



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 Parilli, Martha Montgomery,
Jose Muchati*

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

3:00 PM

Community Room

(1) CALL TO ORDER

(2) ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 1 - Member Gloodt

Also Present

CITY COUNCILORS

Deb Henry

Bonita Schwann (Arrived at 3:41 pm)

BEACH AND COASTAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chris Ricci

(3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION by Member Sullivan, seconded by Member Myers, that the Agenda be Approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

(5) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

[ID 26-5277](#) Approval of the Minutes

MOTION by Member Myers, seconded by Member Cory, that this Minutes be Approved as Amended. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

(6) OLD BUSINESS

6A [ID 26-5288](#) Beach Access Beautification Project

4:28 - The beach access beautification project is a project being put together by Kimley-Horn to improve Marco Island Public Beach Access Corridor and the City South Beach Access based on concepts and feedback presented on Dec. 3, 2025 within the Agenda Item 7A. The initial concept discussed emphasized safety, maintenance and aesthetic improvements. Proposed changes include omitting shade structures (at least in phase 1), adding painted murals, decorative vinyl wraps for utility boxes and revised seating elements. The BAC approved the overall corridor design, including the shades structures conceptually, while instructing staff to treat the shade structures as an add-alternate in the pricing. City Council will review design, see costs with and without the shade structures, and then decide whether to move ahead and whether to fund the shade structures.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Scherzinger, seconded by Member Myers, that the design of the shade structures endorsement be Approved. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0.

6B [ID 26-5278](#) Marco Nature Night - Post Event Review (All)

22:34 - Marco Nature Night concluded that the program was strong, presenter's well-received, attendance to be at approximately 55-80 people, but unsure. The BAC wants to improve promotion next year using low-cost yard signs, newspaper ads, electronic entrance sign (if possible), Ryan possibly volunteering as an MC and even planning earlier on the September agenda with key details by November and moving event to February so March is not overloaded by both Marco Nature Night and Marco in Bloom.

6C [ID 26-5279](#) Marco in Bloom Review (All)

38:17 - Marco in Bloom 2026 Wrap-Up

This year, the competition was especially strong in most categories due to the addition of our official Nominating Committee.

Total Nominations = 87 (74 from NC 85%, 13 from public)

1 winner, and 3 runner-ups from public nominations, so they remain important

36 Judged – 51 Not Materialized

*Winners: Best Residential Professionally Designed – 205 S. Beach Dr. – Hideaway Beach
Runner up – 660 Bimini Ave*

*Best Residential Personally Designed – 1264 Orange Ct
Runner up - 305 Polynesia*

*Best Residential Florida Friendly – 200 Angler Ct
Runner up – 1277 Mulberry Ct*

*Best Cul-De-Sac – 685 Embassy Ct
Runner up- 794 Hull Ct*

*Best Commercial/Public Building – was a Tie
Marco Island Historical Museum – 180 S. Heathwood
Brawn Builders – 583 Tallwood St
Keith Brawn*

*Best Condominium
Pier 81 Condos - 1069-79 Bald Eagle
Runner up – Admiralty House – 140 Seaview Ct*

MOTION by Member Myers, seconded by Member Sepe, that the sign budget for the Marco in Bloom winners be adjusted from \$350 to \$480 be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

6D [ID 26-5268](#) Leland Way Swales (J. Parrilli & M. Needles)

51:19 - Leland Way Swales has tree planting restrictions. Joe reported that Public Works and Water & Sewer identified plantable zones on the south side of Leland Way where trees can be installed as long as they stay away from the pump station, main line and sewer laterals. The north side, however, remains a standard swale with planting not allowed. The committee decided that they can plant with those constraints. Victoria will mark the locations on the map and send to Joe to get pricing before planting.

6E [ID 26-5280](#) Calusa Park Trees (J. Parrilli & L. Scherzinger)

54:03 - The Committee reviewed options for tree planting at Calusa Park using City's preference of 65-gallon trees which matches the one around Mackle pond. To do Calusa Park without irrigation, it would be approximately \$17K. Joe is attempting to get pricing for bubblers tied into irrigation. It was asked how much could be achieved for \$5000 with only 45-gallon and those the landscaper have a water truck.

The committee pointed out that past projects (e.g., Elkam/Heathwood, Swallow, and the Arbor Day tree in Calusa) successfully used 25-gallon trees, which are less expensive and often establish better.

