

Darlington Beautification Committee

Minutes for Wednesday, April 20, 2022

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Mrs. Bailey. Attending were Board members, Mrs. Ishman, Mrs. Sprott, Ms. Burns, and Mrs. Jackson; and guests, Andy and Peggy Cohen, Ronda Duke Brown, and Linda Beckham.

Ms. Burns provided the opening prayer.

Financial Report: Mrs. Bailey presented the Board with the expenses paid for this fiscal year to date, and that leaves the Board \$3,973.46. The donation fund has just over \$15,000 in it, \$5,000 from a Duke Energy Foundation grant, and the other \$10,000 the Board had previously decided to use for a brick entrance sign on SC151 when the Sports Complex nears completion. Of the \$5,000 Duke grant, there are \$2,895.20 remaining to plant and provide maintenance for the planters.

The Board members and Garden Club members discussed the possibility of hiring a 1099 employee to handle the entrances, planters on the Square, and other projects. The proposal included the individual working two mornings a week for approximately 10 hours a week at \$20 per hour to get someone knowledgeable about horticulture. For 50 weeks in a year, a rough estimate would put the cost at \$10,000 per year with the City and Garden Club putting forth \$5,000 each toward that hire. This would need to be brought to the administrator to be included in the budget.

The Board discussed how the installation of concrete planters on Cashua Street needed to be adjusted. Ms. Burns made a motion that members will meet in front of Chianti's, 124 Cashua St., at 5:15 p.m. Monday to discuss which to put in storage and which to shift along the sidewalk. Mrs. Ishman made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

City Administrator's Report: Mr. Payne was not in attendance.

Spring Clean Up Day: The Board moved the spring clean up day to Saturday, April 30, to allow time to get materials delivered and to ensure things were tidy prior to the Mother's Day race visitors. Mrs. Bailey said she would contact the schools, churches, and others who had expressed an interest in participating. Ms. Burns will order 100 bales of pinestraw for the various locations, and the Garden Club will provide annuals. The Board will pay for perennials, fertilizer, and any ant killer needed.

Bench Donation Request: Mrs. Bailey said that Mrs. Susan Rogers of Jewel's Restaurant has requested the Board help provide a memorial bench on the west side of the Square in memory of Charlie who used to deliver food around town. The Rogers have raised \$400 and believe they can get another \$100, but would like the Board to pay the other \$500. Mrs. Ishman made a motion to contribute \$500 toward the purchase of the bench, in case supply costs have increased. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously. The exact location will be determined Monday when the Board looks at the concrete planters.

Pride of Darlington Awards & Certificates: Mrs. Bailey said that the Pride Award presentation for the Weatherfords home on West Broad Street would be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 27, and that Ms. Stanley of Lindbergh's Southern Cooking wanted to wait until her sign was in place before the presentation.

Christmas Tree: The County has refurbished the brick pavers at the courthouse grounds, and the acceptable weight limit of vehicles crossing it will be capped at 5,000 pounds. The weight limit will prevent Sign Plus Systems from using its equipment to install the tree for the City. The Board will connect with Sunbelt Rentals to find a suitable replacement.

Unfinished Business: The Board asked if Mr. Isaac could pick up trash along Pearl Street, especially in front of Piggly Wiggly, once every two weeks or so. The Board gave Mr. Cohen permission to assist the Garden Club in repairing and updating the sprinkler systems at the various beautification areas.

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5 p.m. May 18, 2022.