

## City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for January 16, 2019

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. Brown, Mr. White, Mrs. Ishman, and Mr. Alex Gainey, and guest, Council member Sheila Baccus.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. Ishman.

Ms. Burns made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 17, 2018, meeting as written. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurers' Report, stating the Board had more than \$2,000 remaining for this fiscal year.

**Gateway Plan Completion Proposal:** Ms. Rock presented a financial breakdown of estimated costs to complete the Gateway Project. This would include repairing the Lamar Highway sign and completing construction of the Washington Street and Cashua Ferry entrances using the donation fund. Mr. White said he would agree to the plan under protest because the attorney should be able to get it funded through the suspect's insurance. Ms. Brown said the city should also look at some insurance. Mr. Gainey noted that the City is self-insured. Mr. Garland said they do not insure signs. Ms. Baccus said she agreed this should be the City's responsibility, not this Board's responsibility. Ms. Rock said she made the suggestion purely to complete the project rather than wait on an insurance claim. Mr. White made the motion to move forward and complete the Gateway Plan as outlined. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Calendar for 2019:** Ms. Rock presented the proposed 2019 Calendar for the Board, which has been publicized. No one had any objections.

**Christmas Update:** The Board noted how gorgeous the Christmas lights and decorations looked this year and what a great job it was. Ms. Brown said all the decorations were down and that the issue of the leaning wreaths on the courthouse grounds would not be an issue next year since those wreaths would have new homes at the new gateways next year. Ms. Brown suggested that we cannot thank everyone enough, as so many came together to assist with the decorations. Ms. Rock said a certificate was not sufficient and made a motion to give plaques of appreciation to Signs Plus, Bill Moore Jr., Curtis Boyd, and Darlington Fire Department for their efforts. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock said she would like to present at a Council meeting if possible.

**Long Term Plan Progress:** Ms. Rock asked members to prioritize the projects in the long-term plan to be presented to Council during budget season.

**Clean Up Day:** Ms. Rock gave the possible dates for Clean Up Darlington Day, April 6, 13, 20, and 27, as well as events going on those days if any.

**City Administrator:** Mr. Garland commended Ms. Brown and Mr. Leroy Davis for the work they have done, specifically in the Carolina Bank plaza parking lot. He said he was glad Ms. Brown chose Darlington.

**Unfinished Business:** Mr. Gainey asked about recognizing Mr. Chesley Benjamin for getting the gas pillars working again. He said the pillar at Walmart keeps being blown out by 18-wheelers driving by quickly. Mr. White made a motion for Mr. Gainey to research a solution. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock said the Palmetto Pride Grant for Litter Prevention came in and the 10 trash cans have been ordered. Ms. Brown asked the Board to consider where to put the old Welcome to Darlington signs. Ms. Rock said she had permission from the Housing Authority of Darlington to install one on Old Florence Highway to obstruct the view a pump station. Ms. Burns suggested one on North Main Street or North Governor Williams Highway. Mr. White said he would reach out to Temple Free Will Baptist for a new sign and would attempt to get Ard Trucking to sponsor it. Ms. Brown said Lawson Road was another option on Central Baptist Church's property if we could get permission. Mr. White said he liked the "No Littering" signs on Joe Louis Boulevard and asked for one on East Broad Street near Grove Hill Cemetery. Ms. Burns noted how nice Wells Park looks with the green grass. Ms. Brown added that the record should show that Mr. Leroy Davis has done a great job trimming trees and has saved the City \$43,2000 in the last six months by doing that work rather than contracting it. Ms. Rock said she will add that the long-term plan to support our request. Ms. Brown reported that Council member Bryant Gardner had asked the street marker posts on Cashua Street be painted. Ms. Brown made a motion that the Four-Way Stop receive a certificate of appreciation for cleaning up that property. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held February 20.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

## City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for March 20, 2019

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

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Ishman.

Mrs. Ishman made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 20, 2019, meeting as written. Ms. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurers' Report, stating the Board had \$2,075.68 remaining for this fiscal year.

**Administrator's Update:** Mr. Garland said the County has discussed removing the Bradford pear trees surrounding the courthouse with crepe myrtles but no plans have been presented. He said the last time the trees were removed was 1986. Board members were concerned about the donation markers and if electrical outlets would remain.

