City of Marco Island Florida

51 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, Florida
cityofmarcoisland.com

Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, October 1, 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 3:00 pm.

(2) ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

Absent: 2 - Member Rogers and Vice-Chair Scherzinger

Also Present

CITY COUNCILORS

Tamara Goehler (departed meeting at 4:07 P.M.)
Stephen Gray
Deb Henry
Bonita Schwan

CITY STAFF

Joan Taylor, City Clerk (departed at 3:58 P.M.)
Justin Martin, Public Works Director (Arrived at 3:52 P.M.; departed at 4:08 P.M.)
Martha Montgomery, Fleet & Facilities Supervisor
Martin Luna, Audio/Visual Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Jose Muchati, Fleet & Facilities Coordinator

OTHER GUESTS

Superior Landscaping of Naples: Jesse Castillo
Juniper Landscaping: Catarino Martinez, Kyle Leverette, Austin Hernandez, and Scott Scarvian
Christmas Island Style Committee: Eric Condee, Wanda Day Burson, Barbara Dasti

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Needles.

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chair Needles requested that item 8E (Introduction to Juniper & Superior Landscaping) be advanced to take place prior to Agenda Item 6A.

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

Yes: 5 - Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ID 25-4714 Beautification Advisory Committee Minutes of September 3, 2025

MOTION by Member Sepe, seconded by Member Myers, that the Beautification Advisory Committee Minutes of September 3, 2025, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Member Cory, Member Myers, Member Sepe, Member Sullivan and Chair Needles

(6) OLD BUSINESS

6A ID 25-4717 Chair Needles' Committee Update & Cul-de-Sac Guide Changes (M. Needles)

- *Improving the website while following the City's guidelines*
- *Too many clicks for the website*

6B ID 25-4718 Tree City USA Application Update (M. Needles)

- *Application got started, but we need data for the trees*
- *Assistant City Manager, Casey Lucius, provided some information from last year's application submission*
- *Need to be able to know how much planting & maintenance*

6C ID 25-4719 "Most Unwanted" Invasive and Noxious Plants Update (R. Sullivan)

- *Link to information provided by UF/IFAS extension*
- *Committee Member Sullivan shortened the information*

6D ID 25-4720 Committee Plan to Maintain the Marco Island Historical Markers (M. Cory)

- *Committee Member Corey revisited all historical markers – weeded & tore out dead plants*
- *A bush died in every location – need to figure out which type*
- *Rhonda Gloodt had agreed to take care of two historical markers near her house*
- *Committee Chair Needles recommended a product called noxon to use for brightening metal on historical markers*
- *Committee Member Myers suggested looking at and seeing if there is protective material on the markers and using Simichrome which could help provide a protective layer for future oxidation*

6E ID 25-4715 Arbor Day Plaque and Stand Update (M. Cory)

- *Committee member Cory mentioned that the frame has come, but the gentleman who issued it to him has not installed it*

6F ID 25-4716 Potential New Ideas for the 2026 Marco-in-Bloom Contest (V. Myers)

- *Celebration of beautiful landscaping and rewarded in Marco Island*
- *Budget of $25,000 all for Tree USA*
- *Due to lack of funds, Committee Member Myers wants to streamline process by awarding the winners by showcasing their work at a BAC meeting*
- *Chair Needles suggested a named business to sponsor Marco in Bloom and get funds to make it happen*
- *Committee Member Myers introduced a documented, MIB new idea about categories she would like to see due to last year's categories overlapping*
  - *Problem: Direction was to have only Florida friendly*
  - *They would like to see an award for true beautification*
  - *Show pride in ownership and recognizing homes through well maintained property & design, while incorporating some sustainability*
- *Committee Member Myers discussed difficulty in getting applicants:*
  -Working with the Calusa Garden Club & the board agree to form a committee that finds properties to be nominated, while getting permission from the home to be an applicant

- *Committee Member Myers would like to have a reaction at the next meeting and should have answer from the garden club by then.*

(7) NEW BUSINESS

7A ID 25-4722 Max Tree Height Requirement for Trees Under LCEC Power Lines (V. Myers)

- *Committee Member Myers is concerned by the limitation of tree heights near the power lines, but has an action plan she would like to know if there was a formal agreement with LCEC.*
- *If it stands that that is how it should be, then update tree planting guidelines and develop a utility compliant tree list, educational outreach on their website, permitting process, and focus larger trees in utility free areas and wider right of ways that do not have constraints.*
- *Committee Member Myers may solicit the City Attorney's opinion.*

7B ID 25-4721 Presentation & Timetable to Bring the Committee's Privately-Funded Tree Donation Program Before the Marco Island City Council (All)

- *The Marco Island Community Park Foundation recently met in August, and it is in the middle of a starting phase and revisiting marketing plans. On October 15, it will start discussion on the marketing initiatives.*
- *Some funds are available. Directors are trying to attract people in our community to donate.*
  - If the efforts are focused on parks, it should align with what its activities are. Putting this on an Agenda item to contribute to Parks and Rec.

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

8A ID 25-4726 Confirmation of the Committee's 2026 Fiscal Year Budget (J. Parrilli)

- *$25,000*

8B ID 25-4727 Status of Swallow Avenue Tree Plantings (J. Martin / J. Parrilli)

- *The trees on Swallow Avenue were planted. Maintenance is included for 5 years, and all plants are guaranteed for a period of 12 months.*

8C ID 25-4728 Manpower Estimate for Installation / Removal of Christmas Lights (J. Martin / J. Parrilli)

- *Martha Montgomery, from Fleet & Facilities, reported estimates for installing Christmas lights is between $10,000 to $11,000, which does not include maintenance and assuming we have the materials.*

8D ID 25-4734 Final Street Light Pole Banner Policy Review & Approval (J. Martin / J. Parrilli)

- *Public Work's Director, Justin Martin, mentioned that the city's purchasing ordinance in selecting estimates and purchasing services must be followed, which applies to the landscaping contractors planting trees*
- *Mr. Martin also took comments from the Committee and incorporated them into one document to get to before the meeting with City Council starts.*
- *Committee Member Myers asked Director Martin about a formal agreement with LCEC on 14 feet restrictions: Justin indicated no knowledge of that. Director Martin mentioned that the City Clerk has records of local agreements.*

8E ID 25-4733 Introduction to Juniper Landscaping (J. Martin / J. Parrilli)

Two contractors, who were assigned for two purposes, introduced themselves: One was for Parks & the other was for Water & Sewer common areas such as swells.

- *Parks & Rec – Jesse Castillo with Superior Landscaping*
  - *Get trees locally and also from Miami*
  - *Trees can be planted at any time*
  - *They have a watering truck*
  - *Main office in Bonita Springs*
  - *Other responsibilities: FS51& City Hall Campus*
- *Water & Sewer Common areas & swales – Kyle Leverette with Juniper Landscaping*
  - *200-acre tree farm*
  - *No planting on Sewer & Main Water lines. Under 14 Feet to stay below electrical power lines*
  - *Juniper Landscaping mentioned that they growing native trees*

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

ID 25-4741 City Council Communication to the Committee

Chair Needles announced for the City Council to speak, but there were no comments.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE

ID 25-4626 Next Meeting: Confirmation, Attendance, and Preliminary 2026 Meeting Schedule (All)

- *Would like to investigate getting sponsorship & outside funding*
  - *Wrap on utility boxes*
  - *Nature night*
  - *Possibly for also funding installing and removing the holiday lights*

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

ID 24-3992 2025 Committee “Open Items” for Future Follow-Up (All)

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

No other Committee Communications were discussed.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

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

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Jose Muchati, Fleet & Facilities Coordinator