



DARLINGTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 19, 2016.

The meeting of the Beautification Board was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Lisa Chalian-Rock. Members present: Ms. Rock, Ronda Brown, Laura Burns, Howard Garland, and Jimmy White.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Ms. Brown.

Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of our September meeting as written with a second by Ms. Burns. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented the Treasurer's Report, showing \$68.37 that had been spent this fiscal year for beautification. She noted that the Palmetto Pride Community Grant for the Rose Garden project had \$938.18 remaining, and \$500 would go toward sod and dirt to level the area around the new brick walkway. Ms. Brown said the remaining \$438 would be spent on plant material. She noted that the \$500 in the FY2016-17 budget for the Rose Garden will need to go toward repairs to the sprinkler system in front of the McCullough House, a repair which will cost \$430. Ms. Rock also said the fund for the Pots on the Square had \$147.83 remaining for replacement plants, etc. Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the report as written. Mr. White made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rock presented a request from Walmart to remove several trees blocking its signage along South Main Street. The plan must be approved by this Board. Ms. Brown said the size of the replacement trees matters, and they should be 10 feet tall, more mature than what's been planted there. Mr. White said the Board could not make a decision without visiting the site. Ms. Burns said the Board should request Walmart also include the brick pillar. Ms. Brown agreed, adding that maintenance of this side of the entrance and irrigation should be part of the motion. She said she was not opposed to the type of tree but the size. Mr. White said we could not make an informed decision without looking at it and requested a separate meeting to address this issue. Ms. Burns said she would prefer they not install red mulch. Ms. Brown noted that the Board should request a change in the ordinance to require mulch or pine straw versus stone being used by several newly constructed projects. The Board agreed to hold a separate meeting for approval of the plan with a time and date to be set at a later date.

Clean Up Day: Ms. Rock reported that the Street Department would assist with planting in the Rose Garden on Friday prior to Clean Up Day. Mr. White suggested the Board meet with the Street Department head to show what the Board feels has been neglected and to get ahead of it. Ms. Brown suggested a work session.

Ms. Rock presented several photos of homes nominated by the Board and others for the Residential Pride of Darlington Award. Mr. White made a motion to give the award to 209 S. Spain St. Mr. Garland made the second. The Board noted the older couple works in the yard themselves and together. Mr. White called it a diamond in the rough. The motion carried with only one nay by Ms. Brown.

The Stop Sign Neighborhood Project was tabled until a future meeting of the Board.

Ms. Rock handed out Bench Donation Forms and letters and asked members to distribute or to let her know who to approach for a bench. Ms. Brown said the Kalmia Garden Study Club had approved the funds for a bench.

Mr. Garland reported on the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew. The City has only one street that remains closed from a fallen tree, and crews have cleared 25% of the debris. Ms. Brown suggested getting a contract with a tree removal service for emergencies for the initial few days that FEMA covers. Mr. Garland said he was not sure if the tree companies would honor it. He said so many have been trying to gouge our residents during this event.

Ms. Rock will call and email the date and time for the Pride Award presentation when confirmed with the home owners.

The next regular meeting is November 16, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.