

**MINUTES**  
**LOMPOC BEAUTIFICATION & APPEARANCE COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, May 9, 2018**

This meeting was called to order at 6:32 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room located at City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc, California.

- I.           ROLL CALL:           Chairperson Becky Barritt  
  Vice Chairperson Warren Keller  
  Commissioner Judith McKinnon  
  Commissioner Scott Reardon
- ABSENT:               Commissioner Susan Gallacher - Excused
- STAFF:                   Sean O'Neil, Secretary  
  Diane Najera, Office Staff Assistant

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No Public Comments were received at this Meeting.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Staff Najera distributed the 2018 Say it with Flowers Beautification Award Nominations received to date and some thank you letter from Commissioner Gallacher for donations for her work project.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:**

No Commission or Staff communications were received at this Meeting.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1.           APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Commissioner Keller and a second by Commissioner McKinnon, the 4/11/18 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved.

**STREET TREE ITEMS:**

1.           April 2018 Tree Removal & Planting List.

No comments were received on this item.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. "Say it with Flower's Beautification Awards.

Staff Najera reminded all Commissioners to judge their areas, note nominations accordingly and if you see something spectacular, award it accordingly and if it is mediocre then award as an Honorable Mention. She also noted the deadline date of 6/5 and the upcoming Awards Banquet on 6/19. It was also requested to keep awards to a minimum of approximately twenty five per Commissioner but if you see something that is worthy then by all means recognize it. A brief discussion on categories ensued with judging dates noted as 5/15 through 6/1.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Work Project on 6/16/18 – Farmer's Market Parking Lot on Ocean between I & J Streets.

Commissioner McKinnon asked if Caltrans would object to work being done in this area. Staff O'Neil said there is a twelve to eighteen inch strip of property along the back of the sidewalk within Caltrans right of way but they don't maintain the area. Chairperson Barritt asked if the work project would conflict with the Flower Festival Parade. Staff O'Neil said the work project is the Saturday before Flower Festival. Staff Najera noted the timing of the work project is a plus as it will spruce up the area for the annual event. Vice-Chairperson Keller hopes this angle will encourage more community participation. A brief discussion on logistics occurred along with a suggested design plan to include removing the dead hedge and installing some plants and walk on bark. Staff O'Neil stressed a designated walk way cannot be made but noted the area will certainly look better with these suggested improvements. Chairperson Barritt voiced her displeasure of using weed barrier, noting it does not really help to deter weed growth and is unnecessary. Vice-Chairperson Keller explained his project design; to trim all the trees and open up the canopies. He noted Becky gave him a list of suggested plants for the area and he and Commissioner Reardon walked the area and thought to plant Blue Chalk Sticks and Gazanias in the front along the walk way. Vice-Chairperson Keller noted he wants more color for this project since it's on a main thoroughfare. He noted colorful natives such as Yellow Yarrow in front of the boulders and Variegated Echium behind the boulders will look nice and he would like to stay with roses on the South/West corner. He suggested dwarf Bottlebrush in the back with a few Escallonia and keep it well spaced therefore not creating a crowded look. Vice-Chairperson Keller would also like to get some soil from Valley Rock to mix into the current soil to help insure survival of the plants. Staff Najera suggested to ask Valley Rock for a donation. Staff Najera asked if removing the hedge and tree trimming would be done by City Staff before the work day with Staff O'Neil confirming yes. Vice-Chairperson Keller asked about soliciting donations and Staff Najera said she would assist in the letter writing and the sooner the better. Commissioner Keller informed the Commission that he started a Go Fund Me Page for his Work Project as he understands current Beautification funds are shrinking. The Commission briefly

discussed the suggestion of limiting volunteers and thought that was a bad idea. Vice-Chairperson Keller noted his goal is to raise \$1,800 for this project. Staff O'Neil requested a plant list as soon as possible so he can inquire on their availability. Vice-Chairperson Keller thought to promote the Work Project as a way to spruce up the community before Flower Festival would add some appeal to the project. Commissioner McKinnon suggested to ask Native Sons for a plant donation. A brief discussion on several nursery and plant species considerations was held. Staff O'Neil suggested to ask area businesses for donations as well.

## 2. Funding Acquisition for Work Projects.

The Commission discussed several different ideas for fundraising for work projects and in general, including grant requests.

STAFF ITEMS:

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS:

Commissioner McKinnon asked if the funds for taking over the Flower Barrel Project have been received from the Chamber of Commerce. Staff Najera said no, that is not going to happen and that she forwarded e-mails (to the Commission) from Amber Wilson, Chamber President & CEO on the subject. Vice-Chairperson Barritt gave a brief summary of the history on the Flower Barrel Project.

Commissioner Reardon noted he suggested doing his Work Project at City Hall and saw where a citizen brought up the condition of the area at the last City Council Meeting. It was noted this area is under Park Maintenance's jurisdiction. Commissioner Reardon voiced his concerns about getting donations for City Hall.

Commissioner McKinnon noted she talked with Jan Mally about the condition of the Pocket Park on South H Street and asked if Staff could do anything to get some much needed maintenance in the area. Staff Najera said she spoke with Jan on this very same subject and she sent an e-mail to Park Maintenance Management and some work has been done! Mrs. Mally called back to thank Staff Najera for her assistance in getting the area cleaned up. Vice-Chairperson Keller asked about the lot at the corner of Chestnut and Ocean, across from Solvang Brew Company and noted it is full of weeds and really needs some attention. Staff Najera said that is a private lot and Jan Mally has donated her time to help with the maintenance of that area.

Vice-Chairperson Keller noted some bad feedback from the public on Facebook about maintenance of these Work Projects; and that this is something we need to address. Everyone agreed. Chairperson Barritt said the Sweet Pea seeds need to be watered. Staff O'Neil stressed the limitations of his crew. Chairperson expressed her preference with granular weed application. Staff O'Neil replied he

will check into the possibility but noted his concerned that it does not dissipate/dissolve. A brief discussion ensued on the excessive amount of weeds everywhere.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Becky Barritt seeing no further business noted the meeting of the Beautification & Appearance Commission adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Becky Barritt, Chairperson

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Sean O'Neil, Secretary

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