

MINUTES
LOMPOC BEAUTIFICATION & APPEARANCE COMMISSION
Wednesday, July 11, 2018

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Administrative Conference Room located at City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc, California.

- I. ROLL CALL: Chairperson Becky Barritt
 Commissioner Susan Gallacher
 Commissioner Judith McKinnon
 Commissioner Scott Reardon
- ABSENT: Vice-Chairperson Warren Keller - Unexcused
- 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 new Street Trees Recommended for Southern California Book to the Commission.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

The Commission briefly discussed the stolen bird house from the V & Olive Channel and securing the rest from any further theft.

Commissioner Gallacher noted how happy the Community was with having an overall winner in each section for the "Say it with Flowers" Beautification Awards. Staff Najera agreed and noted how much they love the annual program and recognition. Commissioner Gallacher suggested having a similar awards program for the Christmas light competition. Staff Najera replied it is too costly to have two programs of this nature. Commissioner Gallacher said she would get donations. Chairperson Barritt noted the costly staff time that is involved in such programs. Commissioner Gallacher said if it brings positivity to the Community, the Commission should really consider doing it.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Commissioner Reardon and a second by Commissioner McKinnon, the 6/13/18 Regular Meeting Minutes were approved.

STREET TREE ITEMS:

1. June 2018 Tree Removal List.

No comments were received on this item.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Participation in Old Town Market.

The Commission decided against getting their own booth but Commissioner Reardon asked if they could join City Council in their booth. Staff Najera will inquire with the Administrative Assistant and let the Commission know.

2. Fundraising (Requested by Vice-Chairperson Warren Keller).

Staff Najera expressed Vice-Chairperson Keller's desire (in his absence) to raise more funds for the Commission. She noted the Commission has done well raising funds for the last couple of work projects but Vice-Chairperson Keller noted a (fundraising) plan needs to be made. A brief discussion on recent donations was held.

3. New Work Project: D Street Median Enhancement on 8/18/18.

Commissioner Gallacher asked if the City's Public Information Officer promoted the last work project. Staff Najera replied she forwarded the request to her, and received and forwarded (to the Commission) a Press Release but did not know exactly what outlets were contacted. Staff Najera also commented that she distributes flyers to many local places, such as Starbucks, Southside Coffee, the Library, Dick DeWees Center, etc. Commissioner Gallacher suggested distributing flyers door to door, in the immediate area. Staff O'Neil suggested to contact the nearby Church and utilize the Lompoc Library as well. Staff Najera reiterated that flyers are already distributed to the Library. Commissioner Reardon stated he does not think flyers (on a wall, at a business) are very effective. Commissioner Gallacher relayed to the Commission and City Staff, the community census is that everybody wants the town to look better because it looks pretty bad. Staff Najera replied the Community needs to be part of the solution and get more involved with community cleanup efforts.

Commissioner McKinnon noted the last work project (at the Farmer's Market Parking Lot) was by far, the most visible project and where else is comparable.

Commissioner Gallacher asked who owns the property at the East entrance of town at Highways 1 & 246 (the old LOMPOC rock sign). Staff Najera replied that is private property and not an option as the past Commission tried relentlessly to redo the area to no avail. Chairperson Barritt vividly recall the situation and gave a brief synopsis of the circumstances. Chairperson Barritt asked who owns the vacant field across the street. Staff O'Neil replied Caltrans owns the very corner with the Eucalyptus trees and the rest is private property. Chairperson Barritt noted to just leave the area alone as we have the Home Depot sign and it has "Lompoc". Commissioner Reardon asked who owns the property at the North/East corner. Commissioner Gallacher said she will look up who it is and noted the whole parcel was for sale and it was supposed to be a hotel and restaurant and got turned down by the City of Lompoc and then went to Buellton and built it in eight to ten months after the City of Lompoc told him three to five years. Commissioner Reardon said if it is owned by Prayrian Properties/the Wine Getto; he has a relationship with them and could talk to them.

Staff O'Neil informed the Commission that with limited Staff, the City cannot continue to provide the preparation maintenance for these Beautification Commission work projects. He noted numerous City Staff work hours were spent at the last location and electrical line clearing is back logged right now and needs to be Urban Forestry's top priority. Commissioner McKinnon and Staff O'Neil briefly discussed the expensive and detailed work it would take to complete this project. Commissioner Reardon asked if Staff O'Neil and the Commission could meet out at the location to review exactly what can be done as we have already discussed what cannot be done. Commissioner Reardon made a Motion to hold a Special Meeting (after weed abatement has been completed) in the 1200 block of North D Street to assess the feasibility of our future project. Commissioner McKinnon seconded the Motion. It was suggested to have each Commissioner go out individually and view the site. Staff O'Neil explained what needs to be done so when the Commission views the site, they can keep it in mind. He said the ivy would need to be removed and the soil levels lowered utilizing a tractor and dump truck. Staff Najera pointed out City Staff would still need to run the tractor and dump truck. Commissioner Reardon asked to meet with City Staff O'Neil to view the site in person and go over what needs to be done and what the City can do. The Commission discussed the detailed job and came to the conclusion that this work project cannot be done right now as it entails too much work. Chairperson Barritt suggested this project be postponed until a later date.

Chairperson Barritt asked for a list of City properties that could be a work project for the Commission. Staff O'Neil said he would have Staff Najera e-mail a list to everyone tomorrow. Commissioner Reardon withdrew his Motion. Chairperson Barritt suggested the D Street Plateau, behind the Water Treatment Plant for the next work project. She noted that would not require any City Staff preparation time and could easily be completed by the Commission and volunteers. Chairperson Barritt said the D Street Median project could maybe be done in October or put off until next year. Staff O'Neil said if he is able to catch up on

some work, then maybe City Staff can help prepare the D Street Median for a future work project. Commissioner Gallacher asked who maintains that area. Staff O'Neil said the path and Channel are maintained by the Street's Department and the land/plateau is maintained by Urban Forestry. So the Commission choose the D Street Plateau for the 8/18/18 Beautification Commission Work Project. Commissioner Gallacher noted she will not be able to attend but everyone else will be there. Staff Najera will get a Flyer out as soon as possible.

STAFF ITEMS:

Staff Najera informed the Commission that Sean was officially appointed the Urban Forestry Supervisor. Everyone congratulated him.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Becky Barritt seeing no further business noted the meeting of the Beautification & Appearance Commission adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Barritt, Chairperson

Sean O'Neil, Secretary

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