



**BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 23, 2013**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Albert Hayes at 9:35 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Rita Argott, Mary Arias, Debra Cabrera, Sadie Calderon, Eleanor Connelly, Vada Conrad, Albert J. Hayes, Mary Jo Haller, Paula Minnehan, Irene Pasillas, Annie Petris, Lupe Placencia, Juliet Ray, Mary Reed, May Sharp, Marlene Vernava, and Charlotte Zevallos

Absent: Margaret Bustos, Rosalie Miller, and Vaibhav Narang

Council Liaison: Richard Moore, Mayor
Staff: Jeff Mahlstede, Executive Secretary
Jean Madrid, Program Coordinator

Chairperson Hayes extended congratulations to Councilmember Richard Moore who was recently appointed Mayor and to Councilmember Juanita Trujillo who was appointed Mayor Pro-Tem.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Charlotte Zavalos and seconded by Marlene Vernava to approve the Minutes of June 27, 2012. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Debra Cabrera inquired regarding the proposal for establishing a Dog Park in the City. Mayor Moore indicated that he has taken a look at the preliminary plans and the dog park has been placed on the current Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) list. The CIP list is evaluated annually to determine if funding sources are available. Chairperson Hayes stated that he will be contacting Tammy Murray, who coordinated last year's dog walk event, to discuss the possibility of incorporating this annual event at the new Dog Park, if and when approved by the City Council.

Lupe Placencia inquired about the status of her previous code enforcement complaints regarding a barbeque at the southwest corner of Alburtis Avenue and Morrill Avenue. Chairperson Hayes will be meeting next week with the City Manager and will address this issue.

Marlene Vernava announced that the Women's Club will be hosting a fundraiser trip to Barona on February 5, 2013. Cost is \$20 per person. Bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. and returns by 6:00 p.m.

4. ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

- a. Chairperson – Executive Secretary Jeff Mahlstedde opened nominations for the election of Chairperson. Paula Minnehan nominated Albert Hayes and Debra Cabrera seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Jeff Mahlstedde closed the nominations. Mr. Hayes accepted the nomination and the election was carried unanimously. This will be Mr. Hayes 7th year as Chairperson to the Beautification Committee.
- b. Vice Chairperson - Jeff Mahlstedde opened nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Eleanor Connelly nominated Mary Arias who did not accept the nomination. Paula Minnehan nominated Debra Cabrera. Ms. Cabrera accepted the nomination and the election was carried unanimously.
- c. Liaison to Heritage Arts Advisory Committee – Chairperson Hayes selected Marlene Vernava as Liaison to the Heritage Arts Advisory Committee. Ms. Vernava accepted the appointment. There were no objections.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mayor Richard Moore announced that he will be meeting with a delegation from the City's Sister City of Navajoa, Mexico today.

Also, at the next City Council meeting representatives from the Villages Homes development will be meeting with residents at 5:30 p.m. The new owner decided to offer rental units there and the current residents are not in agreement. The Planning Commission reviewed the environmental impact report and found no negative impact and approved that the developer may proceed with their plans. In addition, investors have bought homes and are currently being rented out. The City Council will review the actions of the Planning Commission and determine whether or not to ratify the Planning Commission's decision.

Additionally, there will be a meeting tonight with state representatives at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the public's concerns regarding the Phibro-Tech issue. This is a firm located on Dice Road that processes hazardous waste materials, oils, and liquids. The property sits on contaminated soil and groundwater. Despite a court order to clean the property, it is yet to be done. The City Manager Thaddeus McCormack is in the process of investigating as to why over 200 previous complaints received from residents have not been addressed. Flyers announcing the meeting are posted throughout the City.

Lastly, the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center will be hosting a Health Fair Opening on Saturday, January 26, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Mayor Moore expressed that he looks forward to a better financial year for the City.

6. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

- a. Spring Programs – Jeff Mahlstedt stated that the Spring Activities and Programs Brochure will be mailed to residents in two weeks.

Jean Madrid mentioned that there will be many activities planned in the month of February at all the parks including, Chinese dragon fans, tissue paper heart crafts, fruit loop necklaces, and the Penny Carnival on February 18 from 3:30 p.m – 5:30 p.m. Jean invites members to volunteer at the parks to assist staff with the various activities.

Discussion ensued regarding opening Lakeview Park before 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday's to accommodate students who are released from school at 2:00 p.m. Jeff indicated that this would imply staffing and cost issues. He will investigate if feasible in opening the gate on Wednesday's at Lakeview Park before 3:00 p.m. and will keep members apprised.

