

**REVITALIZATION AND BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

The Revitalization and Beautification Advisory Board held a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2009. The following members were present: Chairman Mary Freeman, Mr. Gary Pitts, Mr. Terry Underwood, Mr. Robert Hellmich, Ms. Bonnie Bodine, Ms. Ellen Dean, and Mr. Martin Teem. Absent members: Mrs.Carolayne Hollis, Mr. Mark McKenzie, Ms. Kathy Danielson and Mr. Dan Hellmich. Also present was David Horton, and Jessica Nelson, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall, Foley, Alabama. This is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Revitalization and Beautification Advisory Board.

The first item on the agenda was the review and approval of the minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting. The minutes were approved as corrected.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Administrative – Ms. Jessica Nelson reported that Councilman Ebert had several recommendations for downtown beautification projects. He recommended that the sidewalks be pressure washed, the Holly bushes be replaced, the planter boxes need attention, and focus on clearing the sidewalks to make more pedestrian friendly. She also reported that the tree plaques should be in for Arbor Day.

Parks Department – Mr. Mark McKenzie was not present to report. Mr. Martin Teem reported that they were working on the ball fields and that everything was looking good. They have also been trimming the crepe myrtles and preparing for Arbor Day.

Landscaping Department – Mr. Martin Teem reported that they are working hard and helping with the spring planting.

Street Department – Mr. Dan Hellmich was not present to report. Chairman Freeman noted that there was a tree removal request at 217 W. Jessamine for the Tree Committee to sign off on.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Tree Committee – Mr. Terry Underwood did not have a report.

Century Tree Program – Mr. Robert Hellmich said when the Century Tree Plaques get in that they would go out and put them up. He noted a need to advertise the program in the future. Chairman Freeman said that Councilman Hellmich and Mr. Terry Underwood should get with Ms. Leslie Lassiter to get an article in the paper on the Tree Ordinance. Ms. Bonnie Bodine suggested letting the tree trimmers know about the Ordinance. Mr. Martin Teem said that some were trimming on

private property. Discussion ensued about when trees could be cut down or trimmed and if they needed a permit. Mr. Terry Underwood suggested giving out the information with business licenses. Ms. Bonnie Bodine agreed and suggested a fine.

Seasonal Plantings Committee – Mr. Gary Pitts introduced Mr. M. David Horton as the City’s Horticulturist/Landscaper. Mr. Gary Pitts reported that they would begin the spring change out in the next 7-10 days. Mr. M David Horton and Mr. Bill Goodwin are getting the pots ready for the spring/summer change out in mid April. They are also working on the irrigation for the greenhouse. It would cost \$7,000 - \$9,000 to get a new meter. They are working to get a well put in instead for around \$2,000-\$3,000. Mr. M David Horton is working to cut costs on potting mix by ordering it by the truckload at 1/3 of the cost they are spending on bags. They will be going to Tanger, Gulf Shores and Fairhope to look at beds to get ideas next week. Mr. Gary Pitts also reported that they are working on the Welcome beds and Pride Drive. One bed across from the old Dairy Dud has Mexican petunia in it. They will have to kill it before planting anything else or it will keep coming back. Mr. M David Horton has been spraying this bed and the ones on Pride Drive and will continue to do so this spring and summer. Ms. Bonnie Bodine commented on the bushes in the beds on Hwy 59 and 98 and asked why they did not just use flowers. Chairman Freeman said it came down to money but they are working in it. Mr. Gary Pitts said they use the shrubs for a backdrop to highlight the annuals. They are addressing the beds as they go and have removed some of the shrubs. Ms. Bonnie Bodine noted that some of the colors do no balance. Mr. Gary Pitts said they are headed in the right direction. He said that Mr. M David Horton has hit the ground running and has made great progress. He has cleaned out the beds and the greenhouse. They are currently focusing on 2-3 beds at a time. They will continue this with the next change out. They are removing some grass, mulching and using pine straw. The corner beds have to be durable enough to withstand the trucks running over the curb. In the past, change outs were done in all the beds at the same time. Now, they are doing 2-3 beds at a time and doing a better job. Chairman Freeman noted that at the last change out the flowers were not ordered so they had to use leftovers. Ms. Bonnie Bodine noted that the Tulips look great. Mr. Terry Underwood noted that Dwarf Yaupon looks good for background shrubbery. Chairman Freeman recommended that Ms. Bonnie Bodine attend the next Seasonal Plantings committee meeting.

Ordinance Development- Ms. Bonnie Bodine suggested that there be an Ordinance adopted that requires citizens to put their garbage cans away after the truck runs each week and another one that requires cars to be parked in a designated area, not in people’s front yard. Mr. Gary Pitts said that people should be supporting the new recycling program. Chairman Freeman agreed and stated that participation should be mandatory.

Education and Outreach – Mrs.Carolyn Hollis was not present to report. Chairman Freeman stated that they still needed more tablescapes. She asked if Mr. Terry Underwood had been able to come up with speakers. He reported that he had the following lined up: Gaynell Dumas (English Gardens), Tommy Dodd (Native Plant Materials), Jim and Nancy Gaines (Camellias), and Fred Nations (Native plant Materials/ Trees). Chairman Freeman reported that she knew a woman from Chattanooga that wanted to sell her books. Mr. Terry Underwood said he had a speaker on Palms (Larry Morris of Pensacola), but he had a scheduling conflict. Staff needs the names and bios of the speakers for publicity and the program. Mr. Gary Pitts noted that they need to have someone announcing when the lectures were going on. He recommended Ms. Bonnie Bodine.

Christmas- Ms. Bonnie Bodine said there was no report at this time.

Beautification & Revitalization Awards- Ms. Kathy Danielson was out of town.

Arbor day- Ms. Ellen Dean needs to get with staff on the letters to go out and the program. Mr. Martin Teem is getting the Live Oak in memory of Mack ‘Bud’ Dodd. Ms. Ellen Dean reported that three posters were sent off for the National Arbor Day Poster Contest. The kids at the schools are doing more posters to be displayed at the event. They will be picked up when the trees are delivered on Thursday. Mr. Martin Teem will be getting Kelly at the library pine seedlings to plant with the kids program. Chairman Freeman reminded the Board to be at the park by 10:00 am on February 28.

Tourism Development – Ms. Kathy Danielson was not present to report.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Banners were discussed. Chairman Freeman said she has asked Zana Price to draw them and then they will be submitted to a company for a price estimate. Once they have an estimate they will submit to Council for consideration.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Freeman discussed Councilman Ebert’s requests. She noted that the Streetscape project is pending the stimulus plan. The Board discussed the options to improve the downtown area before the Streetscape project begins. Discussion ensued about trees to be planted in the boxes.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

---

Jessica Nelson, Recording Secretary