DARLINGTON CITY TREE BOARD
Minutes from Monday, February 19, 2018 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall, 400 Pearl St.

Attending were Tree Board members Ms. Jules, Mr. James, Mrs. Brasington, and Ms. Brown and Ms. Rock, planning director. There were no guests in attendance.

Ms. Rock called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the November 6, 2017, meeting: Mr. James made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Brown made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

South Main Street Project: Ms. Rock presented a sample draft letter to send to property owners along the west side of South Main Street. Ms. Jules said residents may not know how to care for the tree after the City's involvement ends at the end of one year. Ms. Brown said that the roots are usually established after one year. Mr. James said to add "and thereafter as needed" to the agreement in case the City needs to access the tree in the future for a large trim. The Board discussed what to plant. Ms. Jules said it needed some continuity for impact. Ms. Rock said we could create a sheet with a few options, 1-2 small, 1 medium, and 1 large type since the property conditions may dictate what size could fit. Ms. Jules suggested a community meeting, not just a letter. Mr. James said we need to speak to the property owners individually too. Ms. Jules said we should not rush, that we should meet with the community and tell them the benefits of planting trees to get their buy in on the project. Ms. Brown agreed that citizens would have more questions than we could. Mr. James said the project could work like the cherry trees on Cashua Street. The Board agree communication is key. Ms. Rock said the arborist can provide a plan with appropriate plant choices. Ms. Jules suggested Clemson Extension too. Ms. Rock said she will get a plan from the arborist and/or Clemson Extension and then organize community meetings as well as letters. In that we will explain the project and why we have to focus on one side at a time. SCDOT will install sidewalks on the east side of South Main Street beginning this summer, so we don't want to plant where they may dig up trees. Ms. Jules was concerned about the cost of upkeep in the future, but she said this is a wonderful thing to rebuild Darlington. Ms. Brown said that this project is good for those who couldn't plant a tree otherwise. Ms. Brasington said the people have the right to refuse? Ms. Rock said they do if it on their property and not in the right-of-way. Since the City will try to get grants to install sidewalks on both sides of South Main Street over time, she said it would be best to plant the tree on the property so they would not be destroyed should a sidewalk project take place. Mr. James said the information could include the text, "Would you like to have a tree in your yard? We will furnish it." He suggested keeping most ornamental. Mr. James said he likes a dogwood too. Mrs. Brasington and Ms. Brown agreed. Mr. James said they are slow growing but hardy and look nice. Ms. Brown said she would rather just do small and medium trees because the large ones could canopy over a roof.

Mitigation Ordinance: Ms. Rock provided information about mitigation ordinances for when developers clear land and remove trees. She included what the current City code entails as well as an article addressing different ways other municipalities handle the issue. She asked members to review and bring comments to the next meeting on any changes we might want to suggest to improve the Ordinance. Ms. Brown suggested looking at the consequences for removing trees. Ms. Jules said that's critical. Mrs. Brasington asked about possibly removing cherry laurel and Bradford pear from the City code of approved trees due to their invasive nature. The Board also asked if other trees could be planted. Ms. Rock said they could with this Board's approval.

Other Business: Ms. Brown reported that the Darlington Garden Club planted five natchez crepe myrtle trees, 10 arborvitae, and three oak trees at the Lamar Highway entrance to the City. The City then paid to have the four pink crepe myrtle trees relocated to the border of the parking lot of the Raceway Inn on the 52 Bypass. The property owner has agreed to let the City plant an additional three trees when funds become available. Mr. James said that will make a difference when they are in bloom.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

DARLINGTON CITY TREE BOARD
Minutes from Monday, May 21, 2018 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall, 400 Pearl St.

Attending were Tree Board members Ms. Jules, Mr. James, Mrs. Brasington, Mr. Ervin, and Ms. Brown; Ms. Rock, planning director; and Council member Sheila Baccus.

Ms. Rock called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the February 19, 2018, meeting: Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Brasington made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

South Main Street Project: Ms. Rock presented the project outlined by Sylvan Cities. The plan includes 73 trees, all but four of which would be in the right-of-way. Below is information from the report.

> The City of Darlington and the Darlington Tree Board envision a tree planting project for South Main Street from Allen Street to the Highway 52 Bypass. Since SC DOT is planning to install sidewalks on the northeast side of the road, the City will plant trees on the southwest side of the road at this time, and will develop plans for the northeast side at a later date. Sylvan Cities, LLC was asked to develop a tree planting plan for this project.
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> Trees to be planted include a number of flowering trees and trees that provide shade and fall color. The species chosen for each location was determined considering available space for crown development, soil and site conditions, appearance, visibility for motorists, and plans to minimize obstruction of business signs and billboards. Yoshino cherry will be planted closest to the Highway 52 Bypass to continue the existing cherry allee. Crabapple is more adaptable to difficult site conditions and can be used where overhead space is limited. Where business signs or billboards limit the mature size of trees, purple or pink flowering crape myrtle are planned. Trident maple will be planted where trees will need to be limbed up above low signs, and oaks are recommended for planting on private property where they will have adequate space for crown development. In the block from Allen to Kirven, Kousa dogwood are recommended to compliment the dogwoods across the street and because they are expected to be easier to establish than flowering dogwood. If private property owners do not approve oak trees, then trident maple or crabapple could be planted.
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> **Trees Species**

