City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for February 21, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Ms. Rock, Ms. Burns, Ms. Brown, Mr. Garland, Mr. White, and Mr. Gainey.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Burns.

Mr. White made a motion to accept the minutes of the Nov. 15, 2017, meeting as written. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurers' Report, stating the Board had $2,121.82 remaining for this fiscal year, assuming the $1,166.68 for repairing the gas pillars on SC 34 and $800 for the Spring Clean Up.

Gateway Plan Update: Ms. Rock said the sign at Verizon would hopefully be installed by Friday. The light brackets were delayed in shipping but are on the way within the week for the lights to be installed upon their arrival. Darlington Garden Club paid for plants and trees at the Lamar Highway entrance, five natchez crepe myrtles, three oak trees, and 10 arborvitae. Four pink crepe myrtles were relocated onto 52 Bypass in front of Raceway Inn to add color and interest to that entrance. Mr. White asked about Taylor Garden Shop handling the added planted areas along Express Lane. Ms. Rock said she would confirm with them. Mr. White said he has approached McLeod about sponsoring that entrance and still thinks they may do it.

Pride Award for Business: Mr. Garland nominated Mr. Charlie Weatherford's Wilds Edwards House for the award. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Appreciation: Ms. Brown nominated Dennis Insurance office on Dargan Street for its upgrades to the exterior. Mr. White nominated Mr. Jay James for collecting trash most mornings on his way to work. Ms. Burns said she needs to find out the name of the gentleman collecting litter on South Main Street to nominate him as well for his efforts. Ms. Rock will mail out certificates of appreciation to those individuals.

Clean Up Day: The Board selected Saturday, April 28, as the spring Clean Up Darlington Day with May 5 as a rain date. Mr. Garland said to order two cement pots, one to replace the one that was hit by a car in front of the print shop and the other to serve as a spare since cars keep hitting them. Ms. Brown asked Mr. Gainey to coordinate with Ms. Jones about the Keep Darlington County Beautiful Clean Up. **Next month members are asked to bring project ideas.**

Bicycle Racks: Ms. Rock said she did not have an update.

Administrator's Update: Mr. Garland said he walked the Square with Mr. Roosevelt Scott, who will repair 24 spots where the bricks have sunken in around the water meters. He said the City is working with the County to keep all its offices in town on North Main Street. He said the County wants to move everything but the court functions out to the sheriff's office, which would be bad for our town.

Unfinished Business: Mr. White said if he got the plants, he would install them at the median on South Main Street near Mitchell Josey Funeral Home. He said to deliver them to the City or Grove Hill Cemetery.

Ms. Rock said the stop sign brackets had to be purchased and have arrived. We are waiting on someone to get to the project in the street department.

Ms. Rock said we did not get awarded the Palmetto Pride grant for the walkway next to Vaughan Insurance. The archway has been installed and appeared in a recent News & Press. Mr. Garland said he is getting a quote on repairing the chipped bricks along that walkway.

Mr. White asked that we reach out to the property owner in front of Walmart to make that outparcel look more attractive at the City's entrance.

Ms. Burns asked about the gas pillars on South Main Street. Ms. Rock said the maintenance company has said they keep being cut off. Mr. Gainey said there is not cut off on those pillars. Mr. White said, when he and Mr. Gainey talked with another vendor and the gas company, they said a globe was needed inside the lamps to keep them from blowing out. Ms. Brown said a new gas meter was needed at the SC34 pillars. Mr. Gainey said to call Ron Harrison with SCE&G is who he and Mr. White spoke with about this project. Ms. Brown said service needs to be restored.

Calendar for 2018: Ms. Rock asked for two changes to the 2018 board meeting calendar due to conflicts with her schedule in April and Thanksgiving holiday in November. MR. Garland made a motion to change the April meeting to April 25, the last Wednesday of the month, and the November meeting to Nov. 14, the second Wednesday. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for March 21, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Ms. Rock, Ms. Burns, Ms. Brown, Ms. Ishman, Ms. Bridgers, Mr. Garland, Mr. White, and Mr. Gainey.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Burns.

Ms. Burns made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2018, meeting as written. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurers' Report, stating the Board had $1,267.26 remaining for this fiscal year. Mr. Garland noted that the archway on Cashua Street cost nearly $7,000 and is not included in this budget line item. The Board said that they have received lots of positive comments about the archway.

