*Meeting Minutes*

*Revitalization and Beautification Advisory Board Conference Room*

*407 East Laurel Avenue*

*Foley, Alabama 36535*

*January 9, 2018*

*2:00PM*

**Call to Order**

Ms. Pat Davis called the meeting to order at 2:00p.m. Members present: Mr. Gary Pitts, Ms. Pat Libby, Mr. Chad Watkins, Mr. Josh Roberts and Mr. Terry Underwood. . Absent: Ms. Ellen Dean, Ms. Carolyne Hollis. Others present: Ms. Mary Willaman, Nicki White, Mr. John Graham came in later and Recording Secretary Ms. Brenda Shambo. Ms. Pat Davis announced there was a quorum present.

Mr. Gary Pitts made a motion to approve the minutes from November 14, 2017 meeting. The motion passed unanimously on a second by Mr. Terry Underwood. The minutes were approved as submitted.

**Administrative Notes –** Brenda introduced our two guests at the meeting today, they are Ms. Mary Willaman and Nicki White. They worked with Mr. Ray Callaway, back when he used to plant the flower beds in Foley.

They both would like to volunteer and work on the Rose Trail, Mary helped develop the Rose Trail and feels she left a foot print in the City and wants to give back. She’s been out walking and looking at the Rose Trail and several other areas that need some attention. There has been a lot of time and money spent on it and we need to look at the soil and the fertilization. John said there is a lot of open areas right now, due to having to take out some of the larger trees, we had too much shade. We’ve cut back some of the shrubs that were over grown which is a public safety concern for a walking trail. We will be putting in 500 Roses by late February, then in the shaded areas we will be adding camellias, azaleas and hydrangeas. John stressed to the Board that the City is growing, just this years we’ve added the Dog Park, New Fire Station, Event Center, and worked with OWA. John and Mary exchanged business cards and will get in touch with each other.

Mr. Ralph Hellmich sent an email to Mayor, Council and R & B Board, to thank the Board for the project done between City Hall and the Library, it is beautiful, so much better than it was.

We are still looking for a new member for the Board: Pat had mentioned in the last meeting that Ms. Deborah Mixon was interested in being on the Board, Pat discussed Deborah and Terry made a motion to add Ms. Deborah Mixon to the Board, Pat seconded and all approved, so now it will be submitted to the City Council for approval.

**Tree City USA Application** – Brenda read the email from Will Liner, he’s with the Alabama Forestry Commission, which thanked us for submitting an application and approved it!!! Congratulations Foley on being a 2017 Tree City USA. Yeah!!!

**Special Projects –** Gary discussed some ideas for the flower beds at the Train Depot, since Ms. Bonnie Donaldson has retired, he will talk with Ms. LaDonna Hinesley about the beds, a fountain and planters.

A problem we have to think about is right there is where the Ebert Train loads and unloads on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, lots of kids running through that area.

Gary talked about adding another small park to the south side of the Pedestrian Bridge that will look similar to the one by the Foley Art Center.

Gary and Board members discussed that several different parties will have to give approval for a sign and park to go in at the corner of Highway 98 and Pine Street, where the Methodist Church once stood. First the Baldwin County Board of Education owns the property, then the Methodist Church Members and we’ll need to get the design finalized and get a cost for this project. The Board gave their approval to work on all three of these projects out of the Special Project Funds.

**Committee Reports**

**Arbor Day** –Brenda is working on Arbor Day in the City of Foley, Scheduled for Saturday, February 24, 2018 at the Coastal Alabama Farmers & Fisherman’s Market. We need to discuss the time, either 10am or 1pm, Ms. Pricila Hughes would like for us to think about having it at 1pm. The Market is open from 9am to 2pm that day and this will keep people at the Market longer and not have everyone there at the same time. The Board thought 1pm would be great, it should be a little warmer too, that time of the day.

**Beautification Awards** – Brenda called and sent out letters to the Alabama Credit Union and Tanger Outlet Center, they will be at the Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:30pm to accept their awards.

**Fall Decorations** –No report

**Seasonal Plantings/Special Projects** – John said they may have to replant some of the beds and hanging baskets due the freezing weather. We have been working on the greenhouses, totally refurbishing them, and getting ready for spring plantings.

**Tree Committee** – Josh has checked out some of the large oak trees at South Baldwin Medical Center, a couple of them will qualify for our Century Tree Program, Chad tried to reach Keith Newton the CEO, he has left the hospital and another CEO is being selected, will check with him at a later date.

**Christmas Decorations** – The Christmas Decorations are coming down, Riviera Utilities has started taking the Cobra Pole decorations down today and our Parks Department is working on getting everything else down. The Christmas committee has been looking at a 40’ Tree for the Park, due to the cost we will have to go through the bidding process. Brenda asked the Board what would they like to see for Christmas 2018, please let me know if you have any ideas. Chad mentioned that since our Tree in the park is in bad shape, maybe we need to be looking for another tree and get it planted as soon as possible, but not in the same place.

**New Business** – Pat mentioned the Hamburg Building being donated to the City, it’s going to take a lot of work. The first step is to clean up around the building and that is in process now.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Pat Davis adjourned the meeting at 3:15, Mr. Josh Roberts made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Pat Libby seconded.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at City Hall.

Brenda W. Shambo, Recording Secretary

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