**Clean Up Day:** The Board was presented flyers and a proposed project list. Ms. Rock said the city purchased 100 "Darlington Proud" t-shirts to be distributed that day to volunteers. Ms. Brown suggested scrubbing the benches on the courthouse grounds as an additional project as well as replacing bushes. Mr. Garland made a motion to spend up to \$750 on clean up day activities. Ms. Brown made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Yard signs advertising the event can be put out at the beginning of April.

**Pride of Darlington Awards:** Ms. Rock announced the presentation of the Pride of Darlington Business Award would be at 10 a.m. April 1 at Fresenius Dialysis Center. In April, the board would select the residential award. Possible nominees included the Phillips' house on the 400 block of Cashua, 379 W. Broad St., and Linda Howle's house on Cashua Street. Ms. Rock made a motion to send certificates of appreciation to 126 Pearl Street and The Purple Fish. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business:** Ms. Brown gave the Board updates on progress on the various projects. She said the board needed to select locations for the old entrance signs, one is six-foot-tall and the other is four foot tall. Mrs. Sprott suggested North Main Street. Ms. Rock said she has gotten permission from the Housing Authority of Darlington to place a sign on Old Florence Highway to obstruct the view of a fenced utility area for one of the signs. Mrs. Sprott said her husband has property on North Governor Williams Highway that would be good for such a sign. Ms. Brown liked the idea but said that would be best for one of the big brick pillar signs. Mrs. Sprott said she would inquire about it. Ms. Brown made a motion to place these ancillary signs on Old Florence Highway and the City's property on Society Hill Road. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock made a motion to spend the necessary funds to install the ancillary signs. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Brown asked about getting a replacement planter for one destroyed by a car on the

Square. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to go ahead and purchase the planter and let insurance reimburse us. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Garland reported that the problem with the fountain at the rose garden is electrical in nature connected to the Council on Aging building, and that is in the process of being repaired. Ms. Brown presented a Beautification Donation Program form for everyone. She said there are only three locations for benches left on the Square, in front of Jewel's, Edward Jones, and Merle Norman. Ms. Rock asked about possible projects for an AARP Community Grant, suggesting the historic walking tour as a possibility. Ms. Brown suggested the parking islands since it is on the priority list. Mrs. Sprott asked about getting the ruts beside the bridge past the hospital filled. They fixed the railing from the hurricane but left ruts. This is outside the City limits on a SCDOT road.

The next meeting will be held April 17.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

## City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for May 15, 2019

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

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. Sprott.

Mr. White made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 17, 2019, meeting as written. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurers' Report:** Ms. Rock presented the report showing expenses and donations.

**Administrator's Update:** Mr. Garland reported that Duke Energy removed two dead oak trees on St. John's Street, and the city took down one at St. John's and Park Street. He said we have some tree replacement to do for the Southwest Darlington Stormwater Project as well. That project won't be complete until June, and we have to wait its completion to start. He said Ben Williamson saved seven of eight oak trees slated to be removed with the SCDOT bridge replacement project on North Main Street. He was happy to report SCDOT has agreed to pay for relocation of utilities on North Main Street in connection with the replacement. Next fiscal year, he expects the Beautification Board to have a similar amount as in years past, \$7,000 to \$8,000.

**Clean Up Day:** Ms. Burns said she was very pleased with the turnout, as more than 60 individuals participated. She said the Garden Club completed the planting early.

**Pride of Darlington Awards:** Ms. Rock said the gentleman on West Broad Street declined the Pride Award and that she was trying to contact the owner at 202 N. Ervin as voted on previously.

**Unfinished Business:** Ms. Brown reported that the donated 40 rose bushes were planted at the Lamar Highway entrance and yellow roses were planted at the Cashua Ferry entrance since red was not available. Mr. White asked for us to get before and after pictures of the gateways once fully complete for City Council. Mrs. Burns asked if South Spain Street could be cleaned up off East Broad Street. Mr. Garland said he would get Codes Enforcement to address the vacant and overgrown lots. Mr. White noted that the Darlington Cruisers would have their annual Cruise In at Joe's Grill on the Saturday before Father's Day, June 15, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. He asked people to spread the word and attend if possible since the group has supported the Board's beautification efforts. Mrs. Sprott asked if the City had a good neighbor policy with the county, like two miles next to the city, as some other municipalities have that enforce requirements to keep the outskirts looking decent. Ms. Brown said it was nice to see all the positive changes in Darlington.