The Board questioned the $75 maintenance charge from West Propane and requested the City contact them about the gas pillars since they keep going out.

Gateway Plan Update: Ms. Rock said the lights should be installed at the sign at Verizon next week. Ms. Brown said C&S Landscaping would be putting the roses out tomorrow weather permitting. Mr. White said he has approached McLeod about sponsoring that entrance and still thinks they may do it. Mr. Garland said he and Ms. Reed discussed approaching businesses and churches to pay for the Washington Street entrance. Mr. White asked for a directional sign to be moved by DOT that blocks part of the new sign five or seven feet. Ms. Burns said she was concerned about the unsightly utilities near the sign. The Board suggested a few more bushes in front of it to shield it from view. Mr. White asked for something to be done about Mitchell-Josey median weeds. Mrs. Ishman suggested greenhouse fabric. Mr. White said the weeds will diminish over time, but it's new planting and needs to be weeded more.

Pride Award for Business: Ms. Rock said that Mr. Charlie Weatherford, the owner of the business selected in February, the Wilds Edwards House on Edwards Avenue, has declined the Pride Award and asked the Board to give it to another business. Mr. White nominated Grove Hill Cemetery. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Appreciation: Ms. Rock read a list of nominees, Julie Howle of 106 Woodcreek Road, Darlington Country Club's new entrance, Oakdale neighborhood's new entrance, Palmetto Office Furniture's newly painted roof, and Nick's BBQ's updated interior. Ms. Burns added Fahrenheit 225 to the list. Ms. Rock made a motion to send certificates of appreciation to all those listed. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock will mail out certificates of appreciation to those individuals.

Clean Up Day: The Board selected Saturday, April 28, as the spring Clean Up Darlington Day. Ms. Brown said we will have more groups participating, sheriff's department, Genesis, Curtis Boyd, and others. She said we need a standardized sign design for sponsors of specific areas. Ms. Burns suggested a scroll

detail. Ms. Rock will collect samples and costs. Ms. Brown said they would maintain it for a year and we could remove the sign if they no longer sponsored it. She also asked for a more public presence, like a banner across the courthouse. Ms. Burns said she was meeting with the County to coordinate efforts. Ms. Rock suggested having a prize for the people collecting the most trash to get more neighborhoods involved.

Bicycle Racks and Stop Signs: Ms. Rock said she did not have an update. The individual on staff that typically handles these projects has been out on sick leave and will not return to regular duty for several weeks. Ms. Brown suggested getting a contractor to get a price to install since the City was having staffing issues.

Administrator's Update: Mr. Garland said Mr. Roosevelt Scott repaired 24 spots where the bricks have sunken in around the water meters on the Public Square. He met with Ben Williamson and DOT concerning seven oak trees as part of the North Main Street bridge replacement, and they saved four of the seven. We also got them to include tree replacement in DOT bid documents for future projects. Mr. Garland said Cashua Street was supposed to be milled down in April but DOT didn't mention we had to replace 20 water lines until last week. They will install 20 new catch basins to help with storm water, but the paving will likely not start until the end of April at the earliest.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Burns thanked the Street Department for cleaning up the large debris near Wells Park. Ms. Brown said if we can't get staff to handle the stop signs and bicycle racks we should just hire someone to get it done. Ms. Rock said the pots for South Main Street in front of the print shop was scheduled for next week.

Next Meeting: 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 25, at City Hall.

New Business: Ms. Rock said a grant period has opened for the AARP Community Challenge and asked for project suggestions. The Board agreed using the plans for the walkway between Vaughan Insurance and Carolina Bank off Cashua Street (which failed to receive a grant from Palmetto Pride) may be a good option.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for April 25, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Ms. Rock, Ms. Burns, Ms. Brown, Ms. Ishman, Ms. Bridgers, Mr. Garland, and Mr. Gainey, as well as guests, Mr. Curtis Boyd and Mrs. Lou Kirchen.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Ishman.

