

## **SOUTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY CORRIDOR BEAUTIFICATION BOARD**

The Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board (herein after known as the Board) was held on March 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)

Mr. Randy Boehme

Ms. Sallie Bridgwater

Ms. C.J. Humphrey

Mr. Todd Theodore

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Henry Diercxsens

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director

Ms. Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

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 2:10 p.m.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Chairman Wilson asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the February 16, 2017, Board meeting. Hearing none, Vice-Chairman Glenn Stanford made a motion and Ms. Sallie Bridgwater seconded the motion to accept the Minutes from the February 16, 2017 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes from the February 16, 2017, Board meeting** (FOR: Boehme, Bridgwater, Humphrey, Novak, Stanford, Theodore, Wilson).

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

#### **Landscape Median Bid Update for Rose Hill/Belfair:**

Mr. Tony Criscitiello said that Brightview was the lowest bidder and the County received a protest letter from the Greenery. He described the County procedures that were in motion as a result of the protest. Mr. Criscitiello stated that the Greenery had ten days to reply to the Purchasing Department's letter and that the ten day response period was underway. If the Greenery does not return a response, this project can be heard at the April 3rd Finance Committee meeting. Once given a Notice to Proceed, Brightview can order the plants and begin the installation.

Chairman Wilson said that once this project is complete, 1 ½ miles out of the ten mile master plan will be planted. Chairman Wilson informed the Board that Jim and Josh Tiller provided him with ballpark costs to plan future projects. It will cost \$17,000 per mile for annual maintenance and \$185,000 per mile for plant installation. There are approximately 8½ miles left to landscape on Highway 278 which will cost over 1 million dollars for plant installation plus \$17,000 per mile for annual maintenance.

**Tanger Update:**

Mr. Tony Criscitiello said that he signed two contracts with J.K. Tiller for landscape design services. One of the contracts was for the medians between Rose Hill and Berkley Hall and the second contract was for the Tanger medians. Mr. Criscitiello said he will check on the contract status because Jim Tiller had not yet received either one of the signed contracts.

Chairman Wilson said that “Berkley Hall” will be the official project name for future meeting agenda item discussions.

**Response Letter to Island Packet Editorial/Town of Bluffton Funding Request Update:**

Chairman Wilson said that he did not write a response letter to the Editorial. Chairman Wilson thought it would be published in the Island Packet near the time he planned to submit a financial assistance letter to Marc Orlando and did not want to make the situation confusing for the Town of Bluffton. Once he speaks with Marc Orlando, Chairman Wilson will prepare a response letter to the Island Packet which references the Editorial and will mention that funding is needed for the corridor beautification projects.

Vice Chairman Stanford said that when the Belfair Median planting project begins, as much media attention possible should be sought for the groundbreaking ceremony. He said that the publicity will let the public become aware of what the Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board was about. Chairman Wilson and the other Board members agreed. Ms. Flake said that Carizma Brown was the County’s new Communications Coordinator and she may be a useful source for public awareness. Allison Coppage encouraged the Board to reach out to Carizma Brown to communicate with the media.

**Greater Island Council:**

Vice Chairman Stanford said that the Greater Island Council (GIC) was a private organization made up of 100 citizens, primarily from Hilton Head Island, and that he was the Chair. The corridor improvements from Moss Creek to the Cross Island expressway has taken on more momentum and that it was being fast-tracked by SCDOT. Funding is not in place for this project but hopefully some of the President’s trillion dollar infrastructure program could fund this project. Vice Chairman Stanford said he hopes to get a joint resolution between this Board, the Gateway Committee, the Town of Hilton Head and The Town of Bluffton because there is some jurisdictional overlap/interest.

**County Transportation Committee:**

Chairman Wilson said that Councilman Stu Rodman and the SCDOT Commissioner for this area appointed him to serve on the County Transportation Committee. This committee has been in existence since the 50's and was revamped 1 ½ years ago. The County Transportation Committee disburses a class of State funding called "C Funds" and allocated 7 ½ million dollars to Beaufort County primarily to pave dirt roads. The County Transportation Committee has recently contracted with a company to survey all of the State and County road conditions in Beaufort County to establish a base-line maintenance and repaving program. The Contractor has a state of the art van which is GPS guided with infrared sensors and is taking pictures to document the road conditions.

**Future Funding Sources:**

The root of this Board's problem is that there are no funds. When the Board was formed it was anticipated that this Board would solicit funds. This Board has attempted to do some private fundraising and the popular response is that the taxes should pay for beautification projects. Tiller said the Highway 278 Master Plan would become obsolete if the County adopts the new SCDOT rules.

Ms. Bridgwater wondered if ATAX Funds should be pursued again for the median beautification projects. Chairman Wilson said that he spent a lot of time and effort applying for the ATAX funds and was only awarded \$1,000 which was disappointing.

Ms. Allison Copping said that the 3% local ATAX funds are governed by County Codes which includes river/beach access, so the pier damage caused by Hurricane Matthew qualified for those funds. The highway funds available through the local 3% ATAX funds are for infrastructure only.

Vice Chairman Stanford asked Ms. Copping if the County had a Grant Writer on staff. Ms. Copping said that the County has allocated funds for a Grant Writer for the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget.

Ms. Copping announced that this will be her last meeting because she accepted another position. She will provide her Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board folder to her replacement.

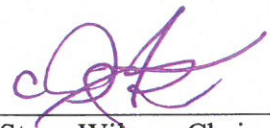
Chairman Wilson asked all Board members to meet with their respective Councilman/Councilwoman and talk about this Board and its future with respect to funding. Each Board member agreed to share the outcome of their meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business, Chairman Wilson entertained a motion at 3:35 p.m. from Vice Chairman Stanford, and seconded by Ms. Bridgewater, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously (FOR: Boehme, Bridgewater, Humphrey, Novak, Stanford, Theodore, Wilson).**

**Submitted by:** Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

**Approved:**

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

Date: 08.17.17