



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, Victoria Myers,
Ann Sepe, Ryan Sullivan*

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

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

3:00 PM

Community Room

(1) CALL TO ORDER

(2) ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 1 - Member Cory

Also Present

CITY COUNCILORS

Stephen Grey

Bonita Schwann

Deb Henry

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Chair Needles

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Member Myers, that this be Approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 26-5081](#) Approval of the Minutes

MOTION that this Minutes be approved as amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

(6) OLD BUSINESS

6A [ID 26-5082](#) Beach Access Beautification Project

The Beautification Advisory Committee is working on changing the current conditions of the Marco Island

public beach access and the City's South Beach Access. Noted conditions include worn out site furnishing, differential settling of pavers causing tripping hazards, and the need to address fencing and screening. Priorities regarding the project include safety, educational signage, and beautification elements. Regarding the project, Committee Member Sepe gave an update regarding the Beach and Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, which are transitioning to a new project manager.

6B [ID 26-5083](#) Tree City USA funding Allocation

Tree City USA is an organization that awards a national recognition for meeting four key standards: a tree board/department, tree care ordinances, a minimum annual budget, and Arbor Day observance. Once recognized by Tree City USA, the Beautification Advisory Committee received funding which allows them to continue contributing to the improvement and well-being of Marco Island. As a result, an allocation of \$29,000 was being discussed during this meeting. Committee Vice Chair Scherzinger recommended allocating towards Calusa Park, Leland Way, and Arbor Day tree plans, while postponing tree on Swallow until after bike lake construction and Swale Project.

Leland Way Swale Planting

The Leland Way Swale Planting plan is to plant royal poinsettias and shady ladies while attempting to obtain bids under \$5,000. Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli was given the task to inspect the site for underground/overhead conflicts and permitting requirements before bid.

MOTION by Member Myers, seconded by Member Sepe, that the planting Leland Way's royal poinsettias and shady ladies be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

\$19,000 from the Tree City USA budget allocation

MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Member Myers, that \$19,000 from the Tree City USA budget is available for the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee to use. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

6C [ID 26-5084](#) Marco in Bloom 2026

Marco in Bloom is a contest of planting and beautification in which any individual or group is encouraged to participate.

Committee Member Myers reported that she completed the nomination committee: 5 volunteers and 3 Calusa Garden Club members. A flyer was prepared and printed that had to be modified. It was mentioned that on Jan. 20, the City Council meeting will be held and that Committee Chair Needles and Committee Member Myers will be there to officially announce Marco in Bloom, while informing that the application deadline is March 10.

Outreach and promotion plans include for Committee Member Scherzinger to announce Marco in Bloom to the Chamber of Commerce. Chair Needles to send information to local realtors. And Vice-Chair Scherzinger, Committee Member Myers, and Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli to work together to get flyers posted.

(7) NEW BUSINESS

7A [ID 26-5085](#) Nature Night Planning

The Beautification Advisory Committee discussed Nature Night: an event to present information regarding beautification of the island as well as displaying Marco's most unwanted trees poster. Additionally, the Committee discussed aiming for 3-4 speakers with 15 minutes per presentation. Some suggestions that came up but a decision was not finalized include: a speaker for the unwanted tree list, having a school band and possibility for donations and/or giveaways.

7B [ID 26-5086](#) Unwanted Trees Ordinance

The Committee discussed the unwanted trees ordinance as a Nature Night topic, while agreeing to agreeing to raise public awareness by breaking the poster into individual flyers for each unwanted species. At first, they will begin with the Brazilian Pepper and run one feature each month, while also mentioning the unwanted trees list as a Nature Night topic possibly through a speaker from the University of Florida.

7C [ID 26-5087](#) Holiday and City Decorations

Chair Needles discussed the need to talk to vendors. Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli mentioned that Chair Needles can communicate with them; however, they cannot do it as a group. Fleet and Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli agreed to send Chair Needles the contact information of Ridge Valley (the vendor that stores and installed the Christmas Lights for 2025).

7D [ID 26-5088](#) Potential Liaison Roles

The Committee Members were unsure about needing liaison. It was mentioned that it was already established last meeting.

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS[ID 26-5089](#) Fleet & Facilities Update

Fleet and Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli showed the banners to the Beautification Committee. Regarding the 80 banners that are placed January-May. Perhaps, replacement might be needed. Joe Parrilli was tasked with to reach out to the sign company and get an approximate cost for replacement. Therefore, it was concluded that Fleet and Facilities manager will look for lifespan and price. Committee Member Sullivan would like to see the artwork that the Committee has that may need replacement.

Other updates include that a member of the public was complaining about overgrowth being over the sidewalks. As a result from miscommunication, the landscaping company attempted to solve the problem, but the butterfly garden was nearly destroyed. Fleet and Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli is going to get a list of the vegetation that needs to be replaced and he will see whether he can fund that within his budget.

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Councilor Schwann mentioned that bike lanes on Swallow will be on both sides with possible completion around October. Council Member Schwann mentioned repairing of the banners through an upholstery seamstress on the island, which would be an option due to replacement being quite expensive.

Regarding the expansion of the sidewalk and potential for trees being removed, it was discussed by Public Work Director Justin Martin at the City Council and it was said that it will not be a problem. Vice Chair Scherzinger had expressed the same concern, she had measured the distance from each tree to the street and there was a discussion about how wide a bike lane is. As a result, it was concluded that a bike lane is generally three feet, which is a Collier County rule that we have to abide by.

City Council member Deb Henry mentioned that Florida Arbor Day is on Jan. 16 at 10:30 am at Leigh Plummer Park, the Calusa Garden Club will be planting a tree.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT

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

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE

(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Review for Marco in Bloom:

Vice Chair Scherzinger tasked with the chain of commerce announcement and reach out to the head of CAMMI (Community Association Managers of Marco Island).

Chair Needles to reach out to realtors.

FFM Manager Joe Parrilli was tasked to put up flyers at Veterans Park on a bulletin board and ask Samantha if they are able to put the flyer on the electronic board.

Banners seemed to have been replaced last time in 2016. Committee discussed trying to salvage some of them.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

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

Jose Muchati, Fleet & Facilities Coordinator