

**CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
KEEP PORT ST. LUCIE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 7, 2015**

A Regular Meeting of the KEEP PORT ST. LUCIE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE of the City of Port St. Lucie was called to order by Chair Taylor on October 7, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., at Port St. Lucie City Hall, Building B, Conference Room 201, 121 SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sarah Taylor, Chair
Jenny Newell, Vice Chair
Karol Albers
Jolien Caraballo
John Colando (Arrived at 3:05 p.m.)
Ryan Collins (Arrived at 3:08 p.m.)
Officer Fred Knaggs
Allison Lankow (Left at 3:30 p.m.)
Darlene McLaughlin

Others Present: Anna Marie Colonnese, Public Works
Christina Daigle, Coordinator (Left at 3:30 p.m.)
Jeannette C. Baeza, Secretary

3. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS: Sarah Taylor, Chairperson

Chair Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for being there.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 5, 2015

There being no corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved.

5. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda.

6. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No one signed up to speak under this Item.

7. STAFF REPORT

The Special Project Coordinator stated, "I noticed that today's Agenda was posted online, so I would like to thank the Clerk's Office for that." Vice Chair Newell said, "It's always on the calendar. I don't know why we were asked to post it today, but we did it. We get it from the Clerk's Office. We are happy to put it up, as we put up the agendas for every other meeting." Ms. Lankow said, "I thought it used to be put up. I think maybe there were some changes going on." The Special Project Coordinator said, "I think it's good. The more information we can get out, the better, and the type of people who would come would be interested in what we're doing. I have to leave today at 3:30 p.m., but Ms. Colonnese is prepared and ready to go."

7a. PAST EVENTS

▪ NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Special Project Coordinator stated, "I wasn't able to attend National Night Out, so Ms. Colonnese will touch on it." Ms. Colonnese stated, "We had a booth at National Night Out. Vice Chair Newell and Mr. Colando were there, and we had people come to the booth to get information. It was a great event, and we were very busy. We got people interested, and they took our information. We were playing a game with a couple of children, using the grabber." The Special Project Coordinator said, "We've been trying to push our programs more at events, specifically the Adopt-A-Street program. We're not just out there giving away prizes; we are bringing awareness to what we're doing, and to the Adopt-A-Street program. We haven't really seen any type of a difference for people coming up to the booths, so if there is still the same amount of people coming up and getting information, we might as well push it more."

▪ PLANT-A-TREE, SPREAD-THE-SHADE TREE GIVEAWAY

The Special Project Coordinator stated, "We had a decent turnout; not quite as many as I thought, but 360 people came through. We had 485 trees, so at the end, we were giving away more trees. We're trying to be creative as to how to get rid of the rest, because we want them to be planted, and we want people to take care of them. We don't want them to die. Ms. Colonnese reached out to all the Adopt-A-Street groups. We had over 100 trees left over, and a lot of them were taken by the Adopt-A-Street groups. There was a young boy that came with his younger brother, and his mother. His mother let him make the decision on which trees to get. You should've seen the smile on his face when I said he could have a second tree, because he knew exactly what he wanted and where he was going to plant it. She said he was the horticulturist of the family, so he was excited. If I can figure out who he is, maybe we can do a spotlight on him or something. We still have a few trees left over, so maybe some of you can think of good ideas for them. My thought was to reach out to a couple of schools and see if they were looking for a nice little garden area, or something like that." Ms. Lankow asked, "How many trees do you have left?" The Special Project Coordinator replied, "We have 22 live oak, 6 green buttonwood, and 11 gumbo limbo. It is still a decent number; there are 39 total." Ms. Lankow asked, "Is this after the Adopt-A-Street groups got some?" The Special Project Coordinator responded in the affirmative and said, "There are still a

couple of them trickling in that wanted to come get them last week. We had two people who were supposed to come yesterday, and they haven't come." Vice Chair Newell asked, "Did you give some to the Botanical Gardens?" The Special Project Coordinator responded in the affirmative and said, "They want more, but our first goal and priority is to give them to residents. If you can think of a neighbor or a good organization that could benefit from a tree or two, or a whole bunch, let us know."

▪ **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY**

The Special Project Coordinator stated, "Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day was huge, in part due to all the promotion that the Communications Department did. Your events are typically going to grow from year-to-year. The number was . . ." Ms. McLaughlin said, "It was 635." The Special Project Coordinator said, "That is huge. I think it was more than double last year's number. People wait all year to clean their garages out sometimes. The fact that people are trying to keep the hazardous waste out of the landfill, and out of the recycling carts, where they shouldn't be going anyway, is fantastic. We haven't gotten all the totals back yet, but I'll give you some preliminary numbers. The Police Department was there to take miscellaneous prescriptions and ammunition. They picked up seven boxes of miscellaneous drugs, which was almost 140 lbs. Can you imagine 140 lbs. of pills? It's insane! Those pills are not going to be flushed, thrown away, or reused by someone else, which is fantastic. I would think that people would be more inclined to hold onto the ammunition, but they took one full box of that, which was almost 40 lbs., and is still a decent number. We took 93 propane tanks at one pound, 59 propane tanks at 16 lbs., 20 fire extinguishers, and 53 car batteries. We have boxes at City Hall and a couple of other facilities for rechargeable batteries that are really small, or rechargeable batteries like the old school cell phones that you couldn't take the batteries out of. We filled two of those, adding up to approximately 100 lbs. We still have totals coming in, but the residents are knocking it out of the park."

