

MINUTES

Beautification Committee

Tuesday, September 8th, 2026 – 10:00 AM

At the Temporary Meeting Place for the City of Key Colony Beach at
The Key Colony Inn – Back Patio, 700 W. Ocean Drive, Key Colony Beach
& via Zoom Conferencing

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: 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, Janice Mueller, Janie Byland, Dave McKeehan (via Zoom), First Alternate Jo Corso, and Second Alternate Nancy Helme. **Also present:** City Administrator John Bartus, City Clerk Silvia Roussin, and Administrative Assistant Par Darnall, Vice-Mayor Doug Colonell (via Zoom), Commissioner Kirk Diehl.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS, CHANGES, OR DELETIONS: Chair Bachman added Holiday Decorations as a discussion item. City Clerk Roussin asked for the addition of the 2027 Hot Dog in the Hut Event at Dave McKeehan's request, a BrightView proposal for landscaping improvements totaling \$5,800.40 at Janie Byland's request, and the purchase of a lighted holiday tree for \$199.99. There were no other changes, and Chair Bachman asked for a motion to approve the agenda with additions.

MOTION: Chair Bachman moved to add the three items to the agenda. Vice-Chair Geronemus seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None.

ON THE MOTION: Roll-call vote; motion approved unanimously.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chair Bachman recognized meeting attendee Judy Durant, who attended via Zoom.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE: None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 11, 2026. There were no changes to the minutes and Chair Bachman asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Geronemus moved to approve the minutes. Janice Mueller seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

6. BUDGET UPDATE

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

Dave McKeehan presented the August budget report, including expenditures, allocations, and remaining funds. He also reviewed the Giving Tree report, including expenditures and the remaining balance, and noted that the fiscal year was nearing its end. Chair Bachman provided an update on recent plantings, including the Geiger trees, five new trees at the golf course, ixoras, and additional plantings completed near the Public Works building and the Parking Lot Garden.

Chair Bachman asked Jo Corso for her thoughts on the Giving Tree wall, including whether it should remain down while the wall is painted and until the Committee determines how to proceed. Jo Corso suggested using bricks. City Administrator Bartus confirmed that bricks could be used and stated that he would be willing to oversee the project with direction from the Commission.

7. GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING UPDATES

a. State of All Gardens

1. Kapok Garden, Orchid/Coconut Pathway, and Parking Lot Garden – Janie Byland reported that the coconut pathway is performing well. No new plants will be installed until construction is complete and water service is restored. The Committee discussed the Parking Lot Garden, including whether new plants are needed, the condition of the aging Trinettes, and possible replacements.

MOTION: Chair Bachman moved to allocate \$500.00 for landscaping replacements.

DISCUSSION: Dave McKeehan discussed available funds for the next fiscal year and noted that additional funding may be needed for future barrier garden upgrades. The Committee discussed the garden's location, watering needs, and possible replacement plantings, and agreed to add the item to the improvement list for future consideration. Chair Bachman stated that Public Works waters the Kapok Garden three times per week and that Committee members may provide supplemental watering if desired. She also noted that additional fertilizer is available. Janie Byland reported that iguanas ate the crotons.

ON THE MOTION: No action was taken.

1. Tiki Garden by The Inn – Janice Mueller commented that mulch may be needed in the future and reported that the flowers are thriving with limited water.
2. Post Office Tiki – Nancy Helme reported that some yard work was completed a few weeks ago. The Committee discussed holes in the ground and whether they may be caused by land crabs or iguanas. Members also discussed placing orchids in the tree and possible future plantings in Carol's Garden when the weather is cooler, including suitable locations, sun exposure, orchid types, and additional shaded areas.
3. City Hall Garden – Chair Bachman reviewed the garden, and Dave McKeehan noted that little work has been needed because the garden is largely self-maintaining, with established grass and trees. The Committee agreed to consider the area as a project for next year after City Hall reopens, with possible improvements including additional trimming and hanging orchids.
4. Detention Pond and 7th Street Color Garden – Dave McKeehan reported speaking with the Mayor, who noted bird activity at the detention pond. Dave McKeehan further reported that the pond remains well stocked, continues to attract wildlife, and that the ecosystem appears to be functioning well. Janie Byland commented that the area looks good overall but noted that several trees on the west end are not doing well, possibly due to salt exposure. Dave McKeehan suggested considering more salt-tolerant trees and possible replacements in next year's budget. Chair Bachman agreed, noting that the trees on the north and east sides are doing well and that the daisies and grasses are also growing well. Mr. McKeehan discussed future maintenance needs, and Chair Bachman stated that Public Works is maintaining the area weekly. Chair Bachman also asked Commissioner Diehl about the sod installation, and Commissioner Diehl noted that it was upcoming.
5. Front & Boulder Garden and 1st Street Park – Vice-Chair Geronemus provided an update on the garden's condition, including the new trees and plantings. She discussed adding flowers to attract butterflies and hummingbirds and reported seeing a squirrel on Coury Drive.

