



# City of Marco Island Florida

51 Bald Eagle Drive  
Marco Island, Florida  
cityofmarcoisland.com

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Beautification Advisory Committee

*Chair: Marv Needles*

*Vice-Chair: Linda Scherzinger*

*Members: Michael Cory, Rhonda Gloodt,  
Victoria Myers, Ann Sepe,  
Ryan Sullivan*

*City Staff: Joe Parrilli, Martha Montgomery,  
Jose Muchati*

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Wednesday, May 6, 2026

3:00 PM

Community Room

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#### (1) CALL TO ORDER

*Chair Needles called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.*

#### (2) ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**Absent:** 1 - Member Cory

*Also Present*

##### *CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS*

*Deb Henry  
Bonita Schwan*

##### *CITY STAFF*

*Joe Parrilli, Fleet & Facilities Manager  
Martin Luna, Audio/Visual Technician  
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist*

#### (3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

*Led by Chair Needles.*

#### (4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Member Myers, that the Agenda be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

#### (5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 26-5389](#) Approval of the Minutes

*Vice-Chair Scherzinger asked that the Minutes be Amended to correct the spelling of the individual who addressed the Committee at its April 1, 2026 meeting during Public Comment to read as: "Fran Acle".*

*The Minutes for the Committee's April 1st meeting will be corrected to reflect this change.*

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Member Sullivan, that the Minutes of April 1, 2026 be Amended. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**MOTION by Member Myers, seconded by Member Ryan, that the Minutes be Approved as Amended. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**(6) OLD BUSINESS**

**6A** [ID 26-5378](#) Leland Way Swales (V. Myers & J. Parrilli)

*The Leland Way Swales project is about planting trees in Leland Way. Due to Water & Sewer and LCEC were placing policies and restrictions. The Beautification Advisory Committee and the previously mentioned parties had agreed in working with certain constraints: stay away from pump stations, stay away from the main line and sewer laterals, and not planting on the north side.*

*1:55 - Following up from the previous meeting, the Fleet & Facilities staff had obtained 3 bids from 3 vendors with Affordable Landscaping being the lowest bidder. Other participants in the bid included Superior Landscaping and Everglades Native Designs LLC. As a result, the Committee chose the Affordable Landscaping proposal as the winner of the bid.*

**MOTION by Member Myers, seconded by Member Gloodt, that authorization of the City Staff to enter into an Agreement with Affordable Landscaping and Design, Inc. in the amount of \$3,043.00 for the planting of trees in the swales on Leland Way, without irrigation, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**6B** [ID 26-5379](#) Calusa Park (J. Parrilli)

*The Calusa Park project is a Beautification plan to plant 11 trees along Winterberry.*

*5:04 - The lowest bid for the Calusa Park was once again Affordable Landscaping in competition with Superior and Everglades Native Designs. Affordable's proposal includes an existing but currently shut-off irrigation system; it was explained that policy is to run drip lines until trees are established, then shut them down. As a result, this unused drip lines from existing trees can be reallocated to water the new plantings, and that Tree City USA has already approved this plan, which the committee originally endorsed back in November 2024 but had been waiting on funding to execute. The committee moved the proceed with this vendor and the tree planting at Calusa Park and a roll-call vote unanimously approved moving forward with Affordable Landscaping for the Calusa Park tree project, using Tree City USA funds.*

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Member Sepe, that**

**authorization of the City Staff to enter into an Agreement with Affordable Landscaping and Design, Inc. in the amount of \$5,202.16 for the planting of trees in Calusa Park, with irrigation, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**6C**     [ID 26-5380](#)     Mackle Park (L. Scherzinger)

*The Mackle Park Tree Project is an effort between Parks and Rec Advisory Committee and the Beautification Advisory Committee to complete and expand tree-planting plan around Mackle Lake and the Soccer Fields.*

*5:58 - Staff explains the project is for trees around the soccer field, split into two phases: Phase 1 (14 trees) at \$6,608.58 and Phase 2 (15 trees) at \$7,075.87, with Affordable Landscaping as the lowest bidder for both. Phase 1 was prioritized over phase 2; therefore following the recommendation of removing phase 2 to bring a total of \$22,453.54 to at about 19 thousand.*

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Member Sullivan, that authorization of the City Staff to enter into an Agreement with Affordable Landscaping and Design, Inc. for the planting of trees: 1) around the lake at Mackle Park, with irrigation, and; 2) in the areas identified as the Phase I and Phase II tree-planting locations in Mackle Park, in an amount not to exceed \$19,000.00. be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**6D**     [ID 26-5383](#)     Political Signs (L. Scherzinger)

*The political sign ordinance is a discussion about prohibiting unattended political signs in public rights-of-way, while allowing people to stand and hold the sign, which is like Naples and Collier County. Additionally, it would still be allowed on the property.*

