

City of Marco Island Florida

*51 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, Florida
cityofmarcoisland.com*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

3:00 PM

Community Room

Beautification Advisory Committee

Chair: Marv Needles

Vice-Chair: Linda Scherzinger

*Members: Michael Cory, Victoria Myers,
Julie Rogers, Ann Sepe, Ryan Sullivan*

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

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Needles called the meeting to order at 3 pm.

(2) ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Rogers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

(Vice Chair Scherzinger participated remotely via Zoom Teleconference Connection.)

Motion to Allow Vice-Chair Scherzinger to Participate Remotely

Motion by Chair Needles, seconded by Member Sullivan, to allow Vice-Chair Scherzinger to participate in all matters coming before the Committee at this meeting. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE;

Yes: 6 - Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Rogers, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

Also Present

*Council Members Bonita Schwan
Council Member Stephen Gray
Public Works Director Justin Martin*

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Needles.

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to move Item 6E, 14-foot height restrictions, to the top of the Agenda and discuss Christmas Lights

Motion carried by Chair Needles through a consensus by saying “all those in favor” and “opposed” confirmation.

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 25-4826](#) Beautification Advisory Committee Minutes of October 1, 2025

Beautification Advisory Committee Minutes of October 1, 2025

Chair Needles, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Rogers, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan

Yes: 7 - Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Rogers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

(6) OLD BUSINESS

6A [ID 25-4812](#) Chair Needles Update on Tree City USA and Cul-de-sac Guide (M. Needles)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting Committee Member Chair Needles mentioned that he was working with Assistant City Manager, Casey, on completing an application for Tree City USA for the BAC to be recognized for their commitment to community trees, while noting that the application process is more complex this year than previously due to being asked all of kinds of questions.

Cul-de-sac changes were briefly discussed. Committee Member Victoria Myers recommended removing references to pedestrians, while focusing on vehicle safety. By definition, a bicycle is a vehicle.

6B [ID 25-4813](#) Sponsorship and Outside Funding Discussion (All)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, the following Christmas Lights funding information was mentioned:

- \$1,000 donation from Marco Associations of Realtors
- \$1,000 from Joey Oliverio
- \$5,000 from Council Member Stephen Grey
- Potential additional \$1,000 from Darren Spindler

Committee Member Myers proposed placing Christmas Lights on every other pole. It was seconded it by Committee member Sepe.

A call for a vote was announced with all of the members voting "aye."

Yes: 7 - Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Rogers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

6C [ID 25-4721](#) Presentation & Timetable to Bring the Committee's Privately-Funded Tree Donation Program Before the Marco Island City Council (All)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting Julie proposed some steps to gather information, such as speaking to David, who presented the program to the City Council. The Committee discussed potentially allowing David to attend future meetings. It was also proposed to get David's perspective on options before approaching the City Council.

6D [ID 25-4817](#) Reactions to Marco in Bloom Contest Ideas (All)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, Committee Member Myers proposed changes to the Marco in Bloom contest structure. This included the reduction of 7 to 5 categories, while giving awards to winners and not runner-ups, while estimating costs of \$500 per sign. Another change is to seek a committee to help nominate households due to concerns about potential bias in nominations, which was initially approached to the Garden Club.

Garden Club Members, however, are concerned about potential blaming if they nominate someone, digital photos, and in favor of certain participants. As a result, the proposed strategy is to ask Garden Club Members to help identify potential nominees, allow self-nominations, and recruit knowledgeable people to identify candidates.

6E [ID 25-4818](#) Max Tree Height (V. Myers)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, the legal context of a statute that prohibits planting trees in public right-of-way near electric lines that will grow taller than 14 feet in maturity. Committee Member Myers researched the restriction and did not find a codified agreement exempting the Committee. This restricts planting shade trees and affects planting near utility lines. As a result, it was proposed to update tree planting guidelines, develop utility-compliant tree lists, educate the public, update permitting process, and focus on larger areas without overhead lines.

The Committee recommended talking to the City Council and asking for a rational decision about tree planting, while exploring side roads, and considering root systems and infrastructure protection. Additionally, it was suggested that not all areas should a "hard no" and to consider tree-friendly planting sites.

6F [ID 25-4819](#) Most Unwanted Trees (All)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, Committee Member Sullivan made updates to the PDF poster, which he sent the updated version 2-3 days after the previous meeting. The change includes moving "fire hazards" between the punk tree and the Australian Pine on the poster.

The presentation was created in a version that can be used for potential display during the City Council Meeting, which is designed to be more digitally friendly.

6G [ID 25-4820](#) Arbor Day Plaque and Stand Update (M. Cory)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, Committee Member Cory stated that he did not have the plaque and stand and was assured of him to have it by Friday.

