

**CITY OF DELTONA, FLORIDA
CITY COMMISSION AND BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD
JOINT MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2009**

A Joint Meeting of the Deltona City Commission and the Beautification Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 in the City of Deltona's 2nd Floor Conference Room at 2345 Providence Blvd., Deltona, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Vice Mayor Carmolingo.

2. ROLL CALL:

Deltona City Commission:

Mayor	Dennis Mulder	Absent (excused)
Vice Mayor	Michael Carmolingo	Present
Commissioner	Zenaida Denizac	Present
Commissioner	Janet Deyette	Present
Commissioner	Michele McFall-Conte	Present
Commissioner	Paul Treusch	Present
Commissioner	Herb Zischkau	Present
Acting City Attorney	Charles Cino	Absent
City Manager	Faith G. Miller	Absent (excused)

Beautification Advisory Board:

Chairperson	Al Manassa	Absent
Vice Chairperson	Barbara Willey	Present
Board Member	Gregory Delaine	Present (arrived 5:10pm)
Board Member	George Gehring	Present
Board Member	Davis Llewellyn	Absent
Board Member	Gretchen Venn	Absent
Board Member	Jason Bridgewater	Present

Also present: Deputy City Manager Dave Denny and Acting Public Works Director Glenn Whitcomb.

3. BUSINESS:

A. Discussion re: Budget Funds FY 09/10.

Vice Chair Willey stated some of the Board members work so they are unable to be at the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor Carmolingo suggested the Beautification Board members speak first.

Vice Chair Willey stated the Board was planning to start a program called "Yard of the Quarter" where resident's yards can be nominated and a sign will be placed in the yard for that quarter.

Vice Mayor Carmolingo asked if a business could also be nominated or does it have to be residential only. Vice Chair Willey stated the Board would consider businesses but at the moment they are considering mostly private residences as it may encourage other residences on the street to do better.

Mr. Gehring stated he feels businesses have the money to beautify their place and the Board had been talking about having both residential and business beautification awards.

Mr. Gregory Delaine arrived and identified himself. He stated he lived in District 6.

Vice Chair Willey stated she felt the City should expect the banks to maintain the outside of foreclosed homes as other cities are doing. She stated one other suggestion is taking care of the swale system throughout the City and the City should get the message to the residents that they are responsible for the swales as some of them are not aware of this responsibility; they think the swales belong to the City especially between the sidewalk and the street. She suggested this message could be included in the City newsletter.

Vice Mayor Carmolingo stated he read in the paper that the Orange City Council actually made a request to the residents to maintain the ROW during one of their Council Meetings and the Deltona City Commission could the same.

Vice Chair Willey stated the Beautification Board has been going out and cleaning streets and suggested it would be helpful to know the City's mowing crew's schedule as not to select the same streets. Vice Mayor Carmolingo suggested they contact Public Works and let them know what street the Board plans to clean.

Vice Chair Willey stated another concern of the Board is water conservation and she suggested the City parks should also follow the watering rules and not water at the wrong time. Mr. Gehring stated there should be no watering between 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. according to the St. Johns Water Management District. Commissioner Deyette stated the parks need sensors. Commissioner Treusch asked Mr. Denny a possible cost for sensors. Mr. Denny stated there are many types of sensors many of which do not work properly and it would be a matter of finding the right one or the City would be throwing their money away.

Vice Chair Ms. Willey stated the Board would like to make up no littering signs and put them up in the convenience stores if possible with City approval to help stop littering. Mr. Gehring passed

out a draft of a sign and suggested they could be posted at their take-out window and maybe have stores put trash containers nearby. Commissioner Treusch suggested the ordinance showing \$500.00 fine for littering be put by the cash registers. Mr. Gehring stated it is an enforcement issue. Commissioner Denizac stated this is a good idea but education is needed. She stated whatever is done should be done in the schools and it should come from the Commission. She suggested there should possibly be a workshop to discuss this issue. Vice Mayor Carmolingo suggested adapting the no littering sign for the schools.

B. Discussion re: Vision for the City.

There was no discussion.

C. Discussion re: Board's Input on Land Development Code changes - primarily regarding landscaping.

Vice Chair Willey stated the Beautification Board would like to take part in revising the current land development code, especially the landscaping part if possible. Vice Mayor Carmolingo suggested the Board could be involved in the discussion but not have the final word. Commissioner Denizac stated she wouldn't mind the Board having input but feels it should be left to the experts.

Vice Chair Willey stated the I-4 exit at Dirksen Rd. needs attention and asked if the City could at least send a letter to the Florida Department of Transportation and ask that they do a better job of maintaining it. Vice Mayor Carmolingo agreed and stated he had received several complaints about that area also. Commissioner Treusch asked if the City could write to FDOT and ask if the City could take over maintenance of that exit with the understanding that maintenance would include mowing and litter pick-up. Vice Mayor Carmolingo suggested it would cost to do that but maybe the City could take over the maintenance and have FDOT reimburse the City. Mr. Denny stated a letter could be sent. Commissioner McFall-Conte stated it had been looked at in the past and the cost was exorbitant but would support a letter being sent to FDOT stating the exit has not been kept up to the City's standards lately. She reminded everyone there are three exits and if the City asks to take over the maintenance for one, FDOT may ask the City take all three. Mr. Bridgewater stated he uses the Howland Blvd. exit on a daily basis and it is maintained much better than the Dirksen Rd. exit but he feels the fact that it is a newer development may have something to do with it and there may be a contract. Mr. Gehring stated the crepe myrtles had not been maintained at the Dirksen Rd. exit.

