

# INDIAN SHORES

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## Gulf Blvd. Beautification Ad Hoc Committee Minutes Minutes - Tuesday, January 23, 2018

**The Gulf Boulevard Beautification (Planting) Ad-Hoc Committee convened at 1:03 p.m.** Those present were: Councilor Hackerson; Bob Brotherton, Town Engineer; Janet McKee, Nick Menchise, Claudia Riva, Art Newsome and Larry Schear.

Also present, Mayor Soranno and Darlyn Stockfisch, Administrative Specialist.

### 1. Approval of Agenda

**Motion by Tom King – seconded by Larry Schear**, to approve the January 23, 2018, meeting agenda. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### 2. Public Comments on any Agenda item

There were no comments.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2017. (Ref.: Pgs. 1-6)

**Motion by Art Newsome – seconded by Claudia Riva**, to approve December 12, 2017, meeting minutes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Patrick C. Soranno**  
Mayor

**Diantha Schear**  
Vice Mayor

**Mike Hackerson**  
Councilor

**Michael (Mike) Petruccelli**  
Councilor

**William F. (Bill) Smith**  
Councilor

**Bonnie Dhonau**  
Town Administrator

**Terry E. Hughes**  
Chief of Police

**Susan L. Scrogam**  
Director of Finance  
and Personnel

**Stephanie V. Waters**  
Town Clerk

**Gregory Yantorno**  
Building Official

**Regina Kardash, Esq.**  
Town Attorney

**4. Update on Status of Beautification**

**Councilor Hackerson** reported that the median palm trees planted are too short according to Bob Brotherton, Town Engineer, and Jonathon Toner, Landscape Architect, per F.D.O.T. height standards. We will change them out and already have plans for those being removed.

**Councilor Hackerson** relayed that Sand Castle III wanted three Palms removed and sod put in. We also have a spot for those three trees.

**Councilor Hackerson** said we are making good progress on the other smaller planting areas like taking fencing down and planting palm trees at The Civitan, plantings at the boat ramp up to the Park Boulevard median, and Tiki Gardens. The remaining Pub work consists of a horizontal bore for irrigation purposes. We also picked up the median at the Title Company as an extra on this project, and it really looks good now.

**Councilor Hackerson** informed that we continue to struggle with Pinellas County Utilities and getting the irrigation connections to reclaimed water. The holdup is waiting for the inspections to be completed but we are getting those caught up.

**Councilor Hackerson** reported that we are working on some smaller Phase II beautification additions with Ameriscape beyond the initial plan. Committee members should let Mike know if they have any small requests for landscaping.

**Art Newsome** asked about Pipers III. **Councilor Hackerson** reported that those are already on the plans.

**Councilor Hackerson** reported that we started the maintenance budget the first of the year to get ahead of the impending weeds. We have a one-year guarantee on the new plants so we are watching them closely. If they don't come into bloom this spring, they will be replaced.

**Councilor Hackerson** informed that we are at about \$745,000 spent of our \$1,074,000 allocation. We are submitting for \$385,000 from F.D.O.T. and then another \$240,000 to be billed again shortly. We are in good shape budget wise and are watching it closely.

**Councilor Hackerson** said the project is still on track to be completed by the end of February.

**Janet Mckee** confirmed that work was being completed on Vista Cove by Beach Place One Realty.

**Councilor Hackerson** recounted an email he received from Wes Westphal inquiring on the planting progress on the north side of town. Mike responded that we are close to completion on all those in the north that wanted plantings up to Whitehurst.

## **5. Next Steps for Phase II Easements**

**Mayor Soranno** related that with the passing of the Penny IV referendum, we will get close to another \$4.5 million of allocation and will need to address on how we will spend it.

**Mayor Soranno** mentioned that he brought up at the Big C meeting the possibility of spending Penny IV money now and getting reimbursed later when Penny IV allocations begin (2020-2030). Other Big C members were also interested. We will pursue this request.

**Mayor Soranno** conveyed that with Penny IV money we would want to continue with properties that are need of improvement.

**Tom King** asked to what extent would F.D.O.T. working on the ponding issue along Gulf Boulevard affect our plantings.

**Councilor Hackerson** reported that it would not affect the plantings at all. F.D.O.T. will put in a trench drain between the walkway and bike path. Work will begin in July.

**Bob Brotherton** informed that F.D.O.T. would also be resurfacing the bike and walk path along Gulf Boulevard.

**Councilor Hackerson** reiterated that with new Penny IV money, we would continue Gulf Boulevard Beautification Phase II by working on the properties we have identified. Committee members should work on getting "points of contact" but do not go for easements yet.

**Bob Brotherton** informed the Committee to keep in mind that Pinellas county also wants to spend Penny IV money in advance for a different project. As the County looks to get a system into place to use these monies, we should remind them what we want to do.

**Larry Schear** inquired as to the "Redwoods" idea and keeping their fencing.

**Mayor Soranno** replied that in order to encourage landscaping be done, we can move fencing or signage as needed as long as we know what pending funding is available.

**Mayor Soranno** asked about how a determination is made on funding.

**Councilor Hackerson** replied that we give Ameriscape a list of plantings that were not made and then add plantings that we are continuing to plant. Then we invoice according to the plans. We keep a detailed record of everything used and not needed in addition to an updated plant list.

**Councilor Hackerson** further explained that once we submit the final submission for review, the dollars stop so everything needs to be completed prior to final inspection.

## **6. Open discussion**

**Mayor Soranno** stated that he had briefly talked to Frank Chivas, Salt Rock Grill, about possible assistance with funding to close the second Municipal Center parking entrance.

**Bob Brotherton** gave a rough estimate of \$36,000 to do the construction for this project.

**Janet Mckee** inquired and got confirmation to reach out on the Harrison property and what they want done but to not pursue an easement at this time.

**Councilor Hackerson** instructed that in keeping with the Sunshine Law, if anyone needs anything, to contact Darlyn and she will follow through.

**Councilor Hackerson** stated that he appreciates all the hard work being done by the Committee members.

**The Committee** agreed that Councilor Hackerson has done a phenomenal job leading this project.

**Claudia Riva** asked whether we are getting sand for the beach nourishment project.

**Mayor Soranno** explained that beach nourishment was postponed due to Hurricane Irma, but that it was now currently slated for March/April 2018.

**7. Set time and date for next meeting.**

**Councilor Hackerson** proposed and the Committee agreed to meet next on **Tuesday, February 20, 2018, at 1:00 p.m.** At this meeting, we will reinvigorate the teams, divide up the areas that we know we can complete and will go over the supply maintenance plan.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.**



Darlyn A. Stockfisch  
Administrative Specialist