The next meeting will be held June 19 at the City Administration Building, 410 Pearl St., thanks to Ms. Brown and Mr. Leroy Davis' efforts to restore the conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

## City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for June 19, 2019

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

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. Ishman.

Mrs. Ishman made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 15, 2019, meeting as written. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurers' Report:** Ms. Rock presented the report showing expenses and donations. There is \$193.07 remaining for FY 2018-19. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to use the remaining funds for paint for the rose garden and black paint for various other items. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock said that the donation fund had roughly \$13,000 remaining in it with only a few outstanding bills that have not been received.

**Administrator's Update:** Mr. Garland said he enjoyed the Darlington Garden Club event. Mrs. Sprott said they are looking for ways to expand it because they had to turn away so many people. Mr. Garland said the second and final budget reading will be held Thursday. He expects the Beautification Board to have \$7,000 like this year. Ms. Brown has cut back her hours to 10 per week. Mr. Garland said he has heard a growing number of complaints about the Bradford pears on Pearl Street and elsewhere in the City. The City originally planted 250 in 1975, but the trees only have a lifespan of about 25 to 30 years. He said in the next two budget cycles he wants to see a plan to remove and replace them. Mr. White said this board needs to have more contact with the County, specifically regarding the courthouse grounds and the library grounds. Mr. Garland suggested approaching the Library Board. Mrs. Sprott said the garden club worked with the library on a children's garden, but it wasn't kept up, due in part to management changes. Ms. Rock said the County does not have a Beautification Board the way the City does. It has a Keep Darlington County Beautiful Board, but it is not very active. Mr. White said the issue always comes back to who will maintain anything that is done.

**Pride of Darlington Awards:** Ms. Rock said the gentleman on West Broad Street declined the Pride Award and that she the owner at 202 N. Ervin wanted to have the presentation at 10 a.m. Monday.

**Unfinished Business:** Ms. Rock reported that the Welcome to Darlington sign had been installed on Old Florence Highway, the concrete benches had been placed between the tennis courts and rose garden, and all the damaged pots on the Square had been replaced. She said the Gateway project was nearing completion. The City saved \$3,000 because Ms. Brown and Mr. Davis installed the roses and McLeod is providing the irrigation at the Cashua Ferry entrance. The landscaping at the Washington Street entrance was more than expected, but not enough to erase those gains. She said we are still about \$1,700 below our original estimate. We are waiting on the signs to be installed, the landscaping at Washington Street, and plaque at Cashua Ferry.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

## City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for October 16, 2019

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members, Mrs. Sprott, Mr. Garland, Ms. Brown, Ms. Burns, and Mrs. Ishman.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. Ishman.

Ms. Burns made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2019, meeting as written. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurers' Report:** Ms. Rock presented the report showing \$365.87 of the \$7,000 allotted for FY 2019-20 has been spent and \$12,567.15 remains in the donation fund.

**Administrator's Update:** Mr. Garland said Duke Energy has been cutting trees in South Darlington. A storm water drain collapsed in the parking lot of the Rescue Squad on Sycamore Street, on Washington Street, and on Orange and Wells Streets. He said these are all state roads, but no one wants to take responsibility and pay for the fixes. The City has received repeated complaints about the oak trees creating sidewalk problems and the Bradford pears. He said they should not have been put in commercial areas like that and that the oaks need to be culled. Ms. Brown said the Tree Board should direct that effort and put the Bradford pear trees at the top of the list. She said the trees would have been contained if the City had someone trimming them regularly.

