

MINUTES

Beautification Committee

Tuesday, July 14th, 2026 – 10:00 AM

At the Temporary Meeting Place at The Key Colony Inn, Back Patio
700 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 10:00 AM, followed by Rollcall. **Present:** Chair Sandy Bachman, Vice-Chair Pam Geronemus, Dave McKeegan (via Zoom), Janie Byland, Janice Mueller. **Also present:** City Administrator John Bartus, Commissioner Tom Harding, Vice-Mayor Doug Colonell (via Zoom), Mayor Freddie Foster (via Zoom), Commissioner Kirk Diehl (via Zoom), Administrative Assistant Par Darnall, City Clerk Silvia Roussin.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS, CHANGES, OR DELETIONS

Chair Bachman added the review of the 4th of July Holiday to the agenda. City Clerk Roussin reported the addition of the Proposal by Blue Native for Landscaping Services for \$16,175.00 under 9c. There were no further additions, and Chair Bachman asked for a motion to approve.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-Chair Geronemus to approve. Janice Mueller seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

- 3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** No guests were in attendance.

- 4. CITIZEN COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:** None. Chair Bachman commented on having received many positive comments about the flowers on the bridge and along the Sadowski Causeway.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a.** June 9th, 2026

There were no changes to the minutes, and Chair Bachman asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-Chair Geronemus to approve. Janie Byland seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

- a.** June Budget Report
- b.** June Giving Tree Report

Dave McKeegan provided the budget update and reported on expenditures and remaining funds. Janie Byland asked about remaining budget funds and whether they could roll over into the next fiscal year. Chair Bachman stated that the funds will not roll over and that the intention is to spend the remaining funds during the current fiscal year. Dave McKeegan further reported that the Giving Tree report remains unchanged. Chair Bachman commented on the possibility of using Giving Tree funds for substantial gardening at the new City Hall as something special for the City.

Vice-Mayor Colonell commented on the sailfish statue project, including work on the diamond foundation, landscaping ideas, and possible funding. Chair Bachman commented on the possibility of adding a

fountain under the sailfish. Vice-Mayor Colonell stated that he could share the sketch, noted that the foundation had not yet been designed, and explained the dimensions of the diamond base with the fish on top and an area below for possible plants or flowers. Vice-Mayor Colonell welcomed Committee involvement and noted that one possible location could be near the corner of Sadowski Causeway and Ocean Drive. Vice-Mayor Colonell confirmed the intention to have a digital sign on Sadowski Causeway and further commented on the possibility of donating funds to the sailfish statue. City Administrator Bartus commented on the grant application for the digital sign through the TDC, which will help promote programs and events in the City. Chair Bachman noted the potential benefits of the sign for residents and tourists. City Administrator Bartus noted that he has been working on the statue with Vice-Mayor Colonell and is excited about the addition to the City Hall grounds.

7. GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING UPDATES

a. State of All Gardens

1. Kapok Garden & Orchid/Coconut Pathway – Janie Byland reported on replanting's and the condition of the garden. She noted that BrightView had done a good job and reported concerns regarding invasive critters, with Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino to follow up. She stated that Mike Guarino is watering the young plants more frequently and that the other side of the Kapok Garden is looking good. Chair Bachman emphasized the importance of reviewing the gardens twice a month and commended Janie Byland on the garden. Janie Byland further reported that the Coconut Pathway looks good but is very dry and said she would review whether new plants are needed when Dave McKeegan returns. Chair Bachman reminded the Committee that Dave McKeegan's water may be used when needed. Janie Byland also discussed the structure built by Dave McKeegan for the orchids and noted that additional orchids had been placed on trees to receive more protection from the sun. Chair Bachman commented that the hot summer may not be the right time to place orchids on trees. Janie Byland further noted that the flags previously placed in the gardens for the 4th of July celebration have since been removed and are ready for storage.
2. Tiki Garden by The Inn – Janice Mueller reported that the garden looks good. She noted that mulch is needed, followed by a brief discussion regarding mulch needs.
3. Post Office Tiki – Nancy Helme: No report.
4. Detention Pond & 7th Street Color Garden – Dave McKeegan reported on wildlife observed at the pond by Commissioner Harding, and Public Works Department Head Guarino also reported wildlife activity. Dave McKeegan stated that efforts are progressing to attract wildlife and create an ecosystem. Vice-Chair Geronemus reported seeing many birds in the morning. Chair Bachman commented on the need for benches. Dave McKeegan commented on the possibility of creating a viewing area, perhaps a tiki hut, for bird watching and nature viewing. Chair Bachman noted that the walking path by Shelter Bay Drive is being prepared for pavers. Dave McKeegan commented that the project is moving in the right direction. A brief discussion followed regarding the impact of the fountains on wildlife, with Janie Byland reporting that Mayor Foster had turned down the fountain spray during the day to avoid disrupting bird activity. Dave McKeegan commented that efforts remain a work in progress and that photographs showing wildlife demonstrate that coordination with the City Commission, City Hall, and the Committee is paying off.
5. Front & Boulder Garden, 1st Street Park – Vice-Chair Geronemus reported that the garden is struggling due to a lack of water. Public Works Department Head Guarino had reported that the irrigation controls had been broken into, but the issue has since been repaired. Vice-Chair

Geronemus noted that the Muhly grass is struggling after being cut too short and stated that it will be fertilized again next week. Chair Bachman commented that the trees by 1st Street are growing.

6. City Hall, Parking, Waterfront Garden & Sunset Park – Chair Bachman reported that efforts continue to keep planters and flowers around the trees growing during construction at City Hall. Chair Bachman reported that irrigation has been installed around the trees and that some of the monkey grass has been removed. Chair Bachman questioned whether the dead tree by the Post Office should be removed, with Mayor Foster suggesting that the Committee wait until after construction. Chair Bachman reported that the ferns beneath the buttonwoods had been removed per Nancy Helme’s request and noted that mulch has not yet been added to allow the roots to clear. Chair Bachman reported that the parking area island looks much better and that the waterfront looks good after replanting. Chair Bachman stated that the area behind the Post Office needs cleanup, including weed removal.

Chair Bachman reported that she is working with Blue Native on a landscape plan for the triangle area along Sadowski Causeway, including irrigation, and that a quote is before the Committee. Vice-Mayor Colonell reviewed the proposed improvements, including cleanup, grading, sod, rock, irrigation, and possible additions of flowering shrubs, while noting the need to maintain access for mangrove trimming. The Committee discussed project timing, irrigation, maintenance, and budget considerations, including completing the landscaping closer to the completion of the new City Hall. Vice-Mayor Colonell also reported that the City Hall contractor will clean the area behind City Hall and will consult with the landscaper regarding improvements to the Memorial Garden. Chair Bachman asked Committee members to review the landscape plans and provide suggestions for the Memorial Garden.

Chair Bachman also commented on new hanging baskets, new plants, and possible fertilizer damage to the pots. Chair Bachman reported that Sunset Park looks beautiful and is being used by the public. Mayor Foster asked whether the Muhly grass at Sunset Park needs to be cut before fall. Janie Byland commented that the grass by the sign had not been cut far enough, and Mayor Foster suggested that Public Works Department Head Mike Guarino could assist. Chair Bachman stated that she would work with Mike Guarino on the matter.

7. Golf Course: No report.

8. **BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE IMPROVEMENT LIST:** There were no changes to the list.

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

- a. Continued Discussion/Approval of Landscaping by the Public Works Building and Golf Warehouse

Chair Bachman commented that the project has been on the agenda for a long time and asked Mike Guarino to obtain quotes from Supreme and BrightView to landscape both Public Works buildings and the side of the Golf Course Clubhouse. She provided additional comments regarding the proposal for landscaping improvements, including royal poincianas and further golf course improvements, and noted that the Committee is currently waiting for a quote.

Vice-Chair Geronemus commented on suggested pruning times for the Muhly grass, followed by further Committee comments. Chair Bachman stated that the Committee will work together to come up with a solution.

