

Darlington Beautification Committee

Minutes for Wednesday, May 18, 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, and Mrs. Martin; and guests, Andy and Peggy Cohen, Ronda Duke Brown, and Linda Beckham.

Mrs. Martin provided the opening prayer.

Minutes of the April 20, 2022, Meeting: Mrs. Ishman made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2022, meeting as presented. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

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 \$2,585.20 remaining to plant and provide maintenance for the planters. Mrs. Cohen and Mrs. Beckham, representing the Darlington Garden Club, said the club has purchased the plants for the 5 new pots and will install on Monday and have coordinated with the Street Department for watering.

City Administrator's Report: Mr. Payne was not in attendance. The Board discussed asking for a part-time employee to maintain all the volunteer projects around the City. Several have spoken with him, and he seemed receptive to the notion.

Spring Clean Up Day: The Board and Darlington Garden Club teamed up for another successful spring clean up day on Saturday, April 30. More than 30 volunteers put out pinestraw, picked up litter, and planted flowers across town. Roughly 21 bags of garbage were removed from the streets in advance of race week activities.

Bench Donation Request: Mrs. Bailey said that the cost estimate for the bench Mrs. Susan Rogers of Jewel's Restaurant had requested came in close to \$1,700, and previously it had been \$900 to \$1,000. Additionally, the Rogers did not like the location of the bench selected by the Board. Mrs. Bailey said the price of a shorter bench with the tree emblem has risen as well from \$500 to \$900. The Board decided not to pursue the bench further, as they did not want to rearrange the pots to make room for the bench directly in front of Jewel's since that may start a precedent of moving them.

Garden Club Update: The Garden Club would like to do a Blue Star Memorial Marker near the Veterans Memorial area. The Board said, if it would be in the right-of-way, SCDOT needed to be contacted first.

Pride of Darlington Awards & Certificates: Mrs. Bailey said that the Pride Award presentation for the Weatherfords home on West Broad Street appeared in The News & Press, and that Ms. Stanley of Lindbergh's Southern Cooking wanted to wait until her sign was in place before the presentation. She requested Board members get her addresses of future nominations prior to the next meeting.

Unfinished Business: Dr. Cohen said that he and Mr. Bailey had completely repaired and replaced the irrigation system at Lamar Highway and would continue fixing the various systems location by location as his time allowed. The Board discussed the lack of maintenance and pruning at various entrances, specifically the Verizon/South Main Street entrance where three cherry trees are dead, trees and bushes

are growing over the brick pillars and gas lanterns, and the bamboo getting out of control behind the magnolia trees.

Mrs. Bailey provided pricing for welcome banners and for a trellis to add to the parking island in front of the Veterans Memorial. The Board said they preferred not to block the memorial.

Mrs. Ishman made a motion to allocate the remaining funds for the fiscal year to redoing the parking islands on the Square, starting with the most visible ones and continue until all are complete with next year's budget. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The Board previously had C&S Landscaping design a plan to remove the old bushes, replace the dirt, and add low maintenance plants such as grasses, drift roses, and encore azaleas suited for each islands' conditions. The work would have to be done on the weekend when there is no traffic. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5 p.m. June 15, 2022.