

## City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for January 22, 2020

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, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Ishman, and Mr. White; and guest, Ms. Sheila Baccus.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mrs. Burns.

Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2019, meeting as written. Mr. Garland made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurers' Report:** Ms. Rock presented the report showing \$2,055.30 of the \$7,000 allotted for FY 2019-20 has been spent and \$12,635.03 remains in the donation fund.

**Administrator's Update:** Mr. Garland said Alex Gainey has been named head of the Street & Sanitation Department about two weeks ago and has been getting things cleaned up there. He will be auctioning off scrap metal and disabled vehicles and equipment. Mr. Garland reported that Mayor Boyd, Mayor Pro-Tem John Segars and himself would meet weekly on Wednesday mornings. Mayor Boyd and some volunteers will begin cleaning up the first leg of the trail, and he, along with Mr. Davis, volunteers, and Ms. Brown have done more work at Wells Park. Ms. Sprott said she wants to see more community clean up days because people are excited to see things happening. Mr. Garland said that the first of February a new codes enforcement officer from Effingham will begin working in Darlington and that Mr. Davis will be moved to the Street Department to allow the Planning Department to hire someone with a more professional landscaping background. The City bought an asphalt packer and will hire someone to run that machine given the condition of roads in town.

**Pride of Darlington:** Mrs. Burns suggested Lura Marsh at Palmetto Express Tac who has paved her parking lot, painted, and cleaned the inside of her building on South Main Street next to Singletary's Auto Repair. Mr. White said we need to recognize Mr. Chapman for his façade renovations on Pearl Street. He said it was one of the nicest renovations, keeping with the historic flavor of town. The Board also mentioned Asset Technology Group, S.C. House of Wings, Freedom Management, and the Purple Fish Coffee Company. Mr. White made a motion to present the Business Pride Award to Palmetto Express Tax in January and to Mr. Chapman with the Award in March. Mrs. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Garden Club Updates:** Ms. Sprott said that the Club has improved the area in front of City Hall, raising the statue, adding mulch, and planting bulbs and pansies. The Club is working with Mayor Boyd on installing a pollinator garden with mostly wildflowers behind City Lane adjacent to the proposed trail. It would be low maintenance and very natural. Ms. Brown added that the Club would be the host for the District Meeting, a state level event, on March 26 at Darlington Country Club this year. Ms. Rock noted that she had Mr. Davis remove the dilapidated bushes on the side of City Hall, so the Club could do a smaller project in that space.

**Unfinished Business:** The Board expressed that it liked the Darlington flags that were placed on the posts downtown. Ms. Brown presented a packet of various proposed projects, some with costs to present for the Board to City Council in the budget request. She also presented a list of accomplishments that would be included with that report.

After some debate, Mrs. Burns made a motion to allocate \$500 for supplies to paint the fire hydrants. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brown said, based on quotes and discussion with SCDOT, the wayfaring sign would be more expensive than initially approved to be permitted. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to spend up to \$2,500 of the wayfaring sign on South Main Street at Chestnut. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board thought the additions to the landscaping at the various entrances would not make a big impact and suggested focusing the funds entirely on one area or signage in particular to make a difference.

The Board discussed adding rubber mulch, removing Bradford pear trees, and installing more trees in the parking lots. Mr. White said we need to keep in mind what we are able to maintain 5, 10, 20 years from now.

Ms. Brown asked to update the Wells Park and Bill Cain Tennis Complex signage since the City has added two new parks. The project would use the same posts. Mr. White made a motion to replace and improve the signs in keeping with the similar themes and design previously approved. Mrs. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Sprott and Mrs. Ishman said they would be happy if all the money was spent updating the signage in town.

Mr. White made a motion to provide the materials to upgrade the gazebos, for lack of a better word, at the Orange Street playground in keeping with the designs previously approved by the Board. Mrs. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brown said finishing Wells Park with a birdbath in the circular area would be good since Mayor Boyd said he will get additional benches placed there. Mrs. Ishman said the bath needed to be big enough to fit the space, maybe even a tiered one to make a statement. Mr. White made a motion to spend up to \$500 on a birdbath that maintains a consistent look. Mrs. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sprott recommended a new message board sign at City Hall. Mr. White said keeping the lettering consistent was important. Mrs. Ishman said it needed to be bigger to be more legible. The Board suggested getting something larger and putting it where the posts for the banners stand now and not having any banners at City Hall to keep it neater.

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.