

**MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
LOMPOC CITY COUNCIL AND THE
LOMPOC BEAUTIFICATION & APPEARANCE COMMISSION
Tuesday, February 20, 2018**

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers located at City Hall, 100 Civic Center Plaza, and Lompoc, California.

I. ROLL CALL: Chairperson Becky Barritt
Commissioner Susan Gallacher
Commissioner Warren Keller
Commissioner Judith McKinnon
Commissioner Scott Reardon (arrived at 6:10 pm)
Mayor Bob Lingl
Mayor Pro Tempore Jenelle Osborne
Council Member James Mosby
Council Member Dirk Starbuck
Council Member Victor Vega

STAFF: Sean O'Neil, Secretary
Diane Najera, Office Staff Assistant
Stacey Haddon, City Clerk

GUEST: John Linn

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

John Linn, Lompoc resident; voiced his concern on tree removal with no replacement tree planting. He noted back in 2014 when he was leaving office, he saw the cover of the Ten Year High Maintenance Tree Removal & Replacement Plan but does not believe it came to council for approval. He hopes the Council will ask for that document to be brought before them because he doesn't think we want to become no tree city USA and that's the direction where're headed; particularly along H Street and Ocean Avenue as a lot of high maintenance trees have been removed and not replaced. The goal was to remove one high maintenance tree and replace it with one low maintenance tree. He recalled the reason why the Beautification Commission was directed by Council to review trees back in the late 1990's; was to make sure we replace trees that were removed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Annual Report and Discussion of Beautification & Appearance Commission Activities and Related Issue.

Mayor Lingl noted the Annual Report and a list of Beautification Projects was submitted to the City Council for review and thanked the Commission. Mayor Lingl asked the Commission if there was anything else they would like to report. Chairperson Barritt informed the Council of the Project that was just completed at D Street and North Avenue. Approximately 150 plants were installed and 45 yards of mulch spread. An incredible amount of work was done with about twenty volunteers, including six City staff members and four out of five Commissioners. She was very impressed with the outcome of the project and noted that entire corner is beautiful now and it won't take long for the plants to fill in. The plants are gopher and drought tolerant for a better chance of survival. Chairperson Barritt invited the Council to drive by and take a look at their work. She also noted there are four more projects coming up and each Commissioner will chose a project. Chairperson Barritt chose the first project (at D & North) and the second one will be along Olive Avenue, from O Street to V Street, chosen by Commissioner Susan Gallacher. The Third project will be to continue enhancing the D Street Median, chosen by Commissioner Judith McKinnon. Chairperson Barritt elaborated that one section of the Median was done a couple years ago and we will continue to complete enhancing the rest of the Median. The other two projects will be picked by Commissioners Warren Keller and Scott Reardon. Chairperson Barritt noted a lot of project suggestions were received at the Community Workshop which was held on 1/25/18. It was a good meeting and Chairperson Barritt would like to repeat it every year in January. There were approximately thirty five people in attendance. One of the topics discussed was litter patrol and it was decided not to make this a project as the Commission wants to focus more on beautification projects, such as planting, maybe installing some bird houses and beautifying certain areas in Lompoc. She noted the Commission does want to see litter picked up as it is an issue in the city right now. Commissioner McKinnon noted there was a litter patrol group present at the Workshop and they left their contact information for anyone interested.

Mayor Lingl said he noticed the start of the Fallen Warriors Project at Beattie Park and asked the Commission if they were involved with that project. They replied no but he thought it will be a nice addition to the Park.

Mayor Lingl praised Chairperson Barritt on running the Workshop and said there was a lot of good input from the Community. He is happy to hear the Workshop will be held on an annual basis and noted it is good to keep the community involved. Mayor Lingl asked if people from the Workshop attended the last work project. Chairperson Barritt replied yes, a few showed up.

Mayor Lingl noted on the Annual Report as completed projects, the third year of the Ten Year High Maintenance Tree Removal & Replacement Plan and said he's noticed a lot of removals but not many replacements. Chairperson Barritt agreed and noted that has been a concern of the community and Commissioner McKinnon as well. Chairperson Barritt referenced the fourth paragraph of the Annual Report that reads "a continued service of the Commission is review of

discretionary services provided by Urban Forestry and these services include tree maintenance, planting and removal” and said the Commission does not really have anything to do with that as we do not advise Urban Forestry and can only keep bring things to their attention over and over again. She also explained the tree removal and planting information was removed from the agenda with no explanation. Mayor Lingl stated he knows that is not their responsibility.