Ms. Burns made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 21, 2018, meeting as written. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurers' Report, stating the Board had $1,192.11 remaining for this fiscal year, assuming previous appropriations of $350 for plants at the Mitchell Josey median and $1,166.68 for installation of lights at the SC34 entrance. Ms. Brown said the plants would only cost $300 from Southeastern Lawn Care, which has installed them. Ms. Rock said the $1,166.68 will not be paid unless the company resolves the issue of the lights at the 52 entrance. Ms. Brown made a motion to re-allocate that $1,166.68 at the next meeting if there was no resolution. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Clean Up Day: The event has grown with additional areas being added and volunteers participating. Ms. Brown listed a variety of projects, including the trees on the Square, the parking lots behind the buildings on the Square, the median at Mitchell-Josey (which has been completed thanks to Mr. Boyd and Southeastern Lawn Care), the ditch in front of the Walmart fueling station, the planted area near the gas pillars on South Main Street, the walkway off Cashua Street, North Main Street, and West Broad Street, among others areas. The club will not be spraying the pots this time. Volunteers include a couple of employees at the courthouse who will work with community service workers on the courthouse grounds, the Darlington County Sheriff's Department, the Darlington Police Department (re-stripping the parking lot off Orange Street), and Genesis Healthcare clearing overgrowth on the North Main Street sidewalks. Ms. Rock said a few other folks have called and will attend. Ms. Burns said Mrs. Janice Flowers has offered her lawnmower to anyone who needs it that day. Expenses so far include 150 bales of pine straw ($600), 900 vinca plants ($332.64), dirt ($150), mold killer ($50), and fertilizer ($10).Ms. Brown noted a bill of $172 for the plants in the pot on South Main Street that got hit by a car. Ms. Rock said that would come from a separate line item and should be billed separately from the cleanup day. Mr. Boyd has begun and completed several projects using his own funds. Mr. Boyd said the Walmart entrance will be his focus on Saturday. Ms. Rock made a motion to allocate an additional $400 to the Darlington Garden Club for Clean Up Day. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Brown and Ms. Burns thanked Mr. Boyd for all he has done and continues to do toward the cleanup effort.

Gateway Plan Update: Mr. Gainey said he met with Duke Energy about power at the flag poles in front of Auddie Brown Chevrolet and at the Verizon gateway. He asked that the irrigation lines be marked around the new sign and plantings, so Duke Energy will not cut it when they install the power in next week. Ms. Brown said she and Ms. Rock worked on a formal proposal that has been submitted to

McLeod to possibly fund that new sign. Ms. Rock said Genesis has decided to fund the Washington Street entrance and has submitted a $4,000 check to start the work. They chose to do the plan with the additional Palmetto trees. The donor plaques have come in under the original estimate of $750 each from a different vendor, Carolina Printing, at about $450 each for the same size. The one for Genesis has been ordered, and we are awaiting a proof on the Darlington Garden Club sign for the 401 entrance.

Pride Award: Ms. Rock said she is still trying to coordinate the Business Award with the mayor and Grove Hill Cemetery. She asked the Board to delay the residential award until May.

Bicycle Racks and Stop Signs: Ms. Rock had no update on the bicycle racks. She asked for the Board's thoughts on the stop signs at present or if the Board needed to add the base. Ms. Brown made a motion to order the two bases. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Update: Mr. Garland said he did get five bulbs replaced on the Public Square through Duke Energy.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Brown suggested replacing the "Mayo School" street sign in the median with a more formal way finding sign to direct visitors to the library, courthouse, etc.

Next Meeting: 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, at City Hall, not the third Wednesday due to the Memorial Day holiday.

New Business: Ms. Rock said

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for May 23, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:08 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Ms. Rock, Ms. Burns, Ms. Brown, Ms. Ishman, Mr. Garland, and Mr. Gainey.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Burns.

