

City of Darlington Beautification Board

Minutes September 15, 2021

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Ms. Rock. Attending were Board members Mrs. Sprott, Mrs. Burns, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Ishman, and Ms. Rock; City Manager Mr. Payne; City Council person Mr. Nettles; and guests, Mrs. Kirchen and Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. Ishman gave the opening prayer.

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of August 18, 2021, meeting as written. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The Board discussed its displeasure with having to pay for maintenance that should be done by the Street Department. The motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Rock said that \$2,300 of the \$7,000 budget for FY 21-22 had been spent on prepping the entrances for Race Week and the 65,000 visitors it brings. She received another bill for \$115.47 from Mrs. Ishman for fertilizer, weed killer, and ant killer used around the pots on the Square. This leaves the Board approximately \$4,500. There is still \$10,000 to \$12,000 in the donation funds account. The Board voted previously to use those funds to put an entrance sign on SC151 at the new Sports Complex. The Board requested estimates to add an ashtray in front of Jin Jin and Fahrenheit 225 and two trash cans on Pearl Street, one near Jin Jin and one near the stairwell behind the Chamber.

City Administrator's Report: The Board welcomed Mr. Payne. Mr. Payne said, though he might not have answers tonight, he was looking forward to working with the Board.

Pride of Darlington Award: Mrs. Sprott nominated 415 W. Broad St. and showed the Board a photo of the property, noting how the owner always keeps it neat and edged. Ms. Rock presented photos of the previous nominations, 123 N. Ervin St., and a house on D Avenue. Mrs. Ishman nominated 207 Orange St. for the Residential Pride of Darlington Award and all other nominees to receive certificates of appreciation. Ms. Burns made the second, saying that the homeowner has fully transformed the house and kept it neat while undergoing the restoration. The motion was carried unanimously. Ms. Brown made a motion to provide a certificate to IGA for its parking lot improvements. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion was carried unanimously.

Clean Up Day: Ms. Rock said that roughly 50 volunteers came out on Sept. 11 for the fall Clean Up Day. The Board asked for specific thank you notes be written to each group that participated as well as to Mr. Dawson Jordan from the News & Press.

Grab A Bag SC Litter Day: Ms. Rock asked the Board if it would like to participate in the Lt. Gov. Grab A Bag SC Program this November. The Board decided to hold a single litter pickup event from 9 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday, Nov. 13, focusing on school and civic groups. The

Board requested prisoners target areas like the Bypass with more traffic. Mr. Payne said he will connect with Chief Washington and the Prison Farm to get the work on their schedule if not done in conjunction that specific date. The Board asked Ms. Rock to get an update on the trash cans Palmetto Pride said they were giving us for our previous participation.

Fall Decorations: The Board installed the scarecrows and corn stalks during Clean Up Day. The Board will send a note of appreciation to Mr. John O'Neal for providing the corn stalks free of charge. Ms. Burns will deliver to him.

Garden Club Update: Mrs. Kirchen thanked the Board for allowing her time to speak. She said the Club had nine volunteers at the rose garden, which the Club will replant in October. Another Club member cleaned up the walkway on Cashua Street. The Club is working with the Mayor on plans for the median on South Main Street and the Pollinator Garden behind City Lane. The Club will install a gazebo at Hampton Street Park in November. DCIT students are building the gazebo. Mrs. Kirchen said she and the Mayor checked the Christmas tree, which the Club donated to the City three years ago, and confirmed that it did work after the vandalism and wind damage last December.

Unfinished Business: Mrs. Ishman asked for an update on the last bicycle rack. Mr. Payne said he would investigate it. Ms. Burns and the Board asked for a note of appreciation to go to Isaac, the city worker who waters the plants around the Square. Mrs. Sprott asked Mr. Payne to investigate an abandoned minivan near Trinity United Methodist Church. Mrs. Ishman requested a cost estimate for holiday banners.

Ms. Brown asked Mr. Payne to keep a space for the welcome sign at the new Sports Complex, including a fountain as the Mayor wanted, and to install a 'Future Home of' sign on the property as it sits. Ms. Brown said she would like to see the parklet on Chalmers Street maintained. The Board agreed that area and the area on Pearl Street associated with the Southwest Darlington Storm Water grant needed to be mowed.

Mrs. Brown resigned from the Board, as her recovery from a stroke in January has not gone as planned. The Board expressed deep gratitude for her service and commitment to the City.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Oct. 20, in the courtroom at City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.