

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

3:00 PM

Community Room

Beautification Advisory Committee

Chair: Shelli Connelly

Vice-Chair: TBD

*Members: Michael Cory, Marv Needles,
Dustin Nesmith, Linda Scherzinger,
Sharon Watts*

City Staff: Justin Martin, Jim Kornas, Tara Kosieracki

(1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 P.M.

(2) ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Member Cory, Member Needles, Member Nesmith, Member Scherzinger and Member Watts

Absent: 1 - Chair Connelly

Request to Lead the Meeting

With the absence of Committee Chair Shelli Connelly, Public Works Director Justin Martin requested that a member of the Committee volunteer to lead the meeting. Committee Member Dustin Nesmith volunteered to assume that responsibility.

Also Present

Mr. Justin Martin, Public Works Director (remote, via Zoom teleconference connection)

Mr. Martin Luna, Audio/Visual Technician

Mr. Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Committee member Dustin Nesmith.

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Member Winter, seconded by Member Watts, that the Agenda be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Yes: 6 - Member Cory, Member Needles, Member Nesmith, Member Scherzinger, Member Watts and Winter

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 24-3860](#) Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024

Committee Member Fiona Winter requested that the Committee's Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024 be amended to include a notation clarifying the allowed uses for the Committee's Fiscal Year 2025 Tree Fund budget under Old Business Agenda Item ID 24-3790 (Tree City USA Status/Next Steps). [Editorial Note: the requested modification is reflected in the published Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024]

MOTION by Member Watts, seconded by Member Nesmith, that the Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 4, 2024 be Approved as Amended. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Yes: 6 - Member Cory, Member Needles, Member Nesmith, Member Scherzinger, Member Watts and Winter

(6) OLD BUSINESS

A. [ID 24-3861](#) Mackle Park Tree Donation Status (S. Connelly)

In Chair Connelly's absence, Public Works Director Justin Martin shared an update on the status of the Mackle Park Tree Donation noting that:

- 1) a review of the Site Plan and proposed tree planting locations had been scheduled with the City's landscape contractor;*
- 2) the process for procuring the desired trees would follow soon thereafter, and;*
- 3) the Committee can expect a monthly update on the implementation and completion of the project from Parks, Culture, and Recreation Manager Samantha Malloy.*

It was additionally reported that the monetary donation by Mr. & Mrs. McGlade to fund this effort was received by the Community Foundation on September 16, 2024.

B. [ID 24-3862](#) Ten Thousand Trees in Ten Years Report & Recommendation to City Council (M.Cory/S. Connelly)

Committee member Michael Cory reported that, apart from the Mackle Park Tree Donation and project reviewed under Agenda Item 6A above, no additional activity under the Ten Thousand Trees in Ten Years Pilot Program had occurred since the Committee's last meeting. It is expected that, as a result of the visibility of the Mackle Park Tree Project, more resident and business community interest in supporting the Ten Thousand Trees in Ten Years Project will be engendered going forward.

The Committee viewed an email from Dr. Harry Harper of Environmental Research & Design, Inc. that was forwarded for the Committee's consideration by Committee Chair Shelli Connelly prior to the meeting. The Committee was also reminded that its expected report and recommendations to the City Council on the Ten Thousand Trees in Ten Years Pilot Project is now due.

In response to the Committee's request, Public Works Director Justin Martin confirmed that the \$30,000.00 reflected in the Committee's 2025 Fiscal Year Tree Fund account could fund additional tree plantings under the Ten Thousand Trees in Ten Years Program, and he encouraged the Committee to set its priorities and implementation plan for utilizing the existing \$30,000.00 budget within the current budget year which ends September 30, 2025.

The Committee will re-address its report to the City Council and its execution plan for the 2025 FY \$30,000.00 Tree Fund at a near-term future meeting of the Committee.

C. [ID 24-3863](#) South Heathwood Median Enhancement Visual Review (S. Connelly)

The Committee viewed a video of the South Heathwood Drive Median Enhancement Project that was completed in mid-September as provided in advance of the meeting by Committee Chair Shelli Connelly.

Public Works Director Justin Martin noted that several plantings in the South Heathwood Drive Median Project were "stressed" by the storm surge that accompanied the passing of Hurricane Helene, and he indicated that the assessment and replacement of plants that do not survive the recent storm surge will be undertaken after the conclusion of the current hurricane season.

Additionally, it was reported to the Committee that Chair Connelly had received a message of praise and thanks to the Committee from the neighborhood residents in and around the location of the South Heathwood Drive Median Enhancement Project.

D. [ID 24-3864](#) Historical Marker Visual Review (S. Connelly)

On behalf of Committee Chair Shelli Connelly, City of Marco Island Recording Specialist Jim Kornas reported that the repair of the storm-surge-damaged landscaping around several of the Marco Island

Historical Markers was completed just prior to the Committee's October 2nd meeting. Additionally, assistance in maintaining the Committee's landscaping around one or more of the Historical Markers was offered by:

- 1) the Rotary Club of Marco Island Sunrise (offered/communicated by past Club President William Morris), and;*
- 2) neighborhood residents near the Kirk Archeological Site Marker on Olds Court (as reported by the landscape installer; no specific resident(s) identified).*

Ms. Connelly plans to share photos of the repaired and completed landscaping sites at the Committee's November 13, 2024 meeting and engage the Committee in planning for, and managing, the maintenance of the landscaping at all 13 Historical Marker sites.

