



**CITY OF PACIFICA  
BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, July 13, 2022  
6:30 p.m.  
VIA ZOOM MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:32 P.M. by Chair Melinda Moses

**Members Present:** Gail Bennett, Linda Jonas, Melinda Moses, and Dan Wells

**City Council Liaison:** Council member Sue Beckmeyer

**PB&R Liaison:** Commissioner Gail Benton Shoemaker

**Staff Members:** Public Works Director Lisa Petersen and Michelle Trayer from Public Works

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Approved

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 6, 2022, MEETING MINUTES:** The April 6, 2022, minutes were already approved at the June 1, 2022, meeting. The approval should have been for the June 1, 2022, meeting. Staff will resend prior to the August meeting so the membership can vote to approve.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No members of the public present.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**A. Review the Pacifica Beautification Awards SOP:**

Chairperson Moses and the membership discussed artificial turf and if the use of it would be considered when nominating a house or business for the awards. Committee member Wells said he personally would not rule out artificial turf, but instead, suggested the committee allow a specific amount of the area. Committee member Bennett said one of her nominees has artificial grass in some areas but there are still planted areas with a drip system set up with fruit trees and vegetables. Committee member Gossage stated she used to use artificial turf but since learning more about it, she said she tends to shy away from it now. The product is a plastic material that can break down and be found in the environment later, and it also contributes to heat retention more than alleviating the heat urban island effect. Chairperson Moses asked member Jonas for her thoughts on the topic. Committee member Jonas said she did not see an issue with using it, since it also helps with water conservation. Committee member Gossage discussed impervious vs. pervious materials and suggested there be a certain percentage that needs to be permeable, which will help hold stormwater on the site. This would include things such as rocky zones, mulch zones, natural materials, soil, and garden spaces. The group discussed a 70/30 percent split and agreed that was a good starting amount. Chairperson Moses asked for a vote on adding this topic to the standards. The membership voted yes. Chairperson Moses said she would work on the new language for the guidelines.

**B. Palmetto sites - workday review/sponsor update:**

Chairperson Moses asked the group to mark their calendars for the next cleanup day, which is scheduled on July 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Committee Member Bennett said the June 25<sup>th</sup> Palmetto streetscape cleanup had a good turn out of sponsors and BAC members. Committee member Bennett sent out reminder letters for the July 30th cleanup date to the current sponsors. She told the group there is a new sponsor on the corner near Saltwater Bakery, and said she is currently working with the owner of the Paloma Cleaners and Laundry for the available spot in front of the business. There are currently still eight adoptable sites. The membership will work with staff to advertise the open Crespi spots. Committee member Gossage asked about the Rockaway medians/parking lot spots that were discussed in previous meetings. Chairperson Moses will revisit this again as she did not get a response back from one of the interested parties. She will also look at a circular area east side of Rockaway Beach on the other side of Highway One as well as touch base with Eccleston Realty about her areas. Council member Beckmeyer asked Committee member Bennett to please check the Lion's Club water lines and ensure they are still intact.

**C. Crespi Bioswales (weeding, moisture, and new grass growth):**

Chairperson Moses told the group that the Urban Forestry- UC Cooperative Extension will be doing some research, outreach, and community service at the Crespi Bioswales. The Urban Forestry group will not be doing any actual maintenance. Chairperson Moses will obtain further details on the project and get back to the group. Chairperson Moses also said she received info from former Committee member Patty Hontalas about Mara Higdon, who is a Master Gardener and a Cabrillo School parent. Ms. Higdon was asking about weeding the bioswales, which reminded Chairperson Moses there is no application yet from the Parent Teacher Organization. Council member Beckmeyer said Ms. Higdon is the Co-President of the PTO and would be able to bring the sponsorship topic to the rest of the organization at one of their future meetings. Council member Beckmeyer said there is a large, unknown plant growing in a bioswale, but other than that, the sites are doing well because of the moisture levels. Committee member Gossage asked if there was any concern about where the water is coming from, such as a broken pipe. Public Works Director Petersen said the moisture issue was addressed when the site was being constructed and they learned the area is in a location where an underground spring runs year-round. Committee member Gossage said this might explain why some of the plants were not doing well because they were getting "wet feet." "Wet feet" is the common term for a condition that affects plant species intolerant of wet growing conditions. Her recommendation would be to get rid of those plants and when there is any replanting later, there can be a modest adjustment towards more plants that require more water in those zones. Chairperson Moses concluded the topic by asking Council member Beckmeyer for Ms. Higdon's contact information so the sponsorship application can be forwarded on to her.

**COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES:**

Council member Beckmeyer shared the City's General Plan was approved at the Special July 11, 2022, City Council meeting. One of the modifications in the City's process will be having a review period that is timed at the beginning of the year, so the input can be collected before the City has its Goal Setting meeting. She said there have been ongoing concerns about fire and hazard maps, so the City will need to obtain them from CAL FIRE. She said they are working with the Deputy Chief from North Coast County Fire to update those maps as quickly as they can.

She also said the City is seeking accurate and complete landslide and debris flow maps for the entire city. These maps would come from Caltrans. Chairperson Moses asked about roundabouts at the Manor Dr. overcrossing. Council member Beckmeyer said the Manor Dr. Overcrossing Project received a lot of citizen feedback from past community engagements and at the most recent Council meeting. She further stated any future decisions need to be coordinated with Caltrans. Director Petersen clarified the conversation around the topic was about having an onramp at Milagra Dr. and the concerns related to it. She said the City's consultant did in fact look at the possibility of a roundabout, but that was for the Paloma Ave. area, and not Manor Dr. The goal was to allow southbound travelers going towards Oceana Blvd. to enter a roundabout to access the Paloma Ave. onramp. She reminded the group these are ideas are just in the concept phase. Council member Beckmeyer brought the conversation back to the General Plan and said the City is launching right into the housing element. She said Pacifica, like a lot of other cities, has a high Regional Housing Needs Allocation number because there are more housing units than ever before. She said it is a matter of asking questions such as where the City sees its ability to place housing units, asking how zoning would work to enable those units, and what kind of density is the City needing to look at.

## **STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:**

### **General Updates from Public Works:**

Director Petersen thanked the membership for their involvement in the Heritage Tree Ordinance Update. The City recently held a Study Session and the Council provided policy direction to the staff, which will be incorporated into the ordinance. The topic and the Council's requested changes will be brought back to them for review at the August 8, 2022, Council meeting. Commissioner Benton Shoemaker asked Director Petersen to clarify when the ordinance will go into adoption. Director Petersen said the adoption of an ordinance is a two-meeting process. Typically, City Staff will take the ordinance to Council initially, and if they are fine with what was proposed or if they wanted to see changes, staff would introduce the ordinance and at the following meeting the ordinance would be adopted.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Community Center Planters**

Chairperson Moses asked Committee member Jonas about the Rotary Club's adoption papers and if they were given to the new President. Committee member Jonas responded yes and would like to set up time with Chairperson Moses, herself, and the President to come up with a planting plan for the Grace McCarthy Overlook.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Meetings will continue to be held virtually until the end of September and will return to in-person meetings in October.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Chair Moses closed the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Beautification Advisory Committee is scheduled August 3, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. and is subject to change.