

SOUTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY CORRIDOR BEAUTIFICATION BOARD

The Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board (herein after known as the Board) was held on February 16, 2017 at the Hilton Head Island Library Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steve Wilson (Chairman)
Mr. Glenn Stanford (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Doug Novak (Secretary)
Ms. Sallie Bridgwater

Mr. Henry Diercxsens
Ms. C.J. Humphrey
Mr. Tray Hunter

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Randy Boehme
Todd Theodore

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director
Ms. Allison Coppage, Beaufort County Assistant Attorney
Ms. Nancy Moss, Beaufort County Planning Department

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ms. Eleanor Lightsey, Lowcountry Inside Track

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Chairman Wilson asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the January 19, 2017, Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Stanford made a motion and Ms. Humphrey seconded the motion to accept the Minutes from the January 19, 2017 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes from the January 19, 2017, Board meeting** (FOR: Bridgwater, Diercxsens, Humphrey, Hunter, Novak, Stanford, Wilson).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Election of Board Officers

Chairman Wilson entertained nominees for the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary on the Board. Vice-Chairman Stanford made a motion to re-nominate Mr. Steve Wilson as the Chairman and Ms. Bridgwater seconded the motion. Ms. Bridgwater made a motion to re-nominate Mr. Glenn Stanford as the Vice-Chairman and Chairman Wilson seconded the motion. Ms. Bridgwater made a motion to re-nominate Mr. Novak as the Secretary and Mr. Hunter

seconded the motion. **The motions were carried unanimously to re-nominate Mr. Steve Wilson for Chairman, Mr. Glenn Stanford for Vice Chairman and Mr. Doug Novak for Secretary** (FOR: Bridgwater, Diercxsens, Humphrey, Hunter, Novak, Stanford, Wilson).

Landscape Median Bid Update for Rose Hill/Belfair

Mr. Tony Criscitiello stated that two proposals were received and that both came in above the estimated budget. The Greenery's bid was approximately \$179,000 and that the apparent low bidder was Brightview with a bid of approximately \$130,000. He said that the review committee and Dave Thomas were able to negotiate the bid within budget and that Brightview was responsive to the requirements of the bid, which included a three year maintenance contract. Mr. Criscitiello said that the Board members were encouraged to attend the March 6, 2017 Finance Committee meeting at 2:00 pm for approval to express their support for this project.

SCDOT Vegetation Requirements

Mr. Tony Criscitiello told the Board that Planning Staff met with Ms. Jennifer Gruber with SCDOT to discuss the new SCDOT landscape guidelines. Mr. Criscitiello said, per Ms. Gruber, that a registered Landscape Architect is not required to design future phases of the Highway 278 beautification projects. He said that SCDOT tends to be unpredictable and may change their list of approved plants which would cause project delays, but because we are using tax payers money and it costs between \$5,000 - \$6,000 dollars to have Tiller design each section, it would be worth this Board's consideration having Planning staff prepare the landscape plans to save money.

Mr. Criscitiello said this Board only has one funding source, the Tree Reforestation Fund, for highway Beautification and that once the funds for this and other committed projects are used, there will be approximately \$60,000 remaining in the Tree Reforestation fund.

Ms. Moss explained that the new SCDOT planting guidelines will require that future median projects allow for a 10'-12' clear zone on the outside edge of the median and a 3' offset from the edge of the drainage swale which will reduce the allowable planting areas. Mr. Criscitiello said that because he discovered that a registered landscape architect is not a SCDOT requirement, he is considering allowing staff to design the medians. Vice Chairman Stanford said that the 5% design cost per phase of highway plantings provides assurance that the plants installed comply with the plan and Chairman Wilson and the other Board members concurred.

Mr. Criscitiello said that he reviewed and signed a \$5,800 proposal from J. K. Tiller to prepare the landscape plans and specifications for a 1 ½ mile stretch of median along Highway 278 between Rose Hill and Berkley Hall. Mr. Criscitiello asked Kathleen Duncan with J. K. Tiller to develop plans which specify the same plants used between Belfair and Rose Hill Plantations so the landscaping is continuous and will be most likely approved by SCDOT.

Town of Bluffton Median Landscape Maintenance Funding Letter

Allison Coppage was called to answer whether it was appropriate for Tony Criscitiello to send a funding request letter to the Bluffton Town Manager for landscape maintenance on Highway 278

as it becomes installed. Mr. Criscitiello said that he had a draft letter addressed to the Bluffton Town Manager and did not believe that he had the authority to sign an inter-governmental letter and thought it should be signed by Gary Kubic. Chairman Wilson said that the Board needs to have consensus about the contents of the letter before such a letter is sent. Chairman Wilson asked whether a dollar amount was proposed in the letter. Mr. Criscitiello said that a dollar amount was not requested, but that this number could be based upon the number of miles to be maintained and would be determined by the recent bids received. Allison Coppage said that the Beautification Board is the funding solicitation entity for the Highway 278 beautification project, so it would be appropriate for, and recommended that, this letter come from the Board as opposed to coming from Planning Department staff. Mr. Criscitiello said he would provide the letter for the Chairman to sign. All of the Board members would like to receive a copy of the signed letter to the Bluffton Town Manager with the Board's letterhead on it.