Ms. Rock printed the March minutes by mistake, so approval of the April 25, 2018, minutes was tabled until next meeting.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurers' Report, stating the Board had $1,642.40 remaining for this fiscal year. Ms. Brown said that Mr. Curtis Boyd has taken care of the bill for the plants on the Mitchell Josey Median on South Main Street, so we won't have that expense. That leaves the Board $1,942.40. Ms. Brown said Mrs. Carolyn Abbott has all the bills from Clean Up Day and will be billing the City from the Club. Ms. Burns has called for an appointment with Carolina Bank to see if they will donate the $200 used to paint their wall in the City Lane/Cashua Street walkway as well as ask about sponsoring a bench. Ms. Brown presented a quote from Barn of All Trades in Lamar for sponsor signs for the Mitchell Josey median and Wells Park. The signs are semi-permanent, 18x24 campaign size, and would remain up as long as the business maintained the area. The cost is $200 each and $60 to change the face. Ms. Ishman made a motion to spend $400 on the two sponsorship signs. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Brown said Council member Bryant Gardner had another landscaper interested in the space near Sav-Way on Pearl Street, but there is no irrigation there for plantings and suggested the flag pole area. Ms. Rock said the quote for replacing the irrigation there in front of Auddie Brown would be $875 from C&S Landscaping.

Ms. Brown presented some samples of a possible way-finding sign to replace the single pole on South Main Street at Chestnut, leading folks to the Mayo High School. The Corinthian post would be 4.5 inch in diameter with a 24x36 sign. The cost would be $1,250 for an 8-foot sign installed or $1,350 for the 10-foot sign. The Board agreed that 10 feet was too tall. Mr. Garland reminded the Board we have to get approval of any signage there from SCDOT. Ms. Brown said there were lots of places they could be installed and that she could ask the DDA to sponsor a sign too. Ms. Rock suggested getting a price on the design the Board seemed to like that had two posts instead of one.

Ms. Rock made a motion to use the remaining funds to purchase a bench and two rocking chairs for Liberty Lane to replace the wooden benches. Mr. Garland made the second. Ms. Ishman said the rocking chairs would look nice with the City tree logo on them. Mr. Gainey made suggestions on how to anchor them to the brick and to powder coat the pipe to match the chairs. Ms. Brown amended the motion for the Board to purchase four rocking chairs for Liberty Lane. Ms. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously. The cost is $350 each, so that leaves enough funds for the miscellaneous items to install the chairs.

Gateway Plan Update: Mr. Gainey said he had Mr. Chesley Benjamin lighting and working on the gas pillars on South Main Street. He thinks they need a new regulator to stay lit. He changed the copper

tubing, which was too small. Ms. Burns said she noticed the flame was larger. Ms. Brown asked if he could repair the ones at McLeod. Mr. Gainey said he did not know. Ms. Brown asked if we could get the old lights back from West Propane. Ms. Rock said she will investigate this.

Ms. Rock said West Propane is supposed to be getting a price to repair the ones at McLeod. She said she is meeting with the brick vendor next week to figure the timeline for the Washington Street entrance. The plaques for Genesis and the Darlington Garden Club have been ordered for the entrances, and she called and went to Carolina Printing this week to check on it but has not heard an ETA. The price is $300 cheaper than Blackmon Memorial.

Pride Award: Ms. Rock said she is still trying to coordinate the Business Award with the mayor and Grove Hill Cemetery and had hoped Mr. White would have attended the meeting to choose a date. Ms. Ishman nominated 114 Harper Street for the Residential Pride Award. Mr. Gainey said the owner was 81 years old and did the work in the yard herself. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Pride Certificates: Ms. Brown nominated Lura Marsh at Palmetto Tax for all the exterior work she has done and Singletary's Tire & Auto for painting their building. Ms. Burns nominated The Purple Fish. Ms. Brown made a motion to recognize all those nominated. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Update: Mr. Garland said SCDOT has given the City three weeks to move the monuments at the Psillos Garden. Ms. Brown said Sally Psillos will have the monument moved to her home and the Street Department would move the cement benches to the Point (401 Entrance). Ms. Burns asked about the dogwood trees. Mr. Garland said he would ask Ben Williamson who has been working to save the oak trees in that area. Mr. Garland said that he put a beautification person in the budget for FY2018-19 who will be overseen by the Darlington Garden Club instead of having a maintenance contract.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Rock said the bases for the stop signs have been ordered.

Ms. Brown said Mr. Curtis Boyd wants to donate four pictures to hang on the wall at Carolina Bank building wall on the Cashua Street/City Lane walkway. These would be historic photos blown up large on vinyl attached to metal with a wood frame. She said he envisions them in various sizes like a photo collage wall of historic Darlington. The photos would be directly attached to the wall. He understands that the building may be sold but they can be moved elsewhere. Ms. Rock suggested inside the Public walkway if needed. Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the concept. Ms. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brown said several folks have asked about the "I heart Darlington" flags, and the Chamber will be ordering more to sell and is working on a way for people to purchase them online.

