

## City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for April 21, 2021

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Ishman, and Mrs. Sprott; and guests Mrs. Linda Beckham and Mrs. Vivian Jackson. Mrs. Ishman gave the opening prayer.

Mrs. Ishman made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 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 \$3,985 remaining for FY2020-2021 to spend by June 30. The Board discussed possible uses of the funds before the end of the fiscal year, including trash cans, cigarette containers, and benches, things that could be relocated or specific locations determined later.

**Administrator's Report:** Ms. Rock said the City was taking applications for city manager until April 29.

**Clean Up Day:** Ms. Rock reported that Saturday's event had more than 30 people and the volunteers got a lot accomplished. Ms. Rock asked the Board to look at the space between the sidewalk and street on Hampton Street where several Bradford pear trees had recently been removed. The area is too small for trees. Would this be a good place to test wildflowers or some other plant that the street department did not have to keep trimmed as often. The Board agreed perennial grasses would look best as wildflowers won't stay and may appear to be weeds to the passerby. The Board was concerned about watering anything that is planted. Ms. Brown suggested cement and press it to look like pavers to match the Square. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to spend up to \$150 to plant the area. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Ishman and Mrs. Sprott will select varieties of Mondo grass if available that will be shorter and look neater.

**Pride of Darlington Award:** Mrs. Ishman made a motion to give the Pride of Darlington Business Award to Merryland Daycare in June and Carolina Bank in August. Ms. Brown made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Rock made a motion to send all three businesses, Carolina Bank, Merryland Daycare, and Sassy Girl Vintique a certificate as a thank you for their work. Ms. Brown made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Garden Club Update:** Mrs. Beckham said that Mrs. Lou Kirchen would represent the club at future meetings as she has had to step down from her role as president due to the death of her husband. Ms. Brown said the pergola would be in by the end of May, and if not then in September, at Hampton Park. The Board discussed the possibility of benches for the pergola as well as picnic tables. Ms. Brown said she was disappointed in how the area she and others cleared out to put a picnic table at Hampton Park has been left unattended and now is overgrown again. Mrs. Sprott suggested a water fountain to be a good addition to the park. Ms. Brown said she had priced some before at \$1,500 plus the cost of a water line. Mrs. Ishman brought up the sewer lift station's appearance in front of Verizon detracting from the City's nice brick welcome sign and suggested fencing it to block the view or at least painting the metal that looks rusty. The Board asked Ms. Rock to get pricing and location ideas for a vinyl fence to obscure the view. The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, in the courtroom at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.