

# *Darlington Beautification Committee*

## Minutes for Wednesday, July 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. Dewitt, Mrs. Cohen, and Mrs. Beckham; and guest, Catherine Bailey.

Ms. Dewitt provided the opening prayer. Given so many new faces, members introduced themselves.

**Minutes of the June 15, 2022, Meeting:** Mrs. Ishman made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2022, meeting as presented. Mrs. Cohen made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report:** Mrs. Bailey said the Board has \$7,000 for FY22-23.

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

**Garden Club Update:** Ms. Dewitt said the gazebo that the club ordered from DCIT has been delivered to Hampton Park but needs a wheelchair ramp to be ADA accessible. Mrs. Bailey said the delivery person said the students were supposed to install railings on site. Ms. Dewitt said the club would likely water seal the floor and add a bench or picnic table to match the rest of the park's amenities. She added that the club was considering maintaining all the planters on Cashua Street, in terms of keeping trash out, deadheading, putting out ant killer, etc. Mrs. Ishman said she and Mrs. Sprott fertilized all 70 pots July 4 weekend. Ms. Dewitt said the club wants to work together and often has eight to 10 people on its monthly workdays. Mrs. Sprott said that in the fall the Board needs a diagram of all the planters and plan what to replace in the spring and number them. Ms. Dewitt said she would work on a map template.

**Pride of Darlington Awards & Certificates:** Mrs. Bailey presented photos of two nominees for the residential pride award – 622 First Street and 1207 S. Main St. Mrs. Beckham made a motion to present the Pride Award to 622 First St. and present a certificate of appreciation to 1207 S. Main St. Mrs. Sprott made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business:** Mrs. Bailey said the following items are included in the board's packets: Photos of two nominees for Pride of Darlington awards; Press coverage of the Business Pride Award; Schedule of meetings and listing of Board members and contact information; Downtown Master Plan Survey to be shared and returned by Sept. 1; and the City Code of Ordinance that describes the Beautification Board.

Mrs. Bailey said, as previously reported, Mrs. Ishman said that Mr. Payne had funds to use up the Board's FY21-22 money to complete the parking islands project. Upon submitting the invoice, Mrs. Bailey was told the Board did not have the funds because the auditor had not adjusted purchases made at the end of the previous fiscal year despite the bills being turned in prior to the deadline and having the FY noted on the invoices. Thus, Mrs. Bailey was instructed to approach City Council for H-tax funds to complete the project. At the July meeting, Mrs. Bailey did so, but Council tabled the matter as Mr. Nettles said he may have avenues to provide private funding of the project. The Genesis Board will meet next week to take up the issue. Since the Board has already ordered the work from C&S Landscaping, Mrs. Bailey is requesting that the Board vote to approve one of two options: Using the donation funds to pay the invoices for the time being, in hopes that Genesis will come through with a donation; or using the most of the Board's FY22-23 budget to complete the project. This would leave the Board \$550 for

the remainder of the fiscal year. Mrs. Ishman said, because this is the second time we have approached Mr. Godwin on this project, we need to go through with the project no matter what. **Mrs. Ishman made a motion to fund the project using the donation fund for the first half and the remainder from the line item if the Genesis donation does not come through. Ms. Dewitt made the second. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Bailey reported on the bench at Jewel's Restaurant. Ms. Rogers submitted \$1,300 to order the bench for in front of Jewel's Restaurant. Mr. Payne used hospitality tax funds for the remainder.

Mrs. Bailey asked the Board about a possible future project. At Hampton Park, opposite where the gazebo sits, there is a formerly mulched and shady area. The vines and undergrowth overtake the benches and such within a week of removal given the recent rains. Would the Board like to explore a project to add native plants and pavers to reduce the maintenance of the area for staff? This would include getting measurements, estimates, maps, etc. Ms. Brown worked on something for the Park as a whole, but this would be targeted to this one area. The Board agreed to look at estimates but asked to add a 6-foot, black chain link fence around the playground for safety.

The Board also requested a list of Beautification Board projects.

The Board noted several codes violations and police issues that needed to be addressed. Mrs. Bailey said she would report to the appropriate person.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m., and the next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Aug. 17, 2022.