6. City Hall, Parking, Waterfront Garden, and Sunset Park – Chair Bachman reported on challenges associated with ongoing work in the City Hall area, including the amount of water required to maintain the potted plants. She noted that the desert roses have been stressed by transplantation but may improve next year. Vice-Mayor Colonell provided an update on improvements to the triangle garden, including beautification and erosion control efforts. He reported that boulders are being placed to build up the area and that plans include installing grass, an irrigation system, and flowering bushes. Vice-Mayor Colonell also discussed plans to plant flowering vines in the mangroves and noted that Public Works needs adequate access to the mangroves. Vice-Mayor Colonell reported that the irrigation system had been installed, and the remaining improvements are expected to be completed within the next week or so.

Vice-Mayor Colonell also provided an update on the sailfish sculpture, noting that the diamond remains in fabrication and that CPH is completing the design work at no cost to the City. He stated that Design Source may be interested in constructing a fountain and that City Administrator John Bartus will provide an update. Vice-Mayor Colonell asked the Committee to reconsider the sculpture's location and suggested a site near the intersection of the brick pavers in the City Hall Garden. He recommended walking the site to determine the best placement. The Committee discussed the sculpture's progress, current donations and costs, and the need for additional donations. City Administrator Bartus stated that he would share the project flyer, follow up with Design Source, and provide additional information on donations made by Mike Puto.

Chair Bachman reported further that Sunset Park looks great.

7. Golf Course – Chair Bachman reported that the Royal Poincianas have been planted and are being watered.
8. **BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE IMPROVEMENT LIST** – Chair Bachman added the barrier garden to the improvement list and asked members to submit additional ideas. The Committee also discussed walkways and pavers near the detention pond, possible future improvements to the pond, and a tiki structure between the pond and the basketball court. City Administrator John Bartus stated that the TDC grant application includes a tiki structure for the basketball court and provided additional information on current TDC applications, including a fitness trail with exercise stations.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/APPROVAL

- a. **Hot Dog in the Hut Event – February 27th:** Dave McKeehan discussed proposed dates for the 2027 Hot Dog in the Hut Event and nominated February 27, 2027. The Committee reached consensus to hold the annual event on that date. Chair Bachman agreed to contact Recreation Committee Chair Cindy Catto to confirm the date and the Recreation Committee's co-sponsorship.

The Committee further discussed allocating donation funds for the sailfish sculpture, with general agreement that the project should be completed by the event date.

- b. **Holiday Decorations:** Chair Bachman spoke about the proposed lighted tree purchase and made a motion to order the tree.

MOTION: Chair Bachman moved to order the 12-foot multicolored lighted tree. Vice-Chair Geronemus seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Chair Bachman clarified that the cost was \$199.99.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

Chair Bachman discussed upcoming holiday decorating plans and ordering needs. Janie Byland mentioned a Christmas store on the mainland and suggested visiting it. The Committee discussed available funds, scheduled an inventory review, and prepared a list of needed decorations. The Committee further discussed a trip to the mainland and preparations for the upcoming holiday season. After further discussion, Janie Byland and Vice-Chair Geronemus volunteered to lead the holiday decorating efforts.

c. Discussion/Approval of a BrightView Proposal for Landscape Improvements for \$5,800.40.

Chair Bachman presented a proposal from Brightview to add a mound at the front entrance, per Janie Byland's suggestion. Chair Bachman noted a preference for the area's current appearance and recommended waiting until the newly planted trees mature before proceeding. Vice-Chair Geronemus agreed. The Committee discussed watering needs, and Janie Byland noted that Public Works Department Head Guarino is watering the area. Chair Bachman asked Committee members to inspect the site and recommended postponing the item until the next meeting while consulting with Public Works Department Head Guarino about irrigation.

10. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF UPCOMING BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: Chair Bachman discussed the upcoming Beautification Awards and a home on 8th Street that had previously been selected. She stated that the award would be presented in October, that she would contact the recipients, and that the Beautification Award program would resume. Chair Bachman also noted landscaping improvements at the shopping center and Nauti Turtle Restaurant and suggested a nomination for the November award.

MOTION: Chair Bachman moved to nominate the Shopping Center for the November Beautification Award. Vice-Chair Geronemus seconded the motion.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: Chair Bachman clarified that the nomination would include the entire shopping center. Janie Byland agreed that the improvements were significant.

Commissioner Diehl discussed adding holiday lighting to the Sunset Park gazebo and suggested that the Committee consider a recommendation to the City Commission. The Committee supported the idea.

ON THE MOTION: Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 10:00 AM, in person and via Zoom at The Inn.

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Silvia Roussin

City Clerk

ADOPTED: October 13th, 2026

Silvia Roussin

City Clerk