

City of Darlington Beautification Board
March 16, 2016, Meeting

Attending were Mr. Jackson, Rev. Cannon, Ms. Brown, Ms. Rock, Ms. Burns, Mr. White, and Mr. Garland.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Rock at 8:13 a.m. Rev. Cannon provided the opening prayer.

Upon reading the minutes of the February 17, 2016, meeting, Mr. White made a motion to accept them as written. Mr. Jackson made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurer's Report, which had no changes since the previous meeting as no funds had been expended. She also presented the FY 2016-17 Budget Request for the Board to approve before sending to City Council. Mr. Jackson asked about the funds allocated for the Rose Garden since the City had garnered a grant of nearly \$5,000 for that project. Ms. Brown said those funds would cover annual needs for the garden, plant replacement, mulch, etc. Rev. Cannon said it would be good to have photos while it was in bloom for advertising and tourism. Ms. Brown said a lot is contingent upon the building's restoration. The Board also discussed the possibility of using the garden for a party for the community with music to promote its use. Ms. Brown said that expanding passive parks like this one are part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Rev. Cannon made a motion to approve the request. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

In committee reports, the Board was updated on the progress of the two Palmetto Pride grants. Ms. Rock said the tree bench had been ordered for the Rose Garden, and she was trying to obtain quotes from contractors to install the walkway additions to help connect the two buildings. The additional plantings would be done in the fall, but the Garden Club would be working there on April 5 to prep the soil and do other annual spring duties. Ms. Brown said the location of the pots to be installed along Pearl Street have been identified, and she will go to Bishopville to order the smaller pots soon. The planting for those would be a separate work day from the Clean Up Darlington Day.

Regarding the Garden Club activities, Ms. Brown said there have been problems with ants in the pots on the Square. She found ceramic feet to lift them off the ground, reduce the ant issues, and help drainage. These would be painted black, but she would need assistance from the street department to install. Ms. Brown made a motion to install the feet since there were ample funds remaining in the Trees on the Square project fund. Ms. Burns made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock said Clean Up Darlington Day has been set for April 16. Ms. Brown said the pansies would stay in the pots around the Square beyond that date, so that would be one less project for that Saturday. Ms. Burns said the quote on pine straw she got from Chesterfield County was \$4 per bale of good quality long leaf pine straw delivered. She said it was \$5.25 per bale put out. Ms. Brown had a list of locations and tasks. Ms. Burns asked about the alley behind Jewels. Rev. Cannon said the trees in the median near Mayo were dying. Ms. Rock said she would get

Mr. Williamson to look at them. Rev. Cannon noted the water lines were still sticking out. Mr. White said the whole thing needs to be redone. Ms. Brown asked if Mr. Garland was looking into irrigation. Ms. Rock said she wasn't sure but that she saw the street department working on it last week. Mr. Jackson said that they are just mowing everything down with the weed eater. Mr. White agreed and said we have been talking about it for a year; there are crepe myrtle stumps and other stumps; the street department needs to dig that up first. Mr. White continued to say that we can't keep covering up with straw. Ms. Brown made a motion to ask the street department to remove the roots and check on irrigation. Mr. Jackson said what about a contractor to do it. Rev. Cannon said we need a contractor; the city doesn't have the manpower and time to do it. Mr. White made a motion to put out bids for a professional low maintenance redo of that median. Ms. Burns made the second. Ms. Rock asked: Where is the money going to come from for that? Mr. White said this would not be an ongoing contract but a onetime item. Ms. Brown said Council needs to include it in the budget. Mr. Jackson said the mayor campaigned on beautifying the City. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Brown also suggested groups signing up for locations and projects prior to that morning, so they would not have to waste 30 minutes at the Chamber deciding what to do.

Ms. Rock asked the Board for more nominations for the Residential Pride Award. She also suggested that the business award be given to Southeastern Grain Company on East Broad Street. Mr. White made the motion. Ms. Burns the second. Ms. Brown said with this award we can say comes two oak trees since they have enough property to do it. She said we could do the same for the Jiffy Cab Company on South Main Street. The motion carried unanimously.

As far as Christmas decorations, Ms. Rock said Council approved spending \$40,000 in hospitality funds for them, but Council disagreed on whether to refurbish the old ones or buy new. The old angels and trees need to be sanded, painted, and new strands of lights wrapped on them. Ms. Burns asked where they would go. Ms. Rock said they would go back where they previously were installed around the Square since there is definitely power available but eventually it would expand down South Main Street. She added that they did not go up this year because many had broken lights but more importantly because the City bucket truck died. A new used one runs about \$30,000. Ms. Brown said she had heard renting a bucket truck cost just \$300 for the entire weekend, so it may be cheaper than we think. Mr. Jackson said he prefers to redo the old things if possible then the poinsettias, then the snowflakes. Ms. Rock asked about the Board's thoughts on a large Seasons Greetings lighted item for the Bypass. Mr. White said he was against it. Mr. Jackson said no cities he travels through have that kind of thing. Ms. Brown said we could spend the money better with more pole decorations. Mr. Garland said the complaints this year was there were not enough lights and they were oriented wrong. Mr. White said let's just not get tacky; we don't need a Ferris wheel out there. Ms. Brown said she preferred the snowflake. Ms. Rock called a question for preference of snowflake to poinsettia should Council choose to get new ones. The majority preferred snowflakes to poinsettias. Mr. Garland said he would call Duke Energy again to get more information on the cost to install electricity on the poles along South Main Street.

In unfinished business, Ms. Brown asked the Board about installing benches on the Square. She wanted to order two benches using the budgeted funds and contingency money to put one at

the Public Walkway for visibility on foot and one by the island and mural for visibility by car. Mr. Garland made the motion. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Attached:

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE TREASURER'S REPORT

February 17, 2016

FY 2015-16 Budget	\$5,000
Kalmia Garden Study Club – Psillos Garden	\$300
Pot Project on the Public Square	\$300
Rose Garden	\$800
Wells Park	\$800
Clean Up Day (2)	\$800
Benches	\$800
Misc. Projects / Contingency	\$1,200

590/273.3 Beautification Board

Date	Biller	Description	Amount
	Kalmia Garden Study Club	Rose Garden	\$800.00
9-Oct	Kalmia Garden Study Club	Clean Up	\$400.00
9-Oct	Kalmia Garden Study Club	Psillos Garden	\$300.00
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			\$1,500.00
Remainder			\$3,500.00

FY 2016-17 Budget Request	\$12,000
Psillos Garden	\$300
Rose Garden	\$500
Garden Party	\$800
Wells Park	\$500
Clean Up Days (2) / Pot Project	\$1,500
Additional Pine Straw \$4/bale	\$4,000
Benches or Bike Racks	\$3,000
Misc. Projects / Contingency	\$1,400