



**CITY OF MELBOURNE, FLORIDA
MINUTES
BEAUTIFICATION & ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
January 11, 2012
Melbourne City Hall – Council Chamber
900 East Strawbridge Avenue
Melbourne, Florida**

A meeting of the Beautification and Environmental Advisory Committee was held at the Melbourne City Hall, 900 E. Strawbridge Avenue, this date, called to order by Vice-Chairman Celeste Henry at 8:30 a.m.

1. All present gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. The following members and staff were:

Present:	Celeste Henry	Vice-Chairman
	Jon Shepherd	Member
	Darlene Smith	Member (arrived 8:50)
	Dennis Meehan	Member
	Tom Belanger	Member
	Ron Strandjord	Member
	Alexis Johnsten	Member (arrived 8:40)
	Mary Ann Bowman	Leisure Services Director
	Steven Graham	Parks Administrator
	Barbara Smith	Principal Secretary
	Jenni Lamb	City Engineer
	Dani Straub	Engineering Supv.
Absent:	Betty Moore	Chairman (excused)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – December 14, 2011

Motioned by Meehan/Shepherd to approve the December 14, 2011 minutes.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Fertilizer Ordinance – Engineering Department

Dani Straub, Engineering Supervisor, passed out the latest draft of the ordinance which the Brevard Working Group has been working on. She stated that it is almost verbatim of the States sample ordinance with one exception: “it is recommended that no fertilizer containing phosphorous or nitrogen be applied to turf or landscape plants during the restricted application period, defined as June 1 to September 30. Between October 1 and May 31 the nitrogen content of fertilizer applied to turf or landscape plants within the municipality shall contain no less than 50% slow release nitrogen per guaranteed analysis label.” The ordinance will be brought before Brevard County’s Board in March. Once Brevard County approves it she will bring it back before this board and then to City Council. Jenni Lamb, City Engineer, informed the board if they have any ideas and want to make changes they need to be made now. Tom Belanger stated that the City of Stuart has some additional language in their ordinance that we may want to consider. One is a ten foot buffer zone between where the application of fertilizer stops and a body of water. Ms Straub responded that we are not allowed to make ours any more stringent. Other cities that had their ordinance in place more than a year ago were allowed to have a more stringent ordinance. Mr. Belanger also stated that soluble liquid fertilizer is really bad and they may want to ban it. Ms. Lamb stated that legally the courts and legislation won’t allow us to. Ms. Straub stated that in the ordinance it stated that “a voluntary ten foot low maintenance zone is strongly recommended, but not mandated, from any pond, stream, water course, lake, wetland or from the top of a seawall. A swale/berm system is recommended for installation at the landward edge of this low maintenance zone to capture and filter runoff.” Mr. Belanger asked if this could be challenged which Ms. Straub replied that it already had been and the state legislature has approved the model ordinance and said they will not allow changes. Celeste Henry stated that last year in January we received 4.42” of rain, March was 4.44” and June was 5.3” which she believes just restricting to the summer months would not be helpful. Staff responded that this was not the norm and they are going by the “normal” wet season.

Starting in 2014 counties and cities will start reporting violators to the Department of Agriculture who in turn can pull the company’s license if they do not follow the ordinance. Mary Ann Bowman stated that education has to happen because the average homeowner relies on what they are being told by these companies who are out to make money.

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Ms. Lamb stated that Live Blue Program is not only going into schools to educate, but they will be advertising in movie theaters, on busses, etc. Ms. Straub added that staff will also be attending local functions to get the word out such as Fridayfest, farmers markets, parades, art festivals, etc. Ms. Henry stated that the neighborhood watch group in the Eau Gallie area discussed how the effluent was going to be redirected into the Eau Gallie River. It is going to be a hard sell to tell people they can't put fertilizer on their lawns when the City is dumping into the river. Ms. Lamb responded that these people need to be educated as well. It is the same amount and consistency as before it is just being moved to a different location which is a better location for the river. Ms. Straub added that the levels being discharged are set by the state. Ms. Henry stated that she would rather see people educated than being issued a citation.

To clarify, Ms. Bowman asked that once the ordinance goes to the County, staff will bring it back to this board for their input and approval then it will go to City Council. Ms. Lamb responded yes and if anything changes before they meet again, staff will notify the board.

5. "We Noticed Award"

There were no nominations this month.

6. 2012 Arbor Day Celebration

Barbara Smith passed out an updated copy of the Arbor Day program. It was discussed that the Melbourne Garden Club has donated a tree, Our Lady of Lourdes will be attending and the seedlings are in. Ms. Henry hopes all members can attend.

7. U.S. 1 Beautification Project

Ms. Bowman informed the board that Leisure Services staff, Howard Ralls, Deputy City Manager and Ms. Lamb met with Frazier Engineering to have an overall project, vision and plan on what can be done with the entire area. Frazier is looking at the overall area and will come back to us and give us a cost on what it will take to actually put the entire project together so that when grants become available we can start applying for them, or start working on bits and pieces of it since it will be a very expensive project. Ms. Bowman added that they were also working on a grant with Jim Egan, Marine Resource Council, which is to remove the pepper trees. They have identified a long stretch of land that they feel would be a beneficial area to start with the removals and for the public to notice.

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Ms. Lamb added that we definitely need a plan/vision to apply for grants. The idea of doing it is great but without having a vision the property owners they have contacted about their land want to see what the City is going to do before they turn it over to us.

Mr. Belanger informed Ms. Bowman that he had some F.I.T. students contact him about doing a pepper busting project. Ms. Bowman said she would pass the information on to Jim Egan.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Annual Presentation to City Council – March 13, 2012

Vice-Chairman Henry asked what changes the board wanted to make for the presentation. Ms. Bowman added they will finalize the presentation at the February meeting.

9. Apollo Blvd. Extension Landscaping Plan

Ms. Bowman advised the board that this item needs to be tabled. The plans have not been received back from the State.

10. Staff Report

Steven Graham informed the board that he met with the State and made suggestions as to the landscaping for Apollo. He added that the Police atrium is finished and has turned out great. Trees have been cut down at Wells Park and new Red Maples have been planted.

Ms. Henry inquired if City buildings such as Fire and Police receive waste management collection like everyone else. She said that they have the old recycling buckets and not the new carts. Ms. Bowman stated that she would look into it.

11. Selection of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Motioned by Stranjord/Smith to keep Betty Moore as Chairman and Celeste Henry as Vice-Chairman.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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12. Petitions, Remonstrances, and Communications

Ms. Henry inquired if the sidewalks had been cleaned in Downtown Melbourne. Ms. Bowman asked Mr. Graham if they had the new steam pressure washer to which he responded yes. Ms. Bowman said staff would try it out at the Eau Gallie Civic Center first to see how well it works.

13. Adjournment

Motioned by Meehan/Henry to adjourn.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Barbara Smith, Recording Secretary