

## City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for March 17, 2021

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members, Mrs. Ishman, Ms. Burns, Mr. White, Mr. Garland, and Mrs. Sprott; and guests Darlington Garden Club President Linda Beckham and Mrs. Vivian Jackson.

Ms. Burns gave the opening prayer.

Mrs. Ishman made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2021, meeting as written. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Rock indicated that the Board has approximately \$9,836.53 remaining for FY2020-2021 in unallocated funds. She also presented a list of proposed projects and cost estimates based on previous discussions. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to spend \$2,500 on the Wayfinding Sign on South Main Street near Mayo to the side of the street instead of in the median. Ms. Burns made the second the motion carried unanimously.

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Garland reported that there was another sewer line collapse on Second Street and a water leak on Kirven. A natural spring was identified under the intersection of Wells and Orange Streets and a 15-foot sinkhole behind St. James United Methodist Church that is most likely related. The collapse on North Sycamore, West Hampton, and South Sycamore have been fixed. The City hopes to finish paving East Broad Street in front of Scarlett's Antiques the first week of April if the weather holds to complete that sewer line repair. The federal relief package includes \$2.2 million for Darlington. The City plans to leverage those funds with 90-10 grants to get as many water and sewer projects complete as possible, specifically targeting East and West Broad Streets, South Main Street from the railroad tracks to the Square, and to South Warley Street. Mr. Garland said this will be a lifeline to save the City's water and sewer system. The City is accepting qualifications for designers for the recreation complex in mid-April with presentation to Council for selection in May. Council wants to remove all the Bradford pear trees, even if it just 20-30 per year and leave the stumps. The City will ask DOT to fix the sidewalk. The Planning Department is applying for a grant for the Darlington Memorial Cemetery. My contract expires June 30 and has yet to be renewed. It has been a joy working with you all, and I appreciate what you've done for the City.

**Clean Up Day/Great American Cleanup:** Ms. Rock asked for dates and proposals for the spring Clean Up. She did not have a date for the County's event, but the Town of Lamar was doing the Great American Cleanup March 27 through April 2, before Easter. Mr. White made a motion to hold a weeklong cleanup April 17-24 with the normal Clean Up Day activities Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to noon, on the Square and ending with a litter pickup on Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to noon, from the City Administration Building. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously. The Board decided to provide water and some snacks, but no full meal, as the snacks often go uneaten. Ms. Rock will check with the Fire Department to see if they would be willing to cook hotdogs for lunch for one of those days. Projects on the 17<sup>th</sup> will include the Cashua Street Walkway beside Vaughan Insurance, Liberty Lane, planting the Pots on the Square, and the bed on DiLeo Lane beside Nationwide Insurance, pine straw for the parking islands and rose garden. Ms. Rock will confirm with the Chamber as a base of operations for April 17. Ms. Rock made a motion to allow the subcommittee of Mrs. Ishman, Mrs. Sprott, and Ms. Burns to select the types of plants at their convenience. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to stop replacing the pots when they are

broken unless the City collects from insurance. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried five to one, with Ms. Rock in the negative.

**Pride of Darlington Award:** Mr. White suggested the Board consider Carolina Bank for the Business Pride Award as the next nominee. The Board agreed.

**Garden Club Update:** Ms. Burns said the Garden Club is working to decorate the window of the empty building at the corner of Pearl and Main Street and have gotten permission to do so from the property owner. The Club will approach others as well. Mrs. Beckham said the Club has contacted Manheim about the fence on Pearl Street near the SCDOT office and received permission to plant vines along the fence to beautify that entrance to town. The Club also continued talks with SCDOT about planting at the Road Closed sign where Ebenezer Road was relocated.

**Unfinished Business:** Mrs. Ishman asked about redoing the parking islands around the Square. Ms. Rock said the last quote she received from C&S Landscaping to remove the bushes and replace them totaled \$1,500. Mrs. Sprott said she wanted to leave room for an area of bulbs and annuals. Mrs. Sprott made a motion to move forward with that project. Mrs. Ishman amended the motion to spend up to \$2,000. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock asked Mrs. Sprott and Mrs. Ishman to approve the plant selection with Mr. Godwin of C&S Landscaping.

Ms. Rock reported about a Lowe's Home Improvement Hometown Grant nomination process and invited everyone to bring ideas to her to assist in submission. The Board suggested the amphitheater, Carnegie Library, and auditorium.

Mrs. Sprott asked about the bistro tables proposed for downtown. SCDOT denied the application for the tables on the sidewalks. Mr. White said two at Liberty Lane would work because the Cashua walkway is too narrow. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to purchase two bistro table sets for Liberty Lane. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock made a motion to increase the Clean Up Day allocation to \$2,000 since the item would include two events. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, in the courtroom at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.