

City of Darlington Beautification Board
Minutes for July 21, 2021

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members, Mrs. Martin, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Purvis, Mrs. Sprott, and Mrs. Ishman; and Planning and Economic Development Assistant, Ms. Shafer.

Mrs. Martin gave an opening prayer.

Ms. Martin made a motion to approve the minute of June 16, 2021, meeting as written. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Rock reported that the budget for FY 21-22 is \$7,000, and that nothing has been spent to date. Ms. Rock said that she had difficulty finding a contractor to install the fencing that was discussed at the last meeting, therefore, she spent the remainder of last year's budget getting paint and primer for other beautification purposes.

City Administrator's Report: Ms. Rock reported that the City Council voted Mr. John Payne to be named to the City Manager position last night, Tuesday, July 20. All that remains to be decided are his contract and start date.

Pride of Darlington Awards & Certificates: Ms. Rock reported that the recipients of last month's Pride of Darlington Award, Merryland Daycare, were happy to receive the award. Mrs. Sprott asked if the Pink House beside the Darlington Florist received the award yet. Ms. Rock said she was unsure. The Board decided to wait to give out another Pride of Darlington Residential Award until the next meeting. Ms. Brown has requested that a list of names be made and updated, as well as include a picture of the winners. Ms. Brown made a motion to institute a policy for Pride of Darlington Residential Award recipients that homeowners can only be nominated once every 7 years. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Garden Club Update: Mrs. Purvis said that the Garden Club discussed its budget for the new year and the potential projects to complete. She would like to have Mrs. Laura Burns speak about the Beautification Board to the Club and how the two can work together. The Pollinator Garden remains at a standstill until there is a water source, there isn't much that can be done. She also reported that they received \$2,000 from Duke, and that Mrs. Kathy Bailey is over it. Ms. Brown suggested that the irrigation at each of the entrance signs need to be checked because they might be turned off. Ms. Brown made a motion to have the irrigation in the islands in City Lane parking lot fixed. Ms. Rock seconded the motion.

Clean Up Day: The Board decided that Saturday, September 11, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. would be the fall Clean Up Darlington Day. Mrs. Ishman suggested calling it American Pride Day with the slogan "Take Pride in Your Country" since it is a day of national remembrance. Mrs. Sprott suggested that they focus on fewer projects for this Clean Up Day. Ms. Brown said

that tools, mowers, and clippers need to be provided because volunteers do not bring their own. The Board wants advertising out now so that a good number of volunteers from high schools, colleges, and other organizations are aware of the event well in advance to plan to attend.

Unfinished Business: Ms. Brown reported that the entrances into the City of Darlington look awful, and they need to be fixed. She also reported that the hay bales at the Verizon entrances are old and need to be removed or replaced. Ms. Brown said that there are some problem areas that need to be filled in within the city limits. She also suggested that a fine should be put into place and enforced for throwing trash in public areas and streets. Ms. Brown also asked that a volunteer form for volunteers be available for Codes Enforcement. Ms. Rock asked when the Board would like to put up the Fall Display and the Scarecrows. The Board decided to do it on a weekday after Race Week. Ms. Rock will provide an inventory of the fall decor stored at the Street Department at the next meeting, when the Board will also decide on the amount to budget for the fall display. Mrs. Sprott reported that the hole in the Piggly Wiggly parking lot in front of the sidewalk needs to be fixed or someone will end up getting hurt, especially at night. She also reported an abandoned vehicle behind the Trinity United Methodist Church Youth Building.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 18, in the courtroom at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.