*7:45 - The committee's political signs discussion centered on aligning Marco Island's rules with Naples and Collier County to reduce visual clutter in public rights-of-way, especially around early voting sites and churches on election day. The presented background materials included a comparison chart showing that Naples and Collier do not allow signs in the public right-of-way at any time, whereas Marco currently allows them from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with daily removal, and an email was shared from the Supervisor of Elections supporting a change to match Naples/Collier due to operational and aesthetic concerns. However, it was challenged with the idea that it may be more of a political issue than a beautification issue, and that it may be in conflict with freedom of speech.*

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Member Sepe, that the Beautification Advisory Committee's recommendation to modify the City of Marco Island's campaign and temporary sign ordinance to mirror the conditions, allowances, and restrictions of the City of Naples' ordinance be forwarded to the Marco Island Planning Board for its consideration, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE SHOW OF HANDS:**

**Yes:** 4 - Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**No:** 2 - Member Gloodt and Member Myers

**6E**     [ID 26-5386](#)     Marco Nature Night (All)

*Marco Nature Night is an educational event, hosted by the Beautification Advisory Committee, with plant giveaways, exploration of environmental exhibits, presentations and refreshments.*

*15:27 - There was no substantial discussion or planning on the matter due to being part of a future coordination effort for the next Calendar Year.*

**6F**     [ID 26-5387](#)     Marco in Bloom (All)

*Marco in Bloom is an event where homeowners, HOAs, and businesses are encouraged to participate in a contest of beautification. Whether it is your own property or a neighbor's, nomination of a property is encouraged. The event has already passed for this calendar year.*

*15:50 - For Marco in Bloom, the committee noted that the program had been well closed out at the last meeting, and Victoria said there was "no need" for further discussion this time. A new idea was then added: a photo was showed of significant landscaping improvements at the Island Pool Service / Marco Office Supply property and suggested that in next year's Marco in Bloom they consider either a new category or at least a special recognition/award (possibly "by the chair") for commercial properties that have made substantial beautification improvements compared to their prior condition, to both acknowledge that effort and encourage similar upgrades by other businesses. Committee Member Myers and Sullivan reacted positively, and it was noted to make a note of the idea, but no formal motion or vote was taken—so it remains a future enhancement concept, not yet a defined category.*

**(7) NEW BUSINESS**

**7A**     [ID 26-5382](#)     Arbor Day Proclamation (All)

*Arbor Day is an international holiday involving planting, nurturing and celebrating environmental responsibility. The event occurred in the April 24, 2026, City Council meeting.*

*17:26 - The Arbor Day proclamation segment was brief and informational. Vice-Chair Scherzinger reported that Arbor Day was celebrated on Friday, April 24, with a tree planting attended by herself, Member Myers, Member Cory, and a couple of city council members, and that Maria Lamb wrote a strong article about it in the Coastal Breeze. She also confirmed that at the following Monday city council meeting, the council formally read and adopted an Arbor Day proclamation, which is a required component for maintaining the city's Tree City USA status. Chair Needles added that he had made copies of the proclamation for each committee member's packet "in case you wanted it," and since no further action was needed, they moved on to the next agenda item.*

**7B**     [ID 26-5381](#)     LCEC / Bald Eagle Replacement Tree Update (L. Scherzinger)

**7C**     [ID 26-5385](#)     Funds for trimming (M. Needles)

*18:32 - The committee took up LCEC Bald Eagle placement and broader Bald Eagle tree issues. Fleet & Facilities director said that at this time the city is not doing anything about replacing the LCEC Bald Eagle trees because there are no available city funds, so the item will "just sit" for now, with Vice-chair Scherzinger suggesting they monitor it and revisit in next year's funding. Chair Needles then broadened the discussion to the existing trees along Bald Eagle Drive, noting that many have been "chopped" and need shaping and thinning, both for appearance and to reduce the risk of wind damage, and he asked that this be put on the next meeting's agenda as a potential future budget item. The group then clarified funding constraints: Tree City USA funds cannot be used for maintenance (only for new or replacement trees and related irrigation), which the recording specialist confirmed, and Member Sullivan specifically asked whether Tree City USA could help with tree maintenance; the recording specialist answered no.*

*That led into a related irrigation discussion (e.g., bubblers and water lines for existing trees near the butterfly garden), with Fleet & Facilities Director agreeing to price possible irrigation extensions but noting those would need to be covered by Beautification Advisory Committee or other non-TreeCity-USA funds.*

**(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

[ID 26-5384](#) Staff Report

*22:48 - In the staff communication segment, Fleet & Facilities director said the tree project proposals had already been covered, so his only new item was the attendance policy: BAC members may miss only two meetings in any 12-month period or risk removal. Noting other committees often cancel a summer meeting to avoid attendance problems, he suggested BAC consider doing the same. Vice-chair Scherzinger then admitted she had already missed two meetings (one to an issue with the City's zoom connection) and would be absent in July, meaning a July meeting would technically force her off the committee. Recording Specialist Jim Kornas explained there is precedent for a councilor to petition city council to reinstate a member who exceeds the limit, but also supported the idea of skipping a summer meeting to avoid issues.*