Overall, it was decided to make a final decision when Vice-Chair Scherzinger can set up a meeting with Casey, Dan Smith, Darren Spindler, a council representative and staff to get clarification on acceptable tree sizes.

6F [ID 26-5281](#) Mackle Park Tree Project (J. Parrilli & L. Scherzinger)

1:01 - Very brief discussion: Joe still getting the Mackle Park tree prices and they are currently high.

6G [ID 26-5282](#) Political Sign Ordinance (L. Scherzinger)

1:02 - Vice-Chair Scherzinger - does not have any updates and is currently working on it with City Councilor Bonita Schwann.

6H [ID 26-5283](#) Arbor Day Event - April 24 (M. Cory)

1:03 - The Arbor Day event will be held on Friday, April 24 at 11:00 a.m. at Calusa Park, where a new tree will be planted in the same general location as last year's Arbor Day tree. Michael explained that two trees in that section had died; one has since come back and is blooming, while the other is completely dead, so the new Arbor Day tree will be planted where the dead tree is removed, making use of the existing irrigation there. The event itself will be brief and ceremonial, with Michael giving a short talk on the importance of Arbor Day and trees; no band or large program is planned this year.

(7) NEW BUSINESS

7A [ID 26-5284](#) Christmas Lighting - Bridge-to-bridge plan (M. Needles & M. Corey)

1:04 - The Christmas lighting discussion focused on expanding and better organizing the seasonal lights along Collier Boulevard between the Jolly Bridge and the Savage Bridge. Marv reported that Michael has secured a storage location for the existing fixtures, and he is working on purchasing about 40 additional lighting units, which would bring the total to roughly 80 units, enough to decorate about every other pole

along that stretch. Marv is also in early conversations with a stakeholder group that includes the Chamber Board of Realtors and Christmas Island Style representatives to gather input and explore funding support for the expanded program; he will bring the item back to the committee once there are concrete updates on financing and implementation details.

7B [ID 26-5287](#) BAC Dedicated Webpage (J. Muchati & M. Needles)

1:06 - Chair Needles met with Jose to put something together for a Beautification Advisory Committee website. The committee is looking at ways for using QR codes that would link to the Beautification Advisory Committee website. The Beautification dedicated email got approved.

(8) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

[ID 26-5285](#) Staff Reports

1:08 - No staff reports were provided.

(9) CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

1:10 - There were no comments from the City Council Members that were present.

(10) PUBLIC COMMENT (TIME CERTAIN 10:00 A.M..)

1:10 - During public comment, Frank Ackley, a resident near the Historical Museum, thanked the committee for its work and raised concerns about the barren appearance of Bald Eagle Drive (from Yellowbird to around Elkam/Marco Lake) and parts of San Marco Road near the YMCA/Y.”

She asked whether more trees or other plantings (e.g., seagrasses, bromeliads, agaves) could be added, and suggested exploring median or center-lane plantings on Bald Eagle to create a shaded, canopy-like corridor that would also calm traffic.

The committee explained that about 14 trees were previously removed by LCEC and there are 14-foot height restrictions under power lines, but acknowledged the corridor looks poor and discussed future possibilities: using lower-growing patio trees or shrubs in sensitive areas, considering new medians where traffic safety allows, and revisiting prior understandings about whether removed trees could or should be replaced.

Victoria noted that future plantings under utilities should prioritize species that stay below the height limit, while Marv emphasized the need to also consider long-term trimming budgets so existing lopsided trees and any new trees can be properly maintained.

(11) NEXT MEETING: CONFIRMATION & ATTENDANCE

1:18 - May 6 is the next meeting. Member Sullivan may be out of town, but unsure. He will email staff member Jose Muchati in case something comes up.

(12) PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

[ID 26-5286](#) Future Agenda Topics

(13) OTHER COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

1:17 - Committee Member Myers follow-up comment emphasized that while it makes sense to budget to properly trim the existing under-line trees so they look better, future plantings under electric rights-of-way

should be limited to species that naturally stay under the 14-foot height limit. She noted that this is not just an LCEC preference but tied to broader safety/ordinance requirements in Florida, and recommended focusing on smaller patio-type flowering trees and shrubs in those constrained areas, using taller trees only where there is no utility conflict.

1:19 - Christmas proclamation on the City Council meeting on Monday, April 6, 2026.

(14) ADJOURNMENT

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

Jose Muchati, Fleet & Facilities Coordinator