**City of Southport Beautification Committee Minutes**

**Date:** November 15, 2021 Minutes taken by: Karen Pasquale

**Location:** Indian Trail Meeting Hall

**Quorum determined:** Meeting called to order by Lynne Geiman at: 5:00pm

**In Attendance:**  Sharon Lightbourne, Karen Pasquale, Ken and Lynne Geiman, Tom Lombardi, Margaret Fontaine, Robert Thatcher, Larry Ashley, Randy Jones

**Absent:**  Joe Fikentscher

**Guests:** None

**Approval of October 18, 2021 Minutes:** Minutes amended**,** approved and seconded.

1. **Committee Reports**

1. **Native Plant Pollinator Garden (NPPG**): Larry Ashley

* NPPG, per Larry, will be listed as a “non-mosquito spraying” site like other Bee City locations.
* Therefore, per Tom, this resolution has been resolved and it is expected that the Mayor of Southport will sign the papers for certification in December.
* Dave and the City of Southport Parks crew cleaned up the southside of the NPPG walkway.
* Larry states that this cleanup enables the 2 benches to be placed so that they face the garden from 2 new locations … outside of the east and south sides of the NPPG.
* On Thursday, November 18th, a pop-up work day, mulch will be placed under the 2 benches and along the inside pathway providing a finished look and help reduce weeds.

1. **Communication Report:** Margaret Fontaine

* Margaret sent out pictures of the new picnic table and pictures of the Coastal Water Watch (CWW) sign which was freshly painted.
* Notices were sent to the Southport periodical.

**c. Youth Outreach:** Sharon Lightbourne

* Sharon has contacted the local Boy Scouts to see if they want to volunteer on workdays.
* Rob Thatcher has reached out to the Eagle Scouts and waiting to hear from them.

**d. Planting/Garden/Steward Program:** Lynne

* Lynne states that the Steward Program still has a few more sites that need to be filled.
* People are starting to notice that the various areas are looking very well.
* At the Waterfront site, the rosemary will be removed after the first frost kills the flowers. The Planting Committee will meet to review what other evergreen plants could replace the rosemary.

**e. Financial Report:** Lynne

* Current balance is $2556.80.

2. **Old Business**

1. **Pruning Seminar:** Lynne

* Twelve people met at the Northwood Cemetery on November 13th, Saturday.
* Scott showed how to prune Live Oak trees.
* Scott will put in a work order to remove debris.

**b. Holiday decorations/tree lighting:** Lynne**/**Randy Jones

* Lynne states that the holiday decorating was done in stages.
* Lights were tested and 40 – 50% of the lights did not work.
* 200 feet of new lights are needed for the Waterfront.
* City put up the Garrison Lawn tree and the tree located at Whittlers Bench.
* Ken fixed all of the broken strands of lights on 5 wreaths.
* On November 16th, light polls will be marked with pink ribbon as to where the wreaths will be hung.
* Also on November 16th, Joe, Leslie and Lynne will get together to place the garlands in town.
* Wednesday, November 17th, wreaths will be brought to the marked poll locations and committee with fluff the wreaths before they are hung.
* Lynne and Randy bought tubs to keep Christmas decorations organized when they are taken down.
* Per Randy, on November 26th, Friday, at 6pm the tree lightening will occur and the Mayor will do the honors.
* Prior to the tree lighting on 11/26, children from Trinity Church will sing Christmas songs and the Mayor will read the Night Before Christmas book.
* At this event, the SBC will serve hot chocolate and cookies to those in attendance starting at 5:30pm.
* The lightening ceremony will stream live on Facebook.

**c. November Workday 11/6/21:** Lynne

* This workday was cancelled due to inclement weather.
* Mulch around Nick’s boat has washed away and will need to be replaced.

**d. Pop Ups:** Lynne

* Ken, Larry, Rob, Jim and Sharon worked on picnic tables.
* CWW sign was sanded and painted.

**e. Garbage Can Surround Tops:** Tom Lombardi

* Tom, Ken, and Jim will meet to see if they can improve on the surround tops of the cans.
* They will wait until after the holidays to resume building the tops.
* Every top will be custom made due to different sizes of these garbage cans.
* City will pay for the items that are needed to build these tops.

3. **New Business**

1. **Ideas for Upcoming Workday 12/4/21:** Lynne

* 12/4/21 workday is cancelled.
* Next workday will be 1/8/22.

**b. December 2021 meeting:** Lynne

* December SBC meeting is cancelled.

4**. Adjourned:** 5:38pm **Next meeting:** January 17, 2022