

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF LADY LAKE
TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
LADY LAKE, FLORIDA**

**February 19, 2013
5:30 p.m.**

The Tree and Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting was held in the Town Hall Commission Chambers at 409 Fennell Blvd., Lady Lake, Florida.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson/Member Turlo called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL: Doris Turlo, Chairperson/Member
Arthur Edelson, Member
Phil Mathias, Member

ABSENT: Cheryl Lowery, Vice Chairperson/Member; Teri Stuber, Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Burske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kris Kollgaard, Town Manager/Town Clerk; and Julia Wolfe, Staff Assistant to the Town Clerk

Others Present: Mayor Jim Richards

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

January 15, 2013 Tree and Beautification Advisory Committee Meeting

Upon a motion by Member Mathias and a second by Member Edelson, the Tree and Beautification Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on January 15, 2013 by a vote of 3 to 0.

C. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Meeting Procedures (Kris Kollgaard)

Town Manager Kris Kollgaard stated there were a couple of items she wanted to discuss regarding the meetings. She stated she receives updates from area municipalities weekly and is seeing a pattern that has her concerned; although the Town has not had any problems with their boards, and the committees do a great job. Ms. Kollgaard stated she is glad everyone is relaxed and comfortable, but some are getting too relaxed, mostly the volunteer boards. Ms. Kollgaard stated there was an incident in Orange County where two board members were texting each other during the meeting about the subject that was being discussed, and this is a Sunshine Law violation. She stated text messages are considered public records, and if someone requested the board member's text messages, the board member would have to surrender any text messages that had to do with Town business.

Ms. Kollgaard stated she will be going around to all the boards to touch base and remind them the meetings are being recorded and that it is a part of public record. She stated committee members should not lean back and talk with other board members away from the microphone. Ms. Kollgaard stated she has noticed board members leaning over talking to each other where the audience cannot hear what is being said. She asked that everyone be careful as it could be construed as a violation of the Sunshine Law. Ms. Kollgaard stated leaning over to say something to staff, such as Mr. Burske, or one of the attorneys is not a Sunshine Law violation. She reiterated that everything said during the meeting is being recorded and is a part of public record.

Ms. Kollgaard stated the second item she wanted to discuss was regarding making motions during a vote. She stated the best way for an advisory board member to make a motion is to recommend forwarding the item to the Town Commission with a recommendation of approval or denial. She stated advisory boards only make recommendations for approval or denial, and this is forwarded to the Town Commission and they make the final decision for approval or denial of an item.

Ms. Kollgaard asked if there were any questions from the committee. There were none.

2. Discussion and Direction for Tree and Beautification Projects for the Remainder of the Fiscal Year (Mike Burske)

Chairperson Turlo asked the committee members if they had any ideas. She commented that one of her concerns is that it is getting difficult to see around the hedges, bushes and flowers on many of the streets when pulling out of the parking lots and at stop signs. She stated they are beautiful, but she has to pull forward into the street to see if anything is coming. Chairperson Turlo stated she was coming out of the parking lot by Staples onto Oak Meadows recently and had to pull halfway into the street to see if anyone was coming. She asked who is responsible for this.

Mayor Jim Richards approached the podium. He stated he was not sure if that area was part of the District or cared for by the Town, but stated Public Works would know, and they would contact The Villages if it was in their jurisdiction as they work with them on a regular basis. He stated the Town's Land Development Regulations states there is not supposed to be any obstruction higher than 2 ½ feet, and trees have to be trimmed below eight feet 25 feet from an intersection. Mayor Richards stated Public Works should be contacted regarding any public right-of-way issues.

Member Mathias asked if Bichara Boulevard was in the Town or The Villages, as he noticed the Town is fixing the roads on Bichara. He stated he has noticed the same problem of bushes being too high to see around without pulling into the right of way or intersection.

Mayor Richards stated he believed everything in the Avenida Central area is maintained by the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) as it is in their jurisdiction and they maintain the streets.