**(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

*26:23 - During City Council communication, Councilor Deb Henry (speaking as a private citizen) updated the committee on money from the old 10,000 Trees initiative. She explained she had donated four trees years ago and believed they were never planted, so she asked Dr. Lucius (Parks Foundation) to investigate how much donated tree money remains in the foundation. Councilor Henry said that once the total is confirmed, those funds would effectively be available to the Beautification Advisory Committee (not Tree City USA funds, but separate donation money) for tree-related purposes. Later in the meeting, she returned with "breaking" information: there is \$18,762 in that 10,000 Trees fund. She noted some balance might need to remain in the account, but the bulk could be used for BAC projects, and Vice-chair Scherzinger and Member Sullivan immediately started discussing how to clarify the intended use and rules with David/Parks Foundation so the committee can responsibly deploy those dollars for trees and related needs.*

**(10) PUBLIC COMMENT**

*28:54 - No registered speaker came forward during the meeting.*

**(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE**

*30:10 - The next meeting discussion focused on setting the June date and time and confirming a July cancellation. They first agreed (by earlier motion) that there will be no July meeting. For June, they noted the meeting had been shifted to June 12, but Martin's preference and the committee's usual pattern is the first Wednesday. After checking members' availability—Member Myers could likely call in if needed, others were flexible—they decided to move the June meeting back to Wednesday, June 3 at 3:00 pm.*

**MOTION by Member Sullivan, seconded by Member Sepe, that cancellation of the Beautification Advisory Committee's July 1, 2026 meeting, be Approved.  
MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Chair Needles, that the Beautification Advisory Committee's rescheduling of the June 12, 2026 3:00 P.M. meeting to the new date of June 3, 2026 at 3:00 P.M., be Approved. MOTION**

**CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Member Gloodt, Member Myers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

**ID 26-5388 Future Agenda Topics**

*31:18 - In this meeting, the Michael Collins / Apollo 11 background is mainly a context for a commemorative tree at Mackle Park: the committee previously arranged for a dedication tree honoring Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins, who had a home on Marco Island that is still owned by his daughters, and Committee Member Myers has been working for some time to organize a public dedication event around that tree. The intent is to schedule the ceremony at a meaningful time—she mentions trying to align it with NASA’s Artemis launch, Collins’s birthday on October 31, or the Apollo 11 mission anniversary in July—and to invite family members, veterans, and the broader community. However, the family has not been able to commit to a specific date with 30 days’ notice, which the city requires for a special event permit at the park, so despite the tree already being in place, the formal dedication has been repeatedly delayed, and the committee now needs to decide whether to keep waiting for family availability or set a date and move forward.*

*The committee flagged two related future agenda topics around commemorative trees: first, Member Myers asked to revisit the Michael Collins (Apollo 11) dedication at a later meeting, noting that the Collins tree at Mackle is not thriving and may have an issue with its bubbler or watering schedule, and also that the family’s inability to give the 30 days’ advance notice required for a special park event permit has stalled scheduling a public dedication ceremony; the chair indicated this should be brought back, with a goal of settling on a clear plan and date. Second, Vice-chair Scherzinger reported a citizen request for another commemorative tree honoring a former famous baseball player who once lived on the island, and she questioned whether the committee wants to continue taking on these highly individualized honoree-tree projects given the amount of work and coordination they require, suggesting the group will need a future policy discussion on if and how they accept or structure such commemorative tree requests.*

**(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS**

*36:33 - Under “Other Committee Communications,” the discussion covered several coordination and follow-up items. Member Sepe reported she was finally meeting with Justin from the Beach Advisory Committee after prior scheduling problems, to explore joint work between the two committees (e.g., on the educational/beautification wall concept near the beach), and she may report back at a future meeting.*

*Chair Needles then raised the upcoming Bald Eagle Drive reconstruction (Collier to San Marco), noting plans for a 10-foot bike/ped path and road widening, and suggested the BAC consider advocating for landscaped medians/islands in existing “no-parking” painted areas before designs are finalized; he plans to bring plan sheets and have this placed on a future agenda.*

*Chair Needles also requested that financial updates to be included to the Agenda Packet with snapshots of spending (Spent), encumbrances (Promised to spend) and available balance (remaining funds).*

*Deb Henry returned with a confirmed figure of \$18,762 remaining in the 10,000 Trees fund and said it could be used by BAC (not as Tree City USA money), prompting Linda and Ryan to say they’ll clarify donor intent and usage rules with David/Parks Foundation and likely assign someone to lead that initiative at a future meeting.*

*Finally, Member Myers and Fleet & Facilities director, Joe Parrilli, dug into implementation details for Leland Way: confirming that trees will be 25-gallon, that staff will mark final locations (including a royal poinciana at Leland & Yarmouth), and discussing how to water new trees given no dedicated irrigation—Joe will seek clarification on whether private irrigation can legally support bubblers, while members considered interim options like homeowners watering or hauling water themselves.*

**(14) ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Needles adjourned the meeting at 4:02 P.M.*

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*Jose Muchati, Fleet & Facilities Coordinator*