Next Meeting: 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 20, at City Hall

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for June 20, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Ms. Rock, Ms. Burns, Ms. Brown, Ms. Ishman, Mr. Garland, and Mr. Gainey and City Council member Sheila Baccus.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Ishman.

Ms. Burns made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2018, meeting as written. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garland made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2018, meeting as written. Ms. Brown made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Rock said that Clean Up Day expenses were well above what was planned, and the Board has spent more than its allotment for FY 2017-18. Mr. Garland said that was ok since we tripled the participation. Ms. Burns said we had so many people and so many places to work. Ms. Brown said we planted more flowers and put out more pine straw. It was a very successful Clean Up event. Ms. Brown asked how much was left for the Verizon entrance. Ms. Rock said approximately $1,000. Ms. Brown said the original landscaping plans included a low serpentine hedge, mulch, and more roses to Express Lane, and her initial estimates show that would cost close to $3,200. Ms. Rock asked about the plantings in front of the crepe myrtles at that same intersection. Ms. Brown said that was a totally separate project. She said she wanted to see that area completed. The Board agreed.

The rocking chairs for Liberty Lane and sponsor signs for Wells Park and the South Main Street median will be ready next week. Ms. Brown suggested repurposing the benches by sanding them and putting them at the children's park near the tennis courts. The Board agreed with that idea.

The Psillos Garden monument has been relocated since SCDOT has purchased the property and will be taking down at least one cherry tree there. Ms. Rock said she has not received the bill yet for moving the monument. Mr. Garland said the proceeds from the sale of that property were given to the Beautification donation fund to cover this expense. The Board asked if the City could still maintain the area once the construction was complete since it would still look like a park. Mr. Garland said yes.

Way finding Signs: Ms. Brown said she wanted everyone to seriously consider a one-pole sign for the Mitchell-Josey median on South Main Street because a two-pole sign might obstruct the view for drivers. Previous complaints caused the removal of landscaping. Ms. Burns suggested putting the sponsorship sign on the opposite end, leaving town. Ms. Ishman said she didn't mind the one-pole design as long as the sign was readable. Ms. Brown said the sign would cost $1,000 to $1,200 installed. Ms. Rock said she will ask for a proof, so the Board can see the text size.

Gateway Plan Update: Ms. Burns said the gas pillars look so good on South Main Street. Ms. Rock reported that the bricks have been delivered to begin construction of the new sign at the Washington Street entrance, the plaques for the donors have been ordered, and Duke Energy will have power to the

Verizon sign and flag pole area in front of Auddie Brown by Friday. She said the electrician will then turn all the lights on and check the spotlight at the Lamar Highway entrance all at the same time.

Pride Award: Ms. Rock said she is still trying to coordinate the Business Award with the mayor and Grove Hill Cemetery and had hoped Mr. White would have attended the meeting to choose a date. Mr. White has been out of town with a medical issue.

Pride Certificates: Ms. Rock said the recipients value the certificates a lot, stating that Singletary's Auto Repair had theirs mounted and had a special photo made with its staff featuring the recognition. Ms. Burns said Ms. Lura Marsh at Palmetto Express Tax also was thankful for it. Mr. Garland nominated H&S Floors & Furnishings for the much-needed work to its exterior. Ms. Brown nominated the Cultural Realism Complex on Pearl Street for updating its doors and entries, Southeastern Lawncare in appreciation for their work in Wells Park, and Fitness World and Curtis Boyd for his work on upgrading the median on U.S. 52. Ms. Ishman made a second on the nominations. The motion carried unanimously.

Long Term Plan Progress: Ms. Brown asked the Board to review the long-term Beautification plan to see how far we have come and how we might update it for City Council. Ms. Rock will mail copies to all members to review over the next two months since there is no meeting in July. She said the Board is expected to submit an annual update to Council. Ms. Rock will add this to the August agenda.