- b. Home Decorating Contest (Dec. 10) - The City Council will be recognizing the nineteen winners of the Home Decorating Contest at their next meeting at 7:00 p.m. Jeff thanked members who participated.
- c. All park staff was recognized for the Christmas decorating contest between each of the City parks. Jeff was very impressed by the talent and creativity by staff to transform the park offices. Chairperson Hayes thanked Debra, Lupe, and Juliet who donated decorations to the parks.
- d. Lastly, Jeff announced that he has been named the new Executive Chair of the Heritage Arts Advisory Committee. The next meeting will be held at the Library on Tuesday, January 29, 2013.

7. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE BY-LAWS

Members reviewed the Committee By-Laws.

Paula Minnehan noted Section 5 – Organization, Item D-Quorum, page 3
Recommendation for consideration: 2/3 active membership - proposal to change to majority (50% + 1) active membership.

A motion was made by Paula Minnehan and seconded by Marlene Vernava to amend the Committee By-Laws required for a quorum to a majority active membership. The motion was carried unanimously to make a recommendation to

the City Council for their approval.

Paula Minnehan requested that an explanation be given as to what is an “active” and “inactive” member. Jeff explained that an illness is considered an *absence* by definition within the By-Laws. In order for an absence to be considered an “*excused*” absence, all requests must be made through the City Clerk’s office who will coordinate approval by City Council. Members may contact Jeff and he will notify the City Clerk on their behalf. Jeff will discuss this issue further at the next meeting.

8. SUPER COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairperson Hayes announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at City Hall with City Manager Thaddeus McCormack. Mr. Hayes shared that the City Manager has expressed interest in conducting Town Hall meetings with the community and having more resident involvement. Chair Hayes will keep members apprised.

9. POLICE SERVICES REPORT

Code Enforcement Issues Reported:

- Lupe Placencia reported that at 9202 Morrell, water pools and does not run.
- Vada Conrad inquired regarding tree removal request and indicated that water pools as well. Ms. Conrad was referred to contact the Public Works Engineering Department to file a claim to remove the tree.

10. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REPORT

None.

11. HERITAGE ARTS ADVISORY LIAISON REPORT

Marlene Vernava reported that the members of the Heritage Arts Advisory Committee attended a special luncheon meeting at Geezers on the January 16, 2013. At this meeting, members reviewed the contractual services agreement between Yolanda Garcia and the City of Santa Fe Springs to assist with the organization of an art exhibit featuring local artists. The majority of the members agreed to the agreement for contractual services at \$60 an hour and not to exceed \$15,000 with the recommendation to include an excerpt extending the contract to accommodate a meeting following the event to assess and discuss the art exhibit, and a second meeting to present a final written report to the Committee. A revised contract will be presented to Ms. Garcia and will be reviewed at the next Heritage Arts Advisory Committee meeting for final approval.

12. PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

None.

13. COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Committee members reviewed the various projects.

- a. Beautification Tours 2013 – More cooperation from members is requested in touring the industrial sites. The date/s is/are yet to be determined. Members were advised to check their calendar schedule. Further information will be discussed at the next meeting.
- b. Arbor Day 2013 – Date to be Determined.
- c. Beautification Awards Presentation – July – Specific Date to be Determined.
- d. Holiday Fest & Tree Lighting – Dec. 7, 2013 TCH Plaza
This event was well attended. Chairperson Hayes recommended sending letters to thank this year's participants.
- e. Penny Pines: New Program / Date to be Determined.
Jean Madrid thanked members who contributed their pennies towards this program.

14. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Beautification Tour Format Change (Vote) –
Members voted for a resident mail-in application with photo for consideration of the Beautification Award Program. This will cut staff and transportation costs. Members may still need to tour at least one day to visit the community. Dates will be determined at the next meeting.

A majority vote elected to change the format with the following vote result:

Yaes: 13

Naes: 1

Recommendation was also made to advertise in the Chamber Newsletter, Reader Board, Quarterly Brochure, City Newsletter and City Website.

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Chairperson Hayes announced the Arbor Day schedule.
2013 - Santa Fe Springs Christian
2014 - St.Pius X
2015 - Rancho Santa Gertrudes Elementary
2016 – Jersey Elementary
2017 - Lakeview Elementary

16. NEXT MEETING

The next Beautification Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Hayes adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Mahlstedt, Executive Secretary
Beautification Committee

JM/tc