Mayor Lingl then asked if any of the Commissioners had anything else to say. With no response, he then gave the floor to Council Member Starbuck. Council Member Starbuck said he believes it was Commissioner Keller that posted the D Street & North Avenue project on Facebook and noticed a lot of people responded that they did not know about the project and would have helped if they would have known about it. He asked if there was a plan to better advertise the work projects. Commissioner Keller replied there were about 100 likes and 30 comments on the post and agrees better advertising could improve participation at the events and maybe even reach out to the local businesses as well. He thought more people would have come out to the event and has already received a high interest in the next project. Council Member Starbuck asked if the City’s Public Information Officer knew about the project. Staff Najera replied yes, she did her usual advertising procedures and it was in the Lompoc Record several times. Commissioner Keller said he felt bad that the younger generation did not attend the Workshop or thought perhaps we may have just not reached them through our advertising efforts. Council Member Starbuck asked if the Commission will again be passing out the bee friendly flower seed packets this year at Old Town Market as he thought they were very well liked by the community. Chairperson Barritt replied there are no current plans to do so. Council Member Starbuck also asked if the Commission was involved in any of the community gardens in town. Chairperson Barritt replied they used to be involved with the Peace Community Garden but that got given back to the Church. He asked about the one on College Avenue and Chairperson Barritt said that is still active and they recently inquired with her for some guidance on how to acquire a nonprofit status. Lastly, Council Member Starbuck noted his last two concerns were the tree plan and the Italian Stone Pine overlay and asked Staff O’Neil if that could be added in the tree report like it used to be. Staff O’Neil said that was offed at the last meeting and he is not sure why that was removed. Council Member Starbuck said it is like a standard order of business. Staff Najera said that is no problem to add back on the Agenda. Chairperson Barritt said it was an information item and not something to be discussed but probably should really be back on the Agenda and she is kind of neutral about it. Council Member Starbuck said it is good information. Council Member Starbuck said it seems like the Commission is re-energized and that is good to see because it was in a slump there for a little while. He thanked the Commission. Chairperson Barritt replied yes, we finally have five people that really want to do something and a new Urban Forestry Supervisor that lets us do things.

Council Member Mosby said he has received good feedback on the recent trimming of the Italian Stone Pine trees. He referenced back 30 to 40 years ago about what the Beautification Commission used to do and said it might be interesting to look at some old archives and see some of the project they use to work on. He noted they even commented on projects that were being build and told the commission they have the ability to review and comment on projects. He said they may not always be heard but do have the right to comment. Council Member Mosby asked if the Commission was going to follow up with maintenance on these current work projects. Chairperson Barritt said the Commission has no plans to do so at this time and that will have to be addressed at a future meeting. Currently they will rely on city staff to water the latest project. Council Member Mosby suggested to consider maintenance to help keep the projects alive and well. He suggested to get attendees from the workshop to help as city staff is limited. He asked Staff O'Neil his current staffing levels. Staff O'Neil replied there is currently five members of the crew with one planning to retire in May plus two more, himself and Diane, the Office Staff Assistant. Council Member Mosby noted the current low staffing levels in Parks as well and suggested to consider the last two projects as a time to perform maintenance of the first three projects. Commissioner Keller agreed and said to go back and refresh the past projects and get the community involved as well. Council Member Mosby thanked the Commission.

Council Member Osborne thanked the Commission for volunteering and knows it is time out of their very busy day. She noted that they all have a passion for beautification and that is a huge help. She also saw a reinvigoration with the community meeting. One suggestion she had regarding the community meetings and seeing comments on social media, is that people care about what is near them. She suggested to target specific areas and rallying them to come together for a neighborhood meeting to inquire what they're looking for and willing to maintain because a lot of our parks and areas are within neighborhoods that people see every day and if they realize they could invest in and help keep that area up, you might see that maintenance occur as well. Council Member Osborn encouraged the Commission to get the neighborhood that is near the project involved in participating for long term investment due to the fact that it is near them.

Council Member Vega thanked the Commission. He asked Staff O'Neil about the fee associated with Arbor Day. Staff O'Neil explained it is to cover the cost of the bronze plaque. Council Member Vega addressed his Commissioner, Scott Reardon and all the Commissioners as to what they would like to see, maybe a little more color out in the community and how can the Council help. Commissioner Reardon said he would like to see a little more activity in the more visible areas of town. Council Member Vega also asked about the flower barrels and Chairperson Barritt replied they just voted to take over the project at the last meeting because Lompoc Valley in Bloom had \$5,000 left for the project to pass onto the Beautification Commission. Chair Barritt said they have discarded

dilapidated barrels and do have plans to work on the project and keep it going for as long as they can. Council Member Vega said even removing the bad ones is a proactive approach. He thanked the Commission and said to contact the City Council if they ever need any assistance; to direct Staff, monetary assistance or whatever the case may be.

Mayor Lingl asked the Commission if anyone had anything else to say. Commissioner Keller said the number one thing he has heard from the public is interest in more painted crosswalks throughout town. Commissioner Gallacher requested more money for projects. Mayor Lingl suggested to contribute money to the Beautification Commission through your city utility bill and invited everyone to do so.

Mayor Lingl thanked the Commission for their time and noted he drove by the project at D Street and North Avenue and it looks really good.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Bob Lingl noted this Meeting adjourned (at 6:30 P.M.); the Beautification Commission will adjourn to their regular meeting on 3/14/18 in the Administrative Conference room here at City Hall at the City Council will adjourn to its regular meeting immediately following this meeting. Thank you and Good Night.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Barritt, Chairperson

Sean O'Neil, Secretary

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