**Committee Reports:** Ms. Rock said the last Pride Award presentation appeared on Google News, SCnow.com, and the News & Press. Ms. Burns said we need to send a thank you note to John O'Neil for giving us the cotton, corn stalks, etc., for the harvest decorations. Mrs. Ishman said we need to do something for Genesis, a reception of something, in appreciation, maybe in the spring. Mr. Garland suggested we give Mr. Nettles, the Genesis marketing staff, some choices and let them decide how they want to proceed. Mrs. Ishman said the first of the year would be best to approach them to get past the holidays. Ms. Brown made a motion to send certificates of appreciation to Linda Howle at 307 Cashua, Curtis Boyd and his investment group for taking down the Tyner warehouse, and to the Beverlys for their Halloween décor on Oakview Drive. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock asked the Board to select a project to submit for the Palmetto Pride Litter Grant. One option would be a 12-month billboard campaign. Option two was funds for additional litter collection days. Option three was a six-month billboard campaign and funds for a couple litter collection days. Mrs. Ishman asked about possibly doing something with cameras. Ms. Brown said she liked the third option, getting a little bit of both, not sinking all the funds into one spot. Ms. Burns said, if we can get young people involved with some adult supervision, that would be great. Mr. Garland made a motion for the Board to apply for the Palmetto Pride Litter Grant for the Awareness & Action Campaign (option three). Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously. The grant award will be announced Dec. 15.

Ms. Rock reported that we had more than 62 volunteers at the Fall Clean Up, and that amount to 186 volunteer hours. Ms. Brown continued that at \$10 per hour, the Clean Up Day saved the City \$18,000 in labor costs. Ms. Burns asked to send the volunteer groups thank you notes. Ms. Rock noted that a few items were not checked off the list, notably the tree removals.

The Board wanted to go ahead and hold a trash pick-up day, meeting at the City Administration Building, 410 Pearl St. from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 16. Members were to report problem areas to create a list to Ms. Rock. Ms. Brown made a motion for the Board to spend \$100 on gift cards for the group that collects the most trash. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Ishman said a Nativity scene would be erected across from Singletarys on South Main Street, and the churches would be holding a service for it. Mrs. Sprott said the plan is to add white lights to the poles and put up all the lights on Nov. 28-29. She said last yuear the harvest and Christmas decorations overlapped and looked bad. Ms. Burns said all the harvest decorations would be thrown away this year. Mrs. Ishman suggested taking them down Nov. 16.

**Unfinished Business:** Mrs. Ishman presented a bid from Barn of All Trades for \$1,500 for a wayfinding sign for the median on South Main Street at Chestnut. It would include a Corinthian, black, powder-coated steel pole with 4-inch letters, 103" tall from the ground and three feet wide. Ms. Brown made a motion to approve up to \$1,500 for this sign, which includes installation in the median at the turn for Mayo High School. Ms. Burns made the second. Ms. Rock suggested getting a quote from one of the two Darlington sign shops. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brown said that we still have one bicycle rack at the Street Department that was never installed, and that we should follow up with the Street Department or Mr. Scott to do so.

Ms. Brown said she and Mr. Davis planted a few different things in the pots along Pearl Street to see how it winters and grows, including tea olives, topiary things, and climbing roses. Ms. Brown said another option would be camellias. She said they had put lantana in them temporarily for the Sweet Potato Festival. Mrs. Ishman asked about battery-operated lights on the arborvitae. Ms. Burns said she would like to fill some with pansies for the winter. Ms. Burns made a motion to approve the plan to test various items in the pots on Pearl Street. Ms. Brown made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented figures for installing utility poles for banners to hang across the street as well as the cost for the banners and the process the City of Florence uses. The company gave a price on installing and switching out the banners too, because the City does not have a bucket truck that could do this like Florence does. Mrs. Sprott suggested we put up nicer metal frames for the banners at City Hall, better than the 4x4 poles and cheaper than the banner over the roadway, as well as some at Broad and Main Streets where there is banner overload. She said the banners would have to be to our specifications to hang there. Ms. Burns said we need to spell out the rules. Ms. Rock said the property owner at Broad and Main would need to be on board. Mrs. Sprott said we can charge a fee and the City put up the banners. Ms. Brown said 12-foot poles would do, so you only need an 8-foot ladder to reach it.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

**City of Darlington Beautification Board**  
Minutes for November 20, 2019

**The meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.**