E. [ID 24-3865](#) Arbor Day Installed Plaques & Stands (S. Watts)

Committee Member Sharon Watts shared photos of the installed plaques and stands identifying the Committee's two 2024 Arbor Day tree plantings in Calusa Park near the Butterfly Garden along Winterberry Drive.

The Committee thanked Member Watts for her effort in successfully procuring and installing the desired identification plaques.

F. [ID 24-3866](#) Assignment of Committee Leads for Early 2025 Committee Events/Activities (All)

Recognizing the Committee's cadence of annual programs and events early in calendar year 2025, the Committee briefly reviewed and discussed the identification of Committee members to lead the execution of the following:

- 1) the Annual Marco In Bloom Awards Contest;*
- 2) 2025 Marco Nature Night Event, and;*
- 3) the Committee's 2025 Tree City USA Application Submission*

The Committee TENTATIVELY identified the following Committee members to lead the aforementioned events:

- 1) The Annual Marco In Bloom Awards Contest (Member Scherzinger, assisted by Member Cory);*
- 2) 2025 Marco Nature Night Event (TBD);*
- 3) 2025 Tree City USA Application Submission (Member Winter, backed-up by Member Nesmith)*

The Committee agreed to revisit and confirm its leaders for each of these activities/events at its November 13, 2024 meeting.

(7) NEW BUSINESS

[ID 24-3867](#) 2025 Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee briefly reviewed a proposed 2025 Committee Meeting calendar which continued the Committee's past year schedule of once-monthly meetings conducted on the first Wednesday of the month, beginning at 3:00 P.M.

MOTION by Member Needles, seconded by Member Watts & Member Cory, that

the Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule for 2025 be Adopted as Presented. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE COMMITTEE:

Yes: 6 - Member Cory, Member Needles, Member Nesmith, Member Scherzinger, Member Watts and Winter

ID 24-3898 Special New Business Item - Commemorative Tree in Honor of Astronaut Michael Collins

Committee Member Fiona Winter proposed that the Committee consider an allocation from its 2025 Fiscal Year Tree Fund as a special "off agenda" item for the Committee's consideration and vote (see the description and detail outlined within in Legislative File 24-3898).

This allocation proposal was made under the expectation that the as-yet-unnamed City park will be completed and in a position to accept the planting of a commemorative tree (and plaque) before September 30, 2025.

MOTION by Member Watts, seconded by Member Nesmith, that an Allocation of Up To \$1,000.00 be Earmarked from the Committee's 2025 Fiscal Year Tree Fund for the Procurement and Planting of a Tree in Commemoration of Apollo 11 NASA Astronaut and Former Marco Island Resident (deceased), Michael Collins, Within the As-Yet-Unnamed City Park Located Adjacent to the Senior Living Facility at 1170 San Marco Road, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS COMMITTEE CONSENT:

Yes: 6 - Member Cory, Member Needles, Member Nesmith, Member Scherzinger, Member Watts and Winter

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

[ID 23-3274](#) Director Justin Martin's Report

Public Works Director Justin Martin proposed that the Committee consider nominating and electing a Committee Vice-Chair at its November 13, 2024 meeting.

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

[ID 23-3296](#) "City Council Communication" Agenda Topic

No communication or direction to the Committee from the Marco Island City Council was presented or discussed at this meeting.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

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

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE

[ID 23-3293](#) Next Meeting: Confirmation & Attendance

The Committee confirmed that a quorum could be seated to conduct business at its next scheduled meeting on November 13, 2024.

(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

The Committee identified the following topics for the Committee's next meeting:

- 1) *Nomination and election of Vice-Chair of the Beautification Advisory Committee (All);*
- 2) *Identification of Potential Tree Planting Initiatives From the Committee's 2025 Tree Fund Budget (All);*
- 3) *City Code Enforcement Department Review of Out-of-Compliance Landscaping at Commercial Properties;*
- 4) *Confirmation of Committee Leads for Early 2025 Committee Events/Activities (All);*
- 5) *Recommendations/Next Steps on Ten Thousand Trees Pilot Program to City Council (M. Cory/S. Connelly);*
- 6) *Mackle Park Tree Donation Implementation Update (Samantha Malloy, Parks & Recreation Department);*
- 7) *Historical Marker Visual/Photo Review and Forward Maintenance Plan (S. Connelly);*
- 8) *Michael Collins Commemorative Plaque Approval, Procurement, & Message (J. Martin)*
- 9) *2025 Committee "Open Items" for Future Followup (All)*

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

During Agenda Item 7 (New Business), Member Fiona Winter raised for Committee discussion a proposal offered to the Marco Island City Council at its September 9, 2024 meeting by Ms. Wanda Burson and Mr. Erik Condee of the Christmas Island Style Committee.

Ms. Burson and Mr. Condee encouraged the Council and City Staff to engage in a dialogue with the Christmas Island Style Committee on possibly collaborating (rather than renting and contracting as a service) the holiday lighting that is used by the Christmas Island Style Committee for its event, along with the holiday lighting that the City contracts for installation (and removal) of along Collier Boulevard for the Holidays.

Following significant Beautification Advisory Committee discussion and insights from Public Works Director Justin Martin, the Committee elected to defer consideration of this proposal until early in calendar year 2025 for potential implementation during the 2025/2026 Holiday Season.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist