

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes for June 16, 2021

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

Mrs. Martin gave an opening prayer.

Mr. White made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2021, meeting as written. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Rock said that she has had difficulty getting a contractor to install the fencing at Verizon to disguise the sewer lift station. Mr. White and Ms. Brown said they would assist in the morning. The Board insisted on using the entirety of the funds allocated to them before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Ms. Burns made a motion to purchase a small bench and to use the remainder of funds for paint supplies. Ms. Brown made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report: Ms. Rock said City Council held interviews this week but had not narrowed the field of candidates to date. It is unlikely a new manager will be in place by July.

Pride of Darlington: Mr. Nettles received the most recent Residential Award. Please bring residential addresses for selection at the next meeting. The Pride of Darlington Business Award to Merryland Daycare in June and Carolina Bank in August. Ms. Rock asked for suggestions for certificates. Mr. White nominated Robert Garland's shop on Russell Street, Asset Technology Group, First Citizens Bank, and S.C. House of Wings. Mrs. Martin made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Burns nominated the new business beside Bella Domani on Russell Street to receive a certificate as well for the lovely window boxes. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. White suggested a **growth regulator** product to reduce the need to cut grass as often, especially in the one foot strips of grass beside the street, park areas, or the entrances. He said the cemetery was testing the product on a quarter acre to reduce costs. The chemical forces the growth down into the roots instead of upwards but would require a certified sprayer. Mr. White said Jim Godwin with C&S Landscaping was certified and could do this. The spraying should be done this time of year to be effective. Mrs. Ishman said that, if no one in the City had a chemical license to spray, Mr. Gainey should get it so the City could be sprayed for mosquitoes and use Round-Up. She said it might be worth spraying the entrance at 401.

The Board asked for several items to be reported to Codes Enforcement: window treatments and broken glass at Jin Jin and the building beside it, the condition of the building beside Tenampa, and the Chavis election sign still on display on Pearl Street when the election is long gone. The Board identified other areas that need attention: YMCA's yard on Exchange Street, the weeds in the brick pavers downtown, Winston Street, and mattresses on Russell Street.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Rock said the North Main Street Welcome Sign has been installed in front of SPC Credit Union. The South Main Street Wayfinding Sign has been paid for and materials estimated to arrive in three to six weeks. The Beautification Board's plans and ideas will be incorporated in a CDBG grant application for the streetscape of downtown. The City will be applying for \$750,000 to include paving parking lots, updating landscaping, and adding security cameras, water for the pollinator garden, paint for the rear facades, benches, tables, etc. Ms. Rock distributed a copy of the City Design Manual

for Small Wireless Facilities The manual, based on the City of Greenville, can be updated by this Board anytime, presented to Council and changed by resolution of Council. Ms. Rock included an OP-ED written by planning assistant Ms. Shafer to be distributed to the news media. The Board asked for photos to be included asking for residents to help clean up. Mrs. Ishman said she and Mrs. Sprott checked on the Hampton Street median and found it much too large a project to handle at this time and suggested planting something very low in the fall. Ms. Rock said the bistro tables for Liberty Lane have been delivered and may be installed as early as next week according to Mr. Gainey.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, in the courtroom at City Hall. The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.