6H [ID 25-4821](#) Marco Island Historical Marker Update (M. Cory)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, there had been no updates on the historical markers until Bonita Schwan spoke. She mentioned that the historical markers were part of the Island's recent designation as a Florida Trail Town through the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). Additionally, when the Trails and Greenway Council met in Jupiter, they displayed the markers on the map, which was well received. Therefore, the designation could potentially bring grants and funding for trail maintenance.

(7) NEW BUSINESS

7A [ID 25-4815](#) Calusa Park Design & PRAC Proposal for Mackle Park (L. Scherzinger)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, the Committee worked on identifying locations for tree planting. Winterberry along Calusa Park was identified as a potential tree planting location. Committee Member Scherzinger also noted working with PRAC for planting at Mackle Park. On the other hand, if the plan with PRAC for planting at Mackle Park fails, Committee Member Myers suggested using LeLand Way as a potential planting site.

7B [ID 25-4801](#) Application of \$5,000.00 Donation from City Councilor Stephen Gray (All)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, the Committee worked on identifying the allocation of Council Member Stephen Gray's generous \$5,000 donation. During the meeting, it was suggested that \$4,000 to allocated to a tree project to increase the tree canopy. \$1,000 in General Fund to be used for Marco in Bloom, Nature Night, and Arbor Day.

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

8A [ID 25-4828](#) Street Light Banner Policy

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, Public Works Director, Justin Martin presented a simplified and condensed Key Policy Changes by removing Exhibit A and defining banner placement on Collier Blvd. The highlights include banners that can be displayed twice per calendar year, not allowed during hurricane season, \$20 per banner, administered and enforced by Public Works, and installation of different sections of the boulevard.

Motion to approve Justin Martin's, Director of Public Work, recommended Street

Light Banner policy changes was proposed by Committee Member Myers and seconded it by Committee Member Sepe.

Yes: 7 - Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Rogers, Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

8B [ID 25-4848](#) Fleet & Facilities Team Update (J. Parrilli)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, the Fleet & Facilities Manager, Joe Parrilli, mentioned the Christmas Lights Budget, consisting of \$25,000 designated for trees, \$5,000 from Council Member Gray, Ridge Valley's offer of \$2,750 for installation, maintenance, and storage. Additionally, it was proposed to bring an architect to the next BAC meeting that will present the Beach Access Beautification Project in detail.

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

[ID 25-4849](#) City Council Communication

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, Bonita Schwan informed the Committee about the cancellation of the Park's Foundation meeting in November 19. She mentioned that the historical markers were part of the Island's recent designation as a Florida Trail Town through the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). Additionally, when the Trails and Greenway Council met in Jupiter, they displayed the markers on the map, which was well received. Therefore, the designation could potentially bring grants and funding for trail maintenance. Potential benefits include possible legislative grants, funding, priority list placement, connecting San Marco Rd to Goodland, and creating a path to Everglades City.

Overall, communication highlighted the importance of the Committee's work in achieving the prestigious designation of Marco Island being a Florida Trail Town. Bonita thanked the Committee for its efforts.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public came forward to offer comment at this meeting.

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE

[ID 25-4831](#) Next Meeting: Confirmation, Attendance, and Preliminary 2026 Meeting Schedule (All)

As the Committee enters the October - December, 2025 quarter, a review and confirmation of its meeting schedule for the 2026 calendar year is expected on December 3, 2025.

The Committee's approved 2025 monthly meeting schedule is attached, along with a preliminary proposal for its monthly meetings during the 2026 calendar year under a continued "first Wednesday of the month" cadence.

(12) FUTURE AGENDA REVIEW & AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

[ID 25-4832](#) 2025 Committee "Open Items" for Future Follow-Up (All)

At the Committee's Nov. 5, 2025, meeting, the following agenda topics were mentioned to be discussed.

Potential Planned Agenda Topics:

1. Marco in Bloom timeline
2. Leland Way Tree Planting Proposal

3. *10,000 trees program options*
4. *Lighting on the Marco Island sign at the Bridge Entrance*

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

1. *Olive Trees on Bald Eagle Drive: 13 olive trees chopped down by LCEC*
2. *Lighting at Marco Island Entrance: Investigating alternative lighting to improve visibility and appearance*
3. *Future Presentations: Updating the City Council, reporting Christmas Light Funding, and giving credit to Ridge Valley for their Contributions*
4. *Coastal Breeze Article: Chair Needles encouraged Vice-Chair Scherzinger to send details to Fleet & Facilities Coordinator, Jose Muchati. And write an article to encourage future funding.*

(14) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Needles adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm.

Jose Muchati, Fleet & Facilities Coordinator