Chair Bachman asked the Committee for approval to move forward with the appropriate location and project to spend some of the Committee's funds. Chair Bachman clarified the landscaping plans around the Public Works buildings, including foundation plants and possibly a tree. Janie Byland commented on the importance of irrigation and having it included in the cost. The Committee discussed watering needs, location, sun and shade requirements, and agreed to wait to see what the landscapers propose. Vice-Mayor Colonell asked about the plants that were installed by the entrance to the Clubhouse and their watering needs. Chair Bachman stated that water is available, that the plants do not need much, and that a hose is available nearby. Janice Mueller asked Chair Bachman whether a motion was desired to receive estimates for the area.

MOTION: Motion made by Janice Mueller to receive estimates for landscaping around the two sides of the Public Works buildings and the additional side by the Clubhouse. Vice-Chair Geronemus seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Vice-Mayor Colonell suggested asking Blue Native, in addition to Supreme Landscaping and BrightView, for a proposal.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

b. Discussion/Approval of Proposals for the Installation of Three Geiger Trees

1. Supreme Landscaping Services: \$2,250.00
2. BrightView Landscaping Services: \$2,978.62

Chair Bachman introduced the agenda item and discussed the proposed installation of three Geiger trees near the "What's Your Hurry" sign. The Committee reviewed the quotes received. Chair Bachman suggested that Supreme Landscaping be given an opportunity to complete the work and asked Vice-Chair Geronemus for comment.

MOTION: Motion made by Vice-Chair Geronemus to use Supreme Landscaping for the three orange Geiger trees. Janice Mueller seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Dave McKeegan commented on staking requirements and the need to follow up with the contractor to confirm the scope of the proposal. Dave McKeegan further commented on soil type, digging difficulties, and bedrock, noting that the area can be problematic. Chair Bachman stated that she would follow up to ensure the proposal includes everything that was included in the BrightView proposal. Chair Bachman confirmed that she would follow up with Mike Guarino to obtain confirmation in writing before proceeding. Vice-Mayor Colonell added questions regarding watering requirements, the watering period, and the warranty on the trees. Chair Bachman confirmed that the Committee would purchase three trees and that the exact location within the area would be determined. City Clerk Roussin clarified that the motion was for approval of the purchase and installation of three Geiger trees by Supreme Landscaping, with follow-up on the scope of work, warranty, and watering needs.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

c. Discussion/Approval of a Proposal by Blue Native for Landscaping Services for \$16,175.00

****Agenda addition**

See Item 7a(6).

d. Review of the 4th of July Holiday **Agenda addition

Chair Bachman thanked Mike Guarino, the Public Works Department, Administrative Assistant Cheryl Baker, Janie Byland, Jeff Montgomery, Nancy Helme, and the Police Department for assisting with the

4th of July barbecue and banner. She stated that the decorations have been stored for next year and asked for suggestions for future improvements. Janie Byland suggested adding more buntings to the City Hall trailer. Chair Bachman reported that approximately 30 people attended the barbecue at Sunset Park and noted that a future digital sign could help inform visitors. She also stated that attendees enjoyed the event, although many people were on the water due to the hot weather. Vice-Mayor Colonell asked whether he should request a revised quote from Blue Native to include flowering bushes along the boulders. Chair Bachman commented that additional color would be beneficial and that it may be preferable for the same landscaper to complete the City Hall landscaping project. Vice-Mayor Colonell also asked about a possible vine along the boulders or within the mangroves. Chair Bachman stated that she would look into the vine idea and follow up with local experts regarding suitable options. Vice-Mayor Colonell stated that he would follow up with the contractor.

10. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL FOR UPCOMING BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: The awards will not take place until the fall. Chair Bachman noted that The Inn did a lovely job with its landscaping.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.

12. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 11th, 2026, at 10:00 AM, in person and via Zoom at The Inn.

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia Roussin

City Clerk

ADOPTED: August 11, 2026

Silvia Roussin

City Clerk