City Clerk Roussin confirmed to follow up with account information. Jo Corso gave further details on the requirements and costs for burying powerlines, as well as the possibility of grants to cover costs.

**10. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL FOR UPCOMING BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS**

- a. Nominations for May: Chair Bachman reported that the April award was given to 260 8th Street and that the monthly beautification awards will begin again in October.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The Committee agreed to hold upcoming Summer meetings via Zoom only at 10:00 AM on their regular meeting date.

**12. NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, May 12th, 2026, 10:00 AM via Zoom only

**13. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Silvia Roussin*

City Clerk

***ADOPTED: May 12, 2026***

***Silvia Roussin***

***City Clerk***