TOWN OF BLUFFTON BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Large Meeting Room, Theodore D. Washington Municipal Building
Thursday, January 21, 2016

Present: David Waugh, Chair; Eric Walsnovich; Regina Banis
Absent: Hugh Williamson, Vice-Chair; Shere Colborn
Staff: Pat Rooney, Principal Planner; Melvin Hamilton, Public Works Supervisor; Rocio Rexrode, Growth Management Coordinator

I. CALL TO ORDER

Waugh called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Waugh made a motion to reverse the order of the New Business items and to approve the January 21, 2016, Beautification Committee agenda with the change. Banis seconded the motion to approve the agenda with the reversed order. All were in favor and the motion passed.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES – November 19, 2015

Waugh made a motion to approve the November 19, 2015, Beautification Committee minutes. Banis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Bill Bowers, 144 Oak Forest Road: He stated that he had sent a letter and that he had not received any updates regarding improvement to the traffic circle. Mr. Bowers was given the opportunity to offer his suggestions during the Bluffton Parkway Circle Improvements discussion under item 1 of old business.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Updates of the proposed Bluffton Parkway Circle Improvements encroachment permits

Rooney presented.

There was a discussion regarding improvement options based on the parameters set by the State Traffic Engineer. It was established that some improvements would take place, but not what was anticipated due to the State’s parameters. The majority of the ornamental trees was not permitted and will have to be removed from the plans. Rooney will revise the plans and resubmit to SCDOT for approval.

Hamilton provided comments regarding the proposed placement of the plantings and how it would impact the maintenance of the circle. He suggested that the plantings should be confined as close to the middle as possible.
There was a suggestion to light-up the plantings to help with visibility at night. Mr. Bowers suggestion for a monument in the center of the circle was discussed. Approval of this option was determined to be highly unlikely due to SCDOT requirements for site lines and break away construction.

2. **Update of the Proposed May River Road Tree Replacements**

   Rooney presented.

   Rooney and Walsnovich set a time to do a walk-through to assess the trees on May River Road. Some tree replacement recommendations will be presented at the next meeting.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Review of a draft letter to the Mayor and Town Council requesting support of the Adopt-a-Planter concept**

   Rooney presented.

   There was a consensus to include “Ongoing Maintenance” in the text of the letter. An updated letter is to be presented at the next meeting.

2. **Review of the FY2017 Work Plan**

   Rooney presented.

   Considering that festivals are good venues to sell planters for the Adopt-a-Planter program and to inform the public of the role of the Beautification Committee, it was proposed to have Committee representation during future Town festivals and events.

   There was a consensus to add a line item for some vista pruning along the river.

   Eric made a motion to approve the FY2017 Work Plan with the addition of some vista pruning. Banis seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**VIII. DISCUSSION**

1. **Continue discussion of the Adopt-a-Planter program**

   Rooney briefed the Members about the Old Oyster Factory Park improvements and the upcoming Garvin House renovation.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The January 21, 2016, Beautification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.