

DARLINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2015

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Lisa Rock. Members present were Mr. White, Rev. Cannon, Ms. Rock, Ms. Burns, Ms. Brown, and Mrs. Howle.

The Rev. Cannon provided the opening prayer.

The minutes of the November 19, 2014, meeting were reviewed. Ms. Brown made a correction that the plantings in front of the city administration building may not be roses and should read "plantings" instead. Mrs. Howle made a motion to accept the corrected minutes. Rev. Cannon made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock gave the Treasurer's Report, as set forth on the attachment hereto, which also reflected the 2014-2015 Budget, and noted the projects to which each amount has been allocated.

Mrs. Howle reported on the activities of the Kalmia Garden Study Club. The pump for the fountain at the rose garden burned out because the water was being shut off each Friday afternoon. She has contacted Jim Godwin to look at hooking up the water line somewhere else with a constant water supply, so a new pump when purchased would not see a similar fate. The Club will hold the Eastern Sandhills District Garden Club meeting on March 5. The Club is looking for donations for goodie bags for the 80-90 people from all over the Pee Dee region who are expected to attend. She invited Ms. Rock to welcome those in attendance on behalf of the City. Mrs. Howle also noted that the bench at the back of the McCullough House is getting so much use that the Council on Aging has put out some folding chairs. She said it would be nice to order them chairs to match the bench. The committee will also meet to plan more plants around the McCullough House.

Ms. Brown reported that the Trees-on-the-Square project has developed nicely with one space remaining on the Square itself in front of Wells Fargo. She is estimating another 15 pots could be placed on Cashua Street. She has also been approached outside of town about the project. Sonoco may be interested as well. She would like to get them on board during the phase of the project concerning the benches, which will cost much more than the pots. She added that she has commitments for 4 benches once a design is selected, so one could be placed on each side of the Square. Mrs. Howle suggested we look at the ones at the Lamar Library, which are very nice. Ms. Rock said the dedication ceremony would be in the next few weeks at the Darlington Veterans Memorial.

Ms. Rock asked if the Board had any suggestions for a Garden Party. Mrs. Howle said that the party should wait until another time because there was still much work to do in the rose garden.

Ms. Rock reported that the Kiwanis Club was on board for the spring Clean Up Day planned for Saturday, April 11. Mrs. Howle asked that we invite the Pilot Club to come out the same day to dress up the entrance to town the club maintains. Mr. White suggested we invite the County and the Library to be involved too. Mrs. Howle suggested having a hot dog lunch following the Clean Up to celebrate all the hard work. Ms. Brown said the Boy Scouts would work in Wells Park. Mrs. Burns said the pinestraw at the entrance on South Main needed fluffing. Ms. Rock asked members to come with a list of proposed projects to the February meeting.

Mrs. Burns said another area to work on could be the warehouse at Broad Street where we could plant some flowers in front. Ms. Brown said creating a lattice for banners to hang on would serve as a more pleasant community bulletin board.

In other business, Mr. White asked why we are having such a time enforcing the sign ordinance. He suggested the codes enforcement officer spend one day a month to take down all the errant signs. He noted that we worked hard to pass a signage ordinance. Mrs. Brown read from the sign ordinance.

Ms. Brown said some areas along the sidewalk could use a weed eater. She asked about the Christmas lights, which were not all functioning this year, and said garland around the poles would be a nice touch. Ms. Rock said there are plans to replace the City Christmas decorations for Christmas 2015. Ms. Brown added that having a Christmas tree might be nice. She thought asking shop owners to put out wreaths with candles whether on or off the Square would be nice too. Mr. White said that every window in the courthouse used to have candles in them, and the DDRA led that project. Ms. Brown suggested we ask the DDRA to revive that. Mrs. Burns said we could have a contest to decorate the outside of businesses in the fall like in Thompson, Ga. Mr. White said the more organizations you can get involved the less criticism we will receive. Rev. Cannon said that we need to take pride in our town and in our homes.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m. The next meeting will be February 18, 2015.

Respectfully submitted: Lisa Chalian-Rock, chair