Chairperson Turlo stated she is thinking about taking some pictures of the different intersections where it is hard to see around the shrubbery and landscaping.

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Ms. Kollgaard asked Member Turlo to send her an e-mail and she would forward it to The Villages, and to Lake County, if it is in their jurisdiction. She stated it may take two weeks to get a reply, but to let her know if they do not hear back in two weeks. Ms. Kollgaard stated the Town has contracted with The Villages to do some of the road repairs in their jurisdiction.

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske stated the Log Cabin Park did not have much going on in the beginning, but is now the location of Tuesday's Farmers Market, and Art-in-the-Park events twice a year. He reported that the Historical Society's yard sale will be held there soon, as well as the new Taste of Lady Lake event. Mr. Burske stated the purpose of the park has changed over the years, and he asked the committee members to think about investing in changing the landscaping at the park to be more event-friendly. He stated the committee approved the removal of the Liriope and replacing it with sod last fall, and this will be done in the spring when the grass starts growing back. Mr. Burske stated other plantings may need to be changed as well. He stated Christmas lights are laid all over the bushes during the holidays, and he would like to use plants that are user-friendly, while keeping the Log Cabin Park looking nice and functional.

Chairperson Turlo asked if artificial turf could be used around parts of the park.

Mr. Burske stated the turf is not the big issue; it is the plants. He stated the sago palms along the sidewalks at the Log Cabin Park are getting diseased over time, and one is lost here and there. Mr. Burske stated the sidewalk area is looking a little awkward and not as inviting. He stated he will work on that during the summer when they are mowing and planting.

Chairperson Turlo stated that will give the committee something to look forward to and is a good idea. She commented that she noticed there is a string of Christmas lights hanging from the train cars facing Old Dixie highway.

Member Mathias stated Parks and Recreation staff members were still working in that area.

Mr. Burske stated he will check to be sure the Christmas lights are removed. He mentioned he would like to add more shade tolerant St. Augustine grass at Heritage Park.

Member Mathias asked how much money is left in the budget.

Chairperson Turlo replied it was about \$7,000.00 at the last meeting.

Mr. Burske agreed that there is roughly \$7,000.00 left in the budget. He stated the planting of the Italian Cypress at the Boy Scout Hut will be his last project, and that three or four projects were completed last fall.

Member Mathias asked where the Italian Cypress was being purchased.

Mr. Burske replied the Italian Cypress was purchased from Bailey Industries. He stated he would meet with Member Mathias regarding purchasing a Southern Magnolia for the Driving Range.

Chairperson Turlo asked where the Lady Lake town border is to the south.

Mayor Richards replied from the audience that Lady Lake ends at Lake Ella Road.

D. Chairperson/Members' Report:

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske stated he spoke with Betty Senter of the Lady Lake Garden Club last Friday regarding her Arbor Day speech, which will be in April. He stated they discussed having the history of the Florida palm tree as the subject of the speech this year. Mr. Burske stated the Florida palm tree is an introduced species, not a natural species, and was introduced in Florida when a shipwreck occurred off Palm Beach and 20,000 coconuts came ashore. Mr. Burske stated he would meet with the Committee in March to organize the Arbor Day event scheduled for April. He stated he would like to plant a palm tree this year to go along with the theme.

Chairperson Turlo asked if palms could be planted in front of the Log Cabin to replace those that have died.

Mr. Burske replied the palms around the Log Cabin are small Sago palms, and other palm trees get too tall.

Mr. Burke stated that the Town of Lady Lake has once again been awarded the Tree City USA designation, and this is the 8th year that the Town has been given this honor. He asked Chairperson Turlo if the Lions Club would like to be a part of Arbor Day event again this year.

Chairperson Turlo replied she would ask. She asked the date and the location of the Arbor Day event.

Mr. Burske replied it will be held April 26, 2013 at 10 a.m., but the location is undecided at this time.

E. Open Forum:

There were no comments from the audience.

F. Adjourn:

With no further questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Julia Wolfe
Staff Assistant to Town Clerk

Doris Turlo, Chairperson