Crabapple, Robinson or Royal Raindrops	17
Crape myrtle, Catawba	14
Crape myrtle, Pink Velour	5
Trident maple	13
Yoshino cherry	11
Kousa dogwood	6
Nuttall oak	4

Magnolia, Kay Parris	3
	TOTAL 73

Project cost and Phases for Installation

Availability and pricing was checked at about 10 nurseries, and the expected installed cost is $250 per tree, or $18,250. Factors affecting cost will be whether smaller 15 gallon trees (about 6' tall) or larger 2" caliper ball & burlap trees (about 9-10' tall) are planted, and costs associated with shipping. For the first phase, crabapple and Catawba crape myrtle trees are recommended because flowering trees will have a big visual impact and while the species recommended are not as readily available, both are available locally at this time. In general, you will want to plant all of one species at a time in order to save on shipping costs. Whether you buy 15 gallon or 2" caliper trees may be determined by availability as well as cost. The second phase could be trident maples and yoshino cherry, which are available at the same nursery. The third phase would be the 18 remaining trees, if they cannot be added to Phase I or II. Sylvan Cities, LLC can work with the city to check availability and develop specifications for purchase and planting. The city will need to make arrangements to remove, or have removed, some asphalt near the road at Pecan Grove Apartments.

Ownership and Permits

All trees except the four nuttall oak trees will be planted on SCDOT right-of-way. For roads like South Main Street without curbs, the trees must be at least 14 feet from the edge of the roadway, as marked by the white line. This plan keeps all trees at least 18 to 23 feet from the edge of the roadway. Of the oaks, two are planned for the Bay Island Seafood property at 1316 South Main, and two at the barber shop at 1202 South Main. The city will need to get permission to plant on these two properties, and obtain an encroachment permit from SCDOT for the remaining trees.

Ms. Brasington made a motion to approve the plan. Ms. Brown made the second.

Ms. Jules asked who would clean up the litter or debris from the trees. Ms. Brasington said these types of trees don't leave much in the way of debris. Mr. James said there is some but in a week or 10 days it's gone. Mr. Ervin said he has some of these trees on his property and it's not enough to bother raking up the flowers. Ms. Jules said she thinks this may be a point that homeowners push back on since they have not had anything to clean up. Mr. Ervin said they may need to rake up after the maple trees. Ms. Brown suggested giving the owners the opportunity to substitute during the community meeting. Mr. Ervin said Mr. Roosevelt Scott said the Elks Club and Block M Club want to help with the watering during the first year, take it on as a project. That would help with the cost. Mr. James said we could space the trees further apart if necessary too. Mr. Ervin said he thought 40 feet was more than generous.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Board asked that a community meeting(s) be scheduled to get feedback from the neighborhood. Ms. Rock will invite property owners and send a notice to board members of the

meeting date, time, and location. Ms. Baccus said she has a meeting tentatively scheduled for June 9 when we could present the information as well.

Mr. Ervin said this could be a good project for volunteers, even planting the trees. Ms. Brown said she had several landscapers that may volunteer if we put up a little plaque for that first year as another option to reduce the cost. Ms. Jules asked about feeding the trees. Ms. Brown said three spikes per tree would be plenty, and it is a minimal cost. Mr. Ervin said you only need to fertilize them once. Ms. Brasington asked about putting a tree in front of the library in the circular bed. Ms. Brown said the Garden Club looked into that, but there is no irrigation and the roots of the old tree were never removed. Ms. Brasington suggested a dogwood or tulip tree like the one on North Street that is being taken over by kudzu. Ms. Brasington asked about the stumps on Spring Street. Ms. Rock told them the contractor with the grinder backed out of the job until the City removed the sidewalk because it damaged their equipment. Ms. Brown suggested using an ax to remove them the old fashioned way.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

DARLINGTON CITY TREE BOARD
Minutes from Monday, October 29, 2018 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall, 400 Pearl St.

Attending were Tree Board members Ms. Jules, Mr. James, and Mrs. Brasington; and Ms. Rock, planning director.

Ms. Rock called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the May 21, 2018, meeting: Ms. Brasington made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Jules made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2019 Calendar: Ms. Rock presented the dates for the 2019 meetings as Feb. 25, May 13, Sept. 30, and Arbor Day Dec. 6. Ms. Jules made a motion to the calendar as presented. Ms. Jules made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

South Main Street Project: Ms. Rock noted that she was having difficulties with SCDOT to get encroachment permits for the project. The Darlington Garden Club approved purchasing the first 10 cherry trees. During the community meetings, only 14 people attended. Concerns raised included maintenance of the trees, upkeep, paving roads, and ditches. Of the tree types, everyone liked the cherry trees, dogwoods, and crepe myrtles (preferably the darker pink than the light purple). People had mixed reactions to the maple trees and dwarf magnolias.

Arbor Day 2018: The Darlington Garden Club has allocated $200 to add to whatever we choose as the Arbor Day project. This allows us to get more trees or bigger trees as well as an identification plaque. Choices are crepe myrtles at the Washington Street entrance, Phase I of the South Main Street project, plantings at the entrance at the intersection of Lamar Highway and Indian Branch Road, or other suggestions. Ms. Rock said, given the issues with SCDOT, she would advise against trying to do Phase I because of the timeframe. Mr. James suggested adding some dogwoods on Cashua or Spring street since historically that was the type of tree located there. Ms. Brasington said she wanted to finish something we started and made a motion to plant the trees at the Raceway Inn. Mr. James made the second. Ms. Jules expressed concern about the choices but said she would support the group's decision. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.