Vice Chair Willey asked if the City could request the County plant some trees on Howland Blvd. between Elkcam Blvd. and Courtland Blvd. and she understands the City may have to share the cost. Commissioner Deyette suggested wildflowers. Vice Chair Willey stated if wild flowers are planted they can't be cut until the middle of June. Vice Mayor Carmolingo stated he is more concerned about the widening of Howland Blvd. being finished before the funding runs out and feels the City should be happy with what we get there for now. Vice Chair Willey asked the City just keep that in mind to ask the County to add trees. Mr. Gehring stated that maybe in the spring

some volunteers could plant some small trees. Mr. Delaine suggested the City also include the median on I-4 between the Dirksen Rd. exit and Saxon when requesting maintenance; it hasn't been mowed in a while.

Commissioner Denizac stated speaking of entrance ways, the entrance way and entrance sign for Arbor Ridge looks bad. Mr. Denny stated the homeowners association could be notified for a start.

Vice Chair Willey stated many cities are notifying banks about maintaining the lawns of foreclosed homes and suggested the City should start doing the same. Vice Mayor Carmolingo stated the City could do that as he thought the City had the names of the banks. Mr. Denny stated the City is doing that now by noticing the banks and maintaining somewhere between 80 and 90 lawns a month with a contractor and then billing either the bank or the owner. Commissioner Denizac stated when the banks come and ask for reductions in fines, the Commission needs to stop bailing them out.

Vice Chair Willey commented the Board would welcome the Commissioners to attend the Beautification Board meetings. Mr. Gehring suggested if Commissioners can't attend, the Board feels they are not interested. Vice Mayor Carmolingo stated the Commission appreciates all of the Boards' input and feels their input is helpful and thanked them. Commissioner Denizac stated she appreciated everything the Board has done but personally doesn't want to interject her thoughts wanting the Board to have the freedom to discuss their ideas and then report them to the Commission. She stated if the Board would like to have Commissioners to attend once in a while she would be happy to sit and listen.

Vice Chair Willey stated the Board had the representative from the Victory Garden at their last meeting talking about the Victory Garden and the many ideas he had which were very interesting. She suggested it would be good to have him come to a Commission meeting and tell the City all about the garden to get the word out. Vice Mayor Carmolingo stated he felt that would be the perfect project for the Beautification Board.

Commissioner Zischkau stated he liked the idea Commissioner Deyette had about the wildflowers and referred to Lake Mary's medians as well as the medians on Hwy 472. He suggested having the Beautification Board to identify areas that are a little wider and can be left uncut to have our own wildflowers program. Vice Chair Willey stated FDOT gets the seed in Texas and they have the equipment to plant them, but people must understand once they are planted they cannot be cut until they go to seed. Commissioner Zischkau asked Mr. Denny if the City could clear out around some of the retention ponds and plant wildflowers.

Mr. Denny stated anything done in the ROW on Howland near I-4 has to be signed off on by Volusia County and he had just received a letter from Volusia County complaining about the landscaping in the medians on Providence Blvd. saying they don't like it and asking the City to remove some of it. He stated the County says their reason for this is some of the areas have sight problems when crossing Providence Blvd. Commissioner Zischkau suggested the approximately

two acre area on Providence near Clayton might be a good area to try the wildflowers and asked if it belonged to the City. Mr. Whitcomb stated it possibly was owned by Volusia County but he would check into it. Mr. Gehring asked about Volusia County complaining about the Providence Blvd. medians commenting that the County was the one who put all the landscaping there even though there were some things the Beautification Board did not want there. Mr. Denny stated that was not the case; HHI was the one that designed that median for the City, the Beautification Board made some changes to the type of plants, all the County did was approve it with no changes. He stated it was not right for the County to ask the City to remove anything after they had approved it originally. Mr. Bridgewater asked if there were any sight distance triangle statistics on any accidents happening there. Mr. Denny stated there was no information on any accidents according to the Sheriff's Office but again the County signed off on what is there from Saxon to Tivoli.

Vice Chair Willey asked if there were any suggestions for the Board by the Commission to please let them know.

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION.

Commissioner Denizac stated she had received a call from a resident asking why there was no I-4 directional signage on Howland Blvd. near the intersections of Elkcam and Howland Blvds. and Providence and Howland Blvds. Mr. Denny stated there had been a sign near Elkcam and Howland prior to the construction on Howland and once the construction is completed he will talk with the County regarding installing signage.

5. CLOSING REMARKS.

Mr. DeMatteo asked to make some comments.

- (a) He stated he felt the Beautification Board telling Public Works what street the Board was going to clean could mess up the Public Works schedule.
- (b) He stated he was upset about the beautification signs because he felt the Board was promoting certain things putting them up in businesses and regarding the quarterly signs, he reminded them that the first time this was done it took too long a time to get the signs put up and by that time everything was all dried out. He stated he felt it was a waste of the Board's time. He asked in the past for no litter signs and he was a little upset about it.
- (c) He stated he never hears the Board say anything about the City flower and crepe myrtles; all the Board wants is something that is extensive and he likes the plain and simple. He gave an example of the park in Orange City on Rhode Island with just grass, a few trees and flowers.
- (d) He stated regarding the wildflowers, that was looked at one time before and they cost hundreds. He stated the Board is contradicting him but he would like to see proof they cost \$16.00 per pound and he feels they look like a bunch of weeds in the winter time.

- (e) He asked how long the signs were going to stay up; as he remembers from before some of the residents took the signs down in a couple of days. Vice Chair Willey answered the residents are to keep the signs up for three months.
- (f) He asked if the Board had thought about landscaping at the Fire Department. He stated also, all the flowers at City Hall are in the back and not in the front and he wonders what people are thinking when they want to put in all this extensive landscaping instead of something quick, simple and easy maintenance.

Vice Mayor Carmolingo thanked the Beautification Advisory Board members and his fellow Commission members for a wonderful meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 P.M.

Janet Day, Admin. Assistant II
Recording Secretary