Administrator's Update: Mr. Garland said he has delivered a Memorandum of Understanding for the City's partnership with the Darlington Garden Club to oversee the new beautification staff person. Ms. Brown said the Club approved it. Mr. Garland said the City continues to fight for the completion of the entire sidewalk project on South Main Street to Walgreens. SCDOT had suggested stopping at Walmart due to funding issues. He said the City has been working on the project for four years and put up $110,000 to match the SCDOT's $400,000 to install 434 linear feet of sidewalk. SCDOT had suggested the City pay another $30,000 to complete the project. Mr. Garland said the City has had a lot of challenges with multiple water leaks and low water pressure due to the water tank on Pine Street being out of commission while it is being painted per DHEC regulations. The City has been creative in finding solutions to these issues working with area partners. Mr. Garland said the Southwest Darlington Storm Water Project is scheduled to shut down Pearl Street from the railroad tracks to Subway from Monday, June 25, to July 14, or approximately 10 days once the materials arrive. The work crew has to relocate a water line and a sewer line and install large storm water pipes. Mr. Garland said the City would like the Darlington Garden Club's help reviewing and designing plans for the Virgil Wells Football Stadium and parks. The City finally has received $411,000, or roughly 80%, of what it is owed by FEMA from Hurricane Matthew related expenses. Palmetto Paving is handling the Cashua Street paving project. In July, the company will mill the street down one inch and add two inches of pavement. They have to finish before school starts. SCDOT will turn around and repave Cashua Street in three to five years, giving the City time to gather the funds to relocate water and sewer lines, and SCDOT will put in 20 new storm water catch basins during that project.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Rock said the stop sign bases came in this week. Mr. Gainey said he thought he saw them installing them today. Ms. Rock said the Palmetto Pride Community Pride Grant period opens October 1, and she asked for project ideas since the City can get up to $10,000. Ms. Rock said that we have three benches to be going up in the near future, one in front of Ervin Law Firm near Carolina Drug Store and two near the Veterans Memorial. Carolina Bank and Aesthetic Dentistry donated for two of them. Ms. Rock said the South Main Street Tree Project community meetings will be held at A.W. Stanley Gym, 107 Gary St., from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 31; from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 31; from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, August 27; and from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, August 27.

Ms. Brown asked for an opinion on the campaign signs in the donated pots around the Square. She said she felt since they were donated that they should remain free from temporary signage. The Board agreed that the signage did not enhance the downtown area. Ms. Brown made a motion that no decorations or signs be placed in the pots without this Board's prior approval. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 15, at City Hall

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for August 15, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Ms. Brown. Attending were Board members Ms. Burns, Ms. Martin, Ms. Ishman, Mr. Garland, Ms. Jules, and Mr. Gainey and guests, City Council member Sheila Baccus and citizen the Rev. Coleman Cannon.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Cannon.

Ms. Brown reported on the work being done by the City's new Beautification employee, Mr. Leroy Davis, and herself as the Garden Club's representative.

Ms. Brown asked for permission to place fall flag decorations on the Square. Ms. Burns made a motion to approve the decorations at a cost of approximately $60 for 10 flags. Ms. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Baccus asked the Board to consider updating the trash cans on South Main Street (2) and one on Pearl Street. Mr. Garland made a motion to approve the purchase with the board paying for half and the City covering the other half. Ms. Brown made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garland noted that Cashua Street was SCDOT's responsibility.

New Business: Ms. Jules asked for additional Simi Seats for the bus stops on South Main Street, H Avenue, and Joe Louis Boulevard. Mr. Garland suggested talking with the PDRTA Executive Director Chuck McNeil to see if any are planned. Ms. Baccus said she was trying to solicit civic groups and churches and businesses to get benches installed along South Main Street. She said she has some interest.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for September 26, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Ms. Burns, Ms. Martin, Ms. Ishman, Ms. Brown, Mr. White, and Ms. Rock.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Ishman.

Ms. Rock thanked Ms. Brown for running the meeting in her absence last month.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August meeting. Ms. Brown asked that the minutes reflect that Mr. Garland said the City would pay half for the trash cans and ash tray with the Board paying the other half. Mr. White made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2018, meeting as corrected. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Martin asked about the trash cans for Joe Louis Boulevard. Ms. Brown said staff would refurbish the ones that are being replaced and move those to Joe Louis.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurer's Report and account balances as well as a list of expenses for tools and materials for the new employee to complete various tasks.

