

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

The Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board (herein after known as the Board) Meeting was held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Beaufort County Hilton Head Library, Small Conference Room, 11 Beach City Road, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926 at 2:00 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ms. Sallie Brach, Vice-Chairman

Ms. Roberta Cope-Foss

Ms. C. J. Humphrey

Mr. Dennis J. Nielsen

Mr. Todd Theodore

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Doug Novak, Chairman

Mr. Stephen Brown

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Eric Greenway, AICP, Beaufort County Community Development Department Director

Ms. Nancy R. Moss, Beaufort County Planner

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Mr. Joe Crowley, Lowcountry Inside Track

Ms. Caroline Jordan Dolbey, Public Works, Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer Coordinator

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice-Chairman Brach called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER, DENNIS J. NIELSEN:**

Mrs. Brach and all of the Board members welcomed Mr. Nielsen to the Southern Beaufort County Corridor Beautification Board (SBCCBB). Mr. Nielsen said that he has lived in Beaufort County for 36 years. He said his efforts assisting Senator Joe Wilson helped save all but one of the large oak trees in the median from being cut down by SCDOT when Highway 278 was being expanded in front of Moss Creek Plantation.

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

Mrs. Brach requested that the SCDOT encroachment permit expiration date be corrected to 02/24/20 and asked if there were any other changes to the Minutes from the July 18, 2019, Board meeting. Hearing none, Mr. Theodore made a motion and Ms. Cope-Foss seconded the motion to accept the corrected version of the Minutes from the July 18, 2019 Board meeting. The motion was carried unanimously to accept the corrected minutes from the July 18, 2019, Board meeting (FOR: Brach, Cope-Foss, Humphrey, Nielsen and Theodore).

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

### **South-of-the-Broad Beautification Projects:**

Michael Murphy, KBCBB Chairman and Board Master Certified Arborist, introduced himself to the Board and explained the difference between the SBCCB and the KBCB Boards. Mr. Murphy handed out literature and presented two projects for the Board to consider when issuing recommendations to County Council for median beautification as funds become available.

The first project was the protection and care of the ancient oak at McGarvey's corner. Mr. Murphy explained its historical significance and how it added benefit to the environment. State and County Maintenance vehicles currently park under the tree and compact the soil. Mr. Murphy made the following recommendations for the tree: apply soil amendments under the tree, perform reduction pruning to stabilize the tree, remove the Spanish mulch in the canopy, repair the existing lightning protection in the tree, replenish a 60' diameter of mulch at the base of the tree and install a rustic split rail fence along the mulch perimeter so the lifespan of the tree will be increased indefinitely. The second project involved the groupings of the specimen live oak trees in the Highway 170 medians between Highway 278 and the Bluffton Parkway. Mr. Murphy said that when Highway 170 was widened, the SCDOT engineers overlooked tree protection during construction and the trees are now in a state of decline. SCDOT has marked these trees for removal, but some of the oaks have new growth and would survive with some care and reduction pruning.

### **Berkeley Hall Median Landscape Project Update:**

The landscape contract is finalized with BrightView Landscape Services. The contract is currently in effect and is expected to start soon and must be completed on December 31, 2019.

The landscape plans that were part of the bid documents for this segment of Highway 278 had many blue rug junipers and daylilies proposed. Because these plantings have not performed well in the Belfair median segments, Staff and BrightView have made plant substitutions for the Berkeley Hall medians. Per the Board's unanimous decision, the Parsons juniper will be substituted for the blue rug juniper and the plumbago will be substituted for the daylilies at the intersection portions of this project.

### **Highway 278 Final Median Segments – Crape Myrtle Plantings Update:**

The three bids were submitted on August 7<sup>th</sup> and were evaluated by Community Development staff. Staff recommended that the award go to the lowest bidder which was BrightView. The Natural Resource Committee voted on September 16<sup>th</sup> to award this work to BrightView. This project will not require County Council for final approval because the contract is under \$100,000.

### **Status of Second Solar Panel Project Tree Mitigation Funds:**

The second and smaller solar panel tree mitigation project proposed in Northern Beaufort County may not be a viable project. Community Development staff are waiting for more information from the prospective solar panel field developer.

**SOLOCO Meeting Presentation Update:**

Ms. Cope-Foss has made an official request to Ms. Victoria Smalls for SBCCBB to be placed on the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting agenda to make a presentation. Mr. Greenway offered to make a 20-minute presentation on behalf of the SBCCBB to SOLOCO. The topic of the presentation will demonstrate how landscaping can improve the quality of life, provide an attractive thoroughfare for residents and tourists to reach their destination, and how the entire region will benefit from the beautification. Photographs of the 278 beautification project & master plan corridor maps will be shown along with newspaper articles advocating beautification and highlighting County-wide efforts and commitment with SBCCBB landscaping and KBCBB litter control.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Next meeting – Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. at the Beaufort County Government Center, 2nd Floor, 4819 Bluffton Parkway, Bluffton, SC 29910.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business, Mrs. Brach entertained a motion at 3:04 p.m. from Ms. Humphrey, and seconded by Ms. Cope-Foss, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously (FOR: Brach, Cope-Foss, Humphrey, Nielsen and Theodore).**

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