

SOUTHERN BEAUFORT COUNTY CORRIDOR BEAUTIFICATION BOARD

The Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board (herein after known as the Board) meeting was held on August 17, 2017 at the Hilton Head Island Library Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Glen Stanford (Vice-Chairman)
Mr. Randy Boehme
Ms. Sallie Bridgwater
Ms. Stephen Brown

Mr. Doug Novak (Secretary)
Ms. C. J. Humphrey
Mr. Todd Theodore

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Steve Wilson (Chairman)

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Criscitiello, Beaufort County Planning Director
Mr. Chris Inglese, Beaufort County Assistant Attorney
Ms. Amanda Flake, Beaufort County Natural Resource Planner
Ms. Nancy Moss, Beaufort County Planning Department

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mr. Joe Croley, Lowcountry Inside Track
Ms. Caroline Jordan, Beaufort County Solid Waste & Recycling

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Glen Stanford called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Stanford asked if there were any changes to the Minutes from the May 18, 2017, Board meeting. Ms. Humphrey indicated that her last name was spelled incorrectly on the current agenda line item and asked that correction be made in the future. Mr. Novak made a motion and Ms. Humphrey seconded the motion to accept the Minutes from the May 18, 2017 Board meeting. **The motion was carried unanimously to accept the minutes from the May 18, 2017, Board meeting** (FOR: Boehme, Bridgwater, Brown, Humphrey, Novak, Stanford, Theodore).

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Highway 278 Master Landscape Plan Encroachment Permit Update:

Mr. Stanford informed the Board members that there had been a four month internal conflict between the local and main SCDOT office regarding the Landscape Guideline Standards review criteria that would be applied for the Highway 278 Master Landscape Plan. Up until the last few

days, our project was on-hold until SCDOT resolved the conflict. On August 11th, Mr. Stanford decided that it was time to apply political pressure and consulted with Tony Criscitiello. Mr. Stanford distributed copies of his email exchange with the Board Members. Mr. Stanford's email described our situation to State Senator Tom Davis who in turn sent an email to the Director of SCDOT. Within thirty minutes of having sent the email to Senator Tom Davis, SCDOT sent review comments to Planning Staff and approved the project to move forward. Ms. Moss said that SCDOT review comments for the 10 mile Master Landscape Plan included using dwarf or semi-dwarf Crape Myrtles, to allow for a 2'-3' offset from the plantings to the center drainage swales and that the design should be similar to the recent planting project between Belfair and Rose Hill.

Landscape Median Project Update for Rose Hill/Belfair:

The new plantings between Belfair and Rose Hill were installed by Brightview and accepted by the County on June 1, 2017. The one year plant warranty is in effect, includes periodic grass mowing and will expire on May 31, 2018. Following the warranty period, the two year landscape maintenance by Brightview will start.

In July, Mr. Novak brought attention to a problem on a portion of the median at the Belfair traffic signal. The orange daylilies that were installed in 2015 had died back which created a large void in the plant grouping and Mr. Novak asked that they be replaced. Belfair was contacted by County staff. Belfair hired Brightview to install white daylilies to match the daylilies at the Rose Hill traffic signal and the plants were installed a few weeks later.

Tanger and Berkeley Hall Landscape Design Updates:

SCDOT's comments and special provisions have been forwarded to J. K. Tiller's office for their use in revising the Tanger and Berkeley Hall sections of the Hwy. 278 Master Landscape Plan. After the landscape plans are revised by J. K. Tiller and receives final SCDOT approval, it is expected that an RFP will be advertised by the end of October. The Tanger project is fully funded, but the Berkeley Hall project is not fully funded. Mr. Inglese suggested that the Board create a budget sub-committee now and submit a budget recommendation to Council in January 2018, just prior to the spring budget retreat, to request funding for the Berkeley Hall project.

Hwy 278 Master Plan, Jennifer Gruber, SCDOT, Guest Speaker:

Jennifer Gruber confirmed that SCDOT was in receipt of the Hwy 278 Master Landscape Plan encroachment permit application and that comments were provided to Beaufort County which were forwarded to J. K. Tiller's office for plan revisions. She explained that there was a difference of opinion at SCDOT whether to use the current or pending landscape guidelines, but that issue was resolved. Ms. Gruber anticipates that a permit will be issued within a week with the provision that the plants proposed reflect the same design theme as was previously installed at the Belfair medians. The encroachment permit will expire after one year but a one year extension can be applied for by County staff. After the second year, the new landscape guidelines would likely be in place.

South Carolina Local Government Development Agreement Act:

Chris Inglese explained how this law affects this Board when there's a private development agreement being negotiated with Council. In order to require that the developer expend funds for median beautification, the money has to be used for an improvement that's directly impacted by the new development. There must be a direct relationship between the "Need" and the "Improvement" and the money taken from the developer as a result of the development impact (i.e. road widening, turning lane or traffic signal). There's nothing in this law that would mandate median beautification. Mr. Criscitiello said that the CDC requires a Traffic Impact Analysis for large developments. Perhaps the CDC could be modified to incorporate median beautification to the road standards. Chris Inglese said that often times the development agreements are discussed during executive session, but the Board can attend Council meetings or send a report, indicating that median beautification should be part of the development agreement.

Board Budget Sub-Committee Discussion:

Chris Inglese encouraged the board to do some form of fund raising and to create sub-committees which meet every other month. The recent median planting successes will be helpful when requesting median beautification funding. Mr. Stanford said they have pursued funding through ATAX and was not successful. Mr. Inglese said that median beautification does not fall within the ATAX guidelines. Ms. Humphrey asked whether the ATAX guidelines could be revised to include median beautification. Mr. Inglese said that the County will advertise for a Grant Writer position soon and the Board could work with this person and should incorporate this item in their report to Council. On a quarterly basis, the Board should attend Council meetings and submit written budget requests with recommendations to Council.

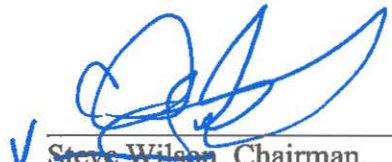
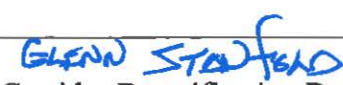
The Vice-Chairman concluded the meeting and said that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice-Chairman Stanford 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, Brown, Humphrey, Novak, Stanford, Theodore).

Submitted by: Amanda Flake, Natural Resources Planner

Approved:

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

Date: 1/18/18