Ms. Brown said we have typically spend $800, but in the spring we had so many volunteers we spent $1,200 or so. That included $400 in pinestraw. Ms. Brown said the City already had the pinestraw put out in those areas. Ms. Brown and Ms. Burns presented a list of projects. The Garden Club will be installing 800 pansies in the pots around the Square. The benches from Liberty Lane that were moved to the playground need to be sanded and painted. Other projects include painting sign posts and parking lots, installing pavers around the bike rack, clear coating the pots, cleaning Liberty Lane and the archway walkway, and mulching the paths at Wells Park. Ms. Rock said the mulch has already been put on that site. Ms. Burns suggested installing fall decorations with corn stalks, scarecrows, and hay bales on the poles around the Square as we did last year. Ms. Brown said we need to put ant killer under the bales before they go out. Ms. Martin made a motion to spend $300 for fall decorations. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock made a motion to use up to $1,000 for Clean Up Day. Ms. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Brown made a motion to have the public time and date for the event to be 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 20, with the organizers showing up at 8 o'clock. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Brown said the Chamber is happy for us to use their facilities, but that we need to clean up afterwards this time.

Ms. Brown presented progress on the Long Term Plan for Beautification. One point of discussion was permanent plantings at the Cashua Street Parking entrance. The area does not have irrigation, and installing it would cost about $2,000. Mr. White said we need something permanent. Ms. Brown said we could possibly water once a week. Ms. Burns suggested variegated monkey grass and day lilies.

Ms. Burns suggested changing the residential Pride Award because it is hard to keep it picture perfect for 3 months. Ms. Brown said we will take up the sign every month or two. It will also need to be painted.

In discussing parking lots, Ms. Brown asked how the Board wants them handled and suggested digging out to accommodate more rain water. She added that she ordered stencils to re-stripe. The Board said they want them handled consistently. Ms. Burns said mulching with dark brown mulch instead of leaving grass would be preferred. Ms. Rock said she would get tree suggestions from the arborist. Mr. White said we needed the City's plans for the Cashua Street parking lot because of the sink holes, etc., and the labor-intensive nature of redoing all of those beds.

Ms. Brown presented plans for installing 4x4 posts to utilize existing wreaths for Christmas at the gateways. The project could include as many as 20 or 30. Cost would be about $40 per post. She said the Garden Club has committed $400 to the project. Ms. Rock made a motion to spend up to $500 on this project. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

The bike rack was installed in the children's park. Pavers could define the space and would cost about $3 each. Ms. Brown made a motion to spend up to $200 on this project. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Brown said she has the site for the bike rack at the library designated.

Gateways: Ms. Rock said the Lamar entrance repairs and Washington Street relocation would cost around $6,000 for labor alone and as much as $1,200 for the brick. Mr. White suggested getting the city attorney involved to get the funds from insurance. Ms. Brown suggested scaling down the Washington Street entrance. Ms. Rock said Genesis paid for two columns. Mr. White said we should develop a couple plans and present to Genesis to approve if we change it. Ms. Brown suggested using the old Welcome signs at other minor entrances, such as Old Florence Highway, Central Baptist Church, or Society Hill Road, to include more of the town, repurpose them instead of tossing them. The Board agreed that would be a good long-term plan. Ms. Brown said the soil build up on the medians at Lamar Highway and Pearl Street need to be addressed, dig out and replace with wood chips because the one straw blows into the road. She said they spent $300 for straw for that area alone. She said that would be a long-term project.

New Business: Ms. Brown asked if the Garden Club could redo the beds around the Square to add more flowers and replace the shrubbery that looks ratty but was concerned about water. Mrs. Ishman asked about adding lights to the trees downtown. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to spend up to $200 on spotlights for the trees. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Burns said she will present the idea to Mr. Stewart at the county to up light the trees around the courthouse.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Rock has ordered four trash cans and two ash trays to replace two on South Main and one on Pearl, and those will be refurbished and moved to Joe Louis Boulevard.

