Darlington Beautification Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 21, 2025

I. Call to Order: meeting started at 5pm

II. Attendance: Hunter Thomas, Shelia Baccus, Angela McRavin, Lenessa Hawkins, Peggy Cohen, Becky Ishman, Letha Martin, Roxie Gregg, Linda Beckham, Vivian Jackson

III. Prayer: Letha Martin made an opening prayer

IV. Minutes: The minutes from the March 19th meeting were postponed to July.

V. Financial Report: Hunter Thomas gave the financial report. The line item budget for 2025 has been exhausted. Two bills are in question for $90:00 and $376:00 and will require further inquiry with the city finance department. The donation fund (separate from the city line item account) has $4914.00

Hunter also informed the committee that the new Splash pad should open June 1, 2025

VI. Committee reports: Peggy Cohen reported that the Garden Club wants to paint the newly repaired Gazebo in Hampton Park and requests that the city supply the paint and the Garden club members will do the work.

Hunter Thomas said that the front fence also needs painting and suggested the Garden club include this in their proposed work.

VII. Spring cleanup review: Spring cleanup was on April 26. The Mayor, John Segars, Becky Ishman and several members of the Garden club participated and cleaned up around the downtown Square and the Rose Garden at the Bill Cain Tennis center. Becky cleaned up and fertilized all the pots on the square.

VIII. Pride Awards: The committee recommended that James and Corine Litchard residing at 307 Cashua Street, receive the residential Pride of Darlington yard sign for this quarter. All members agreed.

IX. New Business: discussion of projects for the 2025-2026 budget. Several Priority projects including:

1) Inspection and repair of soaker hoses, sprinklers and fountain in the Rose Garden. (original system put in by C&S landscaping). Repair of Sprinklers at the South Main Street Island (currently sprinkler system has low water pressure – possibly due to recent road work that may have damaged water lines)
2) Repair of Wells Park sprinkler system (originally put in by Southeastern Landscape) Also need to check all new electrical boxes since they are not waterproof with covers. There is a fountain in Wells Park that is not operational.

3) The 4 Entrance signs to the City need to be replaced due to cracking, these were vinyl applications on metal made by The Barnes of all Trades in Lamar SC. The vinyl needs replacing.
4) Autumn Flags for the light poles in the downtown square
5) Pine straw for the garden areas prior to Labor Day and after Sprinkler repair

X. Budget for July City Council to be prepared by Peggy Cohen

XI. Unfinished Business: 1) black pots: A single black pot is empty in front of the Methodist church on Pearl Street and will be replanted in the Fall with supplies the board has stored at the water Department.
2) The budget money for this fiscal year has been spent on Flags currently displayed on light poles and Christmas decor

XII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Next meeting scheduled for July 16