Tanger Update

Mr. Criscitiello said that the Tanger project design work can start because the \$360,000 funding is in place for the plant installation and maintenance.

Sallie Bridgwater stated that the limits of this project should begin at the Tanger I entrance light and extend past Tanger II to the existing mature trees in front of Moss Creek Plantation. Mr. Criscitiello said that the County does not have to receive approval from Tanger to start this project. Chairman Wilson asked when the plants can be in the ground. Mr. Criscitiello said that the Tiller Master Plan must be modified and that an RFP will have to be advertised. Vice Chairman Stanford stated that it would be the Fall before plants could be installed. The Board collectively expressed frustration about the lengthy span of time they have spent talking about starting this project while having the money available to fund the project.

Mr. Criscitiello said that the Tiller master plan was developed before the Highway 278 roadway was reconfigured and that the changes SCDOT is about to implement are complicating the situation. Ms. Humphries stated that no significant roadway changes occurred adjacent to Tanger I & II, but that most of the changes were done between Belfair Town Village and Highway 170. Tony Criscitiello said that Tiller's master landscape plan had to be modified to comply with SCDOT's new guidelines. After much discussion, the Board asked Tony Criscitiello to proceed forward and have J. K. Tiller modify the master landscape plan between Tanger I & II and extending east to the Moss Creek live oak trees, incorporating the same plantings approved by SCDOT at the Belfair medians, so the project can be planted in the Fall of 2017. Once Tiller's landscape plan modifications are complete, Planning Department staff will apply for the encroachment permit and develop bid documents for a Fall 2017 plant installation. Mr. Criscitiello said that it will take Tiller at least a month to prepare a second proposal for the Tanger landscape design work. If Tiller responds to the FRQ and has the drawings prepared by April 2017, we should have the encroachment permit in 60 days assuming the best case scenario. The County will release the bid documents so the bid award can coincide with the Fall 2017 planting season.

Palmetto Electric Updates

Mr. Hunter described that Palmetto Electric offers utility tax credits for infrastructure on economic development projects that are owned by counties, municipalities and state agencies and the grants eligible are up to \$400,000 per year. Mr. Hunter said that he checked to determine if these funds could be applied to Landscape Beautification projects, but does not think these grants would be applicable for beautification projects. He said that these grants apply to infrastructure such as curb cuts, water lines, roads and shell buildings and the guidelines do not indicate that landscaping projects would apply.

Flyover Landscaping Update

Chairman Wilson asked Mr. Criscitiello for an update on the flyover landscaping. Mr. Criscitiello said that there were some impractical landscaping suggestions which incorporated vine plantings similar to what was done on some bridges in Mexico, but the County has a limited maintenance budget. Vice-Chairman Stanford said that the landscape architectural talent of Ms. Bridgwater, Mr. Theodore and Ms. Moss could collectively develop a concept plan for this area to promote this area.

Letter to the Editor to the Island Packet

Chairman Wilson said he wants to respond to the editorial with a letter and is certain the Editor would publish it. Ms. Humphries stated that the editorial addressed the worst portion of Highway 278, which is east of Simmonsville Road to Tanger, and that a lot of the problem is lack of trash pick-up. She said that the Board needs to collaborate to determine how to solve this problem area. Ms. Humphries asked that the response letter make clear that there is a lack of funding and to describe the various entities responsible for the maintenance or the lack thereof. Chairman Wilson said he would write a draft response letter and allow the Board members to review it before he sends it to the Island Packet.

Redesign of Highway 278

Vice-Chairman Stanford said that County is working in cooperation with SCDOT to redesign the Highway 278 corridor between Moss Creek and Hilton Head Island, but that this portion of the highway is not within the jurisdiction of this Board. He said that this project is being fast-tracked so traffic can be relieved, but the only funding presently available is for environmental testing.

Hilton Head National Update

Mr. Criscitiello said that due to the public outcry, County Council sent the Hilton Head National project back to the Natural Resources committee which established a sub-committee to develop a development agreement for this project. This project has multiple zoning districts and is called a Village Place type plan. The goal of the development agreement is to assure that this project is


laid out to capture the traffic within the project, to solve the ingress/egress to Heritage Lakes & Foreman Hill Road and to include road improvements adjacent to this project. The design build out is 2030.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Wilson entertained a motion at 3:34 p.m. from Vice Chairman Stanford, and seconded by Chairman Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously (FOR: Bridgwater, Diercxsens, Humphrey, Hunter, Novak, Stanford, Wilson).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:


✓ Steve Wilson, Chairman, Glenn Stanford
Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board

Date: 08.17.17