

SOUTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY CORRIDOR BEAUTIFICATION BOARD

The Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board (herein after known as the Board) was held on April 20, 2017 at the Hilton Head Island Library Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steve Wilson (Chairman)
Mr. Doug Novak (Secretary)
Mr. Randy Boehme
Ms. Sallie Bridgwater

Ms. C.J. Humphrey
Mr. Todd Theodore

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Glenn Stanford (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Henry Diercxsens

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director
Mr. Chris Inglese, Beaufort County Assistant Attorney
Ms. Nancy Moss, Beaufort County Planning Department

GUESTS PRESENT:

Ms. Eleanor Lightsey, Lowcountry Inside Track
Ms. Jennifer Gruber, SCDOT District Vegetation Manager
Mr. Kevin P. Icard, Town of Bluffton Planning Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Wilson called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

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

GENERAL DISCUSSION

SCDOT Planting Guidelines, Jennifer Gruber, Guest Speaker:

Ms. Gruber introduced herself to the Board and handed out three documents. The first document contained pages 75 – 82 of the SCDOT Access and Roadside Management Standards, titled “Chapter 9 – Roadside Encroachments” which contained the current Landscaping Guidelines. The second document was typical landscape median plan labeled Exhibit 1A which was designed according to the current policy and guidelines. The third document was a landscape plan which was labeled Exhibit 1B and showed how the same median landscape design would look when it was designed to meet the anticipated guideline changes.

Ms. Gruber said that the landscape guidelines will change and is waiting for the headquarter office to make it the official policy. Until the formal enactment of the landscape guidelines is announced from the SCDOT headquarters in Columbia, the local District 6 SCDOT in Charleston made the decision to review all encroachment permit beautification applications using the current landscape guideline standards. Ms. Gruber said that Beaufort County could submit an encroachment permit and attach the J. K. Tiller Highway 278 landscape median master plan and be grandfathered with the current landscape guidelines. Ms. Gruber said that she will work with us on any master plan revisions submitted to their office for approval.

Belfair/Rosehill Landscape Median Bid Update:

Tony Criscitiello said that the Purchasing Department sent the Brightview landscape installation contract to the the County Legal Department for final review and if it meets the criteria for approval, it will be forwarded to Gary Kubic’s office for signature. Mr. Criscitiello said that Brightview is prepared to move on this work immediately and within budget with two year maintenance period. Ms. Moss said that Brightview has set aside the entire month of May to plan, order and plant the medians.

Tanger and Berkeley Hall Updates:

Mr. Criscitiello said that J. K. Tiller was under contract with the County to design the landscaping for both projects and is in the process of honoring the Board’s intention to have the plants installed during the Fall planting season or sooner if conditions allow.

Town of Bluffton/Marc Orlando April 3rd Meeting Update:

Chairman Wilson said that he met with Mr. Orlando to discuss whether or not the Town would work with the Board on a joint effort basis. Chairman Wilson said that Mr. Orlando said it was a great mission, but the Town of Bluffton would be unable to contribute or participate in the near future. Chairman Wilson said that a representative from the Board should meet with the Town on a regular basis. Chairman Wilson encouraged Mr. Boehme to develop a program with the Town of Bluffton in order to participate in the beautification of the Highway 278 medians.

Letter to the Editor Update:

Chairman Wilson said that his letter to the Editor was published in the Island Packet on Sunday, April 16th. The letter indicated that this Board is focused on beautifying the medians and it was up to the citizens of the County and Townships to get their representatives behind the funding for median beautification. Chairman Wilson said that this Board was mandated to advise the County Council south of the Broad River about median landscaping and until there is an amendment to the statute that created this Board, the Board has no mechanism to accept and manage funds. Chris Inglese said the Board has the ability to identify private donations, and other potential sources of revenue, and to present recommendations to Council on a quarterly or on a regular basis. Tony Criscitiello said that the only current revenue source for this Board is the Tree Reforestation Fund which has approximately \$50,000 remaining once other the committed projects are funded. Mr. Criscitiello suggested a innovative way to raise money for beautification would be through the creation of a "Friends Group of Highway 278" to accept donations for beautification; this way the Board can identify a funding source and perhaps Council would match the funds.

Joint Efforts on Future Projects:

Chairman Wilson suggested that a partnership between the Town of Bluffton, Beaufort County and the Board could be formed to develop a three way operation to get the medians planted, but is discouraged about the Town of Bluffton's probability of participation. Highway beautification is low priority on the Town of Bluffton's list of projects.

Tony Criscitiello said that substantial road improvements, landscaping and sidewalk requirements are contained in the Development Agreement as part of the Hilton Head National project. It will be required that the developer provide the funds to improve Malphrus Road.

Chairman Wilson asked whether the County Code could be amended to include landscaping within medians adjacent to new developments or road improvement projects in addition to the property itself. Tony asked that Chris Inglese speak with Tom Keavney about this and how this requirement may impact by-right zoning issues and the expenses associated with this type of requirement. Chairman Wilson asked Chris Inglese to check the statute to see if the Board could be included on new or redevelopment projects to review projects similar to what the CRB once did.

Secretary Novak asked his representative, Tabor Vaux, to consult with this Board during review of development projects so this Board could have a role in the landscape beautification of highways near new developments

Mr. Theodore asked whether this Board could be consulted when road widening projects are being designed. Chairman Wilson said that a thick hedgerow or other landscaping could be installed in the medians to slow vehicles and perhaps prevents fatal traffic accidents.

Chairman Wilson said that once the Tanger project is complete, it can be an example to raise private funding for the remaining portions of Hwy. 278.

Minimum Practical Size of Future Projects:

Chairman Wilson said that there should be a minimum practical unit size of future landscape beautification projects. The Board needs to keep this in the back of their minds when considering future projects to be approved for funding.

Reports on Meeting with Council Members:

Secretary Novak said that he was encouraged by the meeting he had with his Councilman, Tabor Vaux. Councilman Vaux told Secretary Novak that he never envisioned this Board floating without funding and thought some funding mechanism on an on-going basis to facilitate the expenditure on projects that this Board is working on. Mr. Vaux said he was interested on the beautification issues and would mention the funding with the other Council members.

Ms. Bridgwater said that her Councilman, Jerry Stewart, said that the funding for the Belfair median planting project came from the ATAX funds. Mr. Criscitiello said that the funds for the Belfair project came from the Tree Reforestation Fund.

Ms. Humphries said that she and Councilman Steve Fobes' schedules would not permit time for a meeting, but that they were expected to meet in a week.

Todd Theodore was not able to meet with his representative but is supposed to meet next week.

Randy Boehme said that because Chairman Wilson had a meeting with Marc Orlando on April 3rd, no meeting took place.

Chairman Wilson said he had a very positive meeting with his Councilman, Stewart Rodman. Councilman Rodman was in favor of having roadway landscaping as a requirement for new or redevelopment projects and for road widening projects. Councilman Rodman was very pleased with the efforts of this Board and encouraged this Board to proceed on.

Chairman Wilson concluded the meeting and said that this Board should start keeping in closer contact with their respective Council members to keep them apprised of the projects this Board is working on and the need for the funding required.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chairman Wilson entertained a motion at 3:25 p.m. from Secretary Novak, and seconded by Ms. Bridgwater, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously (FOR: Boehme, Bridgwater, Humphrey, Novak, Theodore, Wilson).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:



Steve Wilson, Chairman,
Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board

Date: 5/16/2017