Ms. Brown presented costs for paint and stencils to redo the parking lots. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to spend up to $300 on this project. Mrs. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brown asked about having service organizations sponsor the wayfaring signs instead of businesses. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to approve that service organizations, not businesses, could sponsor wayfinding signs. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, October 17, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for October 17, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Ms. Burns, Ms. Martin, Ms. Jules, Ms. Brown, Mr. White, Mr. Garland, and Ms. Rock, and guests, Council members Sheila Baccus and Bryant Gardner.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Martin.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the September meeting. Mr. White made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 26, 2018, meeting as presented. Ms. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurer's Report and account balance, which including approved expenses leaves the Board with $2,946.07 for this fiscal year that ends June 30, 2019. Ms. Rock added that the cost to repair the Lamar Highway entrance that was hit by a drunk driver would be around $1,600, and the City attorney has the information to attempt to get payment from the insurance company of the car's owner. Ms. Brown asked at what point is this the City's maintenance or building repair budget rather than the Board's responsibility for maintenance. Mr. White said we needed to discuss that and it didn't need to be the Board's responsibility. Mr. Gardner interjected that he did not think the Board should be covering those kinds of expenses but we can discuss it with Mr. Garland. Ms. Brown said it would be nice to have an answer for the next meeting.

Clean Up Day: Ms. Burns said the most important priority will be planting pansies, we will meet at 9 a.m., and we do not expect a large turnout. Ms. Brown said the fall event is typically lighter because of other functions. Parker Howle and his son volunteered to paint the benches that were moved from Liberty Lane to the playground on Orange Street. Ms. Burns said the county had several inmates to assist and work on the courthouse grounds. Ms. Brown said the 70 pots need to be clear-coated. Ms. Burns said we would decorate for fall next week, starting at Hardees and going down North Main to the library.

Banners: Ms. Rock presented a banner program done by CGI Communications that was at no cost to the city. The Board raised several questions and requested additional information. The concern was that it may look too commercial. Mr. Garland said he was concerned it would take away from the board's fundraising efforts. Ms. Rock said she would get more details and answers to their questions.

New Business: Ms. Rock asked if the Board would like to apply for a litter prevention grant to add more trash cans around town. Palmetto Pride no longer has the Community Pride Beautification Grant they previously applied to receive for other projects. The Board agreed. Ms. Brown said we need to coordinate with the Street Department on placement, so the cans would be emptied periodically. Mr. Gardner said we should try to get cameras for crime preventions and monitor popular illegal dump sites. Ms. Brown made a motion to apply for the grant. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock asked for placements suggestions from the Board be given to her by the end of the week.

Pride of Darlington: Ms. Burns reminded the Board that they had previously voted to leave the award in the yard for two months instead of three for residents because it is a lot of pressure to keep it perfect for so long. Ms. Brown made a motion to give the Pride Award to the Hobbs House at the corner of Spring and Cashua Streets. Ms. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously. The Board also voted to send recognition to 214 Cashua Street, 202 North Ervin Street and 620 West Broad Street.

Long Term Plan Update: Ms. Brown gave a progress update on several projects in the City. Ms. Ishman made a motion to complete the Gateway Project and install the brick style sign at the Cashua Ferry entrance. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Brown said the Board needed to consider what to do in the pots, as the trees are large enough that the flowers are competing. She said, if we leave just the trees and put the flowers in the parking islands, this would reduce the cost of watering the pots from three times a week, four hours each day, at a cost of about $8,000 per year to two times a week at a cost of about $5,400 per year. Ms. Ishman said we need something permanent in the pots. Ms. Brown suggest the Arborvitae since they didn't need as much water. She said we have replaced six this year because of the flowers' competition. Ms. Ishman said if the trees are big enough we should leave them alone because disturbing the soil to plant the flowers can hurt them too. Ms. Rock said that, when the project was originally envisioned, the flowers would go away when the trees filled the pots. Mr. White said that many people comment about the flowers. Ms. Brown also suggested we stop selling pots.

Fall Decorations: Ms. Brown talked about Mr. Gardner's idea to have a display at the Psillos Garden where people could take family photos.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Brown asked about wayfaring signs. The Board previously wanted to install one. She suggested getting civic clubs to sponsor them and place a medallion logo at the bottom. Mr. White said we can start with just one and grow the project like the pots.

The next meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday, November 14, 2018, a week earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for November 14, 2018

The meeting of the Beautification Board was not held due to a lack of a quorum.