Ms. Caraballo asked, "What happens with it once you collect it?" The Special Project Coordinator replied, "St. Lucie County, Waste Pro, and the contractors work together to make sure it is disposed of properly. CBI came out and took a lot of the fuel and oils, so they are taking care of that. Clean Harbors came out, and they were dealing with a lot of the pesticides. We have 15 pages of this to go through, because they have to tally every single thing they take." Vice Chair Newell said, "We will definitely do a follow up, and thank the community or coming out. I posted it on Facebook, and everyone was liking it and sharing it. There was one gentleman who did not appreciate the day and time, as he works on Saturday. I gave him Ms. Lankow's information, and told him he could always drop it off at the landfill. Even though I gave him phone numbers, he was still upset, but that was one guy out of many people. The prescription drug drop off is always available at the Police Department; it is right in the lobby. I'll make sure to post a reminder every now and again that you don't have to wait for this day." The Special Project Coordinator said, "We had a couple of people wanting to do it at least twice per year, but it is hard to put all of it together sometimes." Ms. Lankow said, "This is not a free event. It cost the county at least a couple of thousand dollars, because we have to pay the contractors. I'm thinking we had to pay around \$10,000, but don't quote me on

that number.” Ms. McLaughlin said, “I think it’s more. There is a division of our company that does it, and it is normally around \$20,000.” Ms. Lankow said, “It is not cheap, and that’s something the Solid Waste Department does for the City.” Ms. Caraballo said, “That’s where I was going with the question. When my husband changes our battery, he returns that for recycling, and they give him some money back for recycling the battery. I was wondering if we could use some of that, and put it towards reimbursement of the fees, or is it something we already do?” The Special Project Coordinator replied, “I’m not following what you’re saying.” Ms. Caraballo clarified, “Typically, when you change your car battery and you take the old one back to Autozone, for example, they actually give a fee back for recycling. Do you know if we can participate in such a program to help the county or Waste Pro?” Ms. Lankow replied, “St. Lucie Battery and Tire takes the batteries.” The Special Project Coordinator asked, “How does that work if they are contracted through the county?” Ms. McLaughlin asked, “Doesn’t Clean Harbors coordinate getting rid of all the materials?” Ms. Lankow replied, “Not all of the materials.” The Special Project Coordinator said, “It is definitely something to look into.” Ms. Caraballo added, “Especially if you’re telling me there’s a significant cost to the county.” Ms. Lankow said, “We don’t take the batteries. The only thing that comes to the landfill is the e-waste. St. Lucie Battery and Tire comes to pick it up.” Mr. Colando asked, “Do you get anything back?” Ms. Colonnese replied, “We don’t, but we don’t pay anything, either. We work with the county to collect all this, and they send out the contractors. I don’t know how it works, as far as the county goes.” The Special Project Coordinator said, “It would be interesting to look into. If St. Lucie Battery and Tire is coming to take it, but they’re not contracted with the county” Chair Taylor interjected, “Then they’re making money off of it.” Ms. Caraballo said, “I don’t know what he gets back, but it’s around \$20, and if you collect 500 of them, times \$20, it’s \$10,000. It would pay for it. That’s why I was putting that out there.” The Special Project Coordinator said, “I think it is very important to promote the partnerships we have, but also support the partnerships we have when we can. It’s a free event for the City, but at the cost of which partnership? I think if we can help support each other and bring the type of success we did at this event without breaking the bank on either side, it would be ideal.” Ms. Caraballo said, “Any other ways that money could be used in the future if we do pay the county back, I’m sure Ms. Lankow will have great suggestions on how we can utilize extra funds for promotions of Hazardous Waste Day and things like that.”

Ms. McLaughlin said, “I haven’t gotten the e-waste number back, but there is a lot.” The Special Project Coordinator said, “We’re still waiting for numbers to come back, but I think they had a whole dumpster that they were trying to push back. Did they go into a separate dumpster?” Ms. McLaughlin replied, “Yes, it was two full dumpsters.” The Special Project Coordinator said, “People were dropping off all kinds of stuff. There were a lot of printers and TV’s.” Ms. McLaughlin said, “A lot of those things worked, so it was kind of sad. They said they couldn’t get anyone to take them.” The Special Project Coordinator said, “They are disposing of them in the proper way, which is always a plus.” Ms. McLaughlin said, “People were very thrilled with the event. I heard awesome comments. I carried a ton of bags of drugs.” Ms. Colonnese said, “When they were lining up, one man asked me if it was going to take a long time, because there were a lot of cars outside. I told him it would go fast. He came around the other side and told

me it took nine minutes. That's the longest the line was, because it was in the very beginning, so no one waited more than nine minutes at the most." Ms. McLaughlin said, "It was very quick." The Special Project Coordinator said, "We' didn't have a huge amount of staff out there either, so people were hustling. The numbers are still trickling in, so I think we will do a breakdown, and make sure to provide it to Vice Chair Newell. We can give you the final totals at our next meeting in November."

▪ **COMMUNITY GARDEN GRAND OPENING**

The Special Project Coordinator stated, "Ms. Colonnese took a huge role in the opening of the Community Garden, so I would like to have her discuss it." Ms. Colonnese said, "There was Community Development Block Grant money, so we took the money and made a Community Garden. There are 48 plots, and four of them are wheelchair accessible. The Community Garden is open to the public. It costs \$25 per year for a lot, and it runs from October to September. The membership can be renewed per year. The residents are very excited about it. I had at least 35 already reserve plots, and that was just last week. At least ten people have paid so far. The plots are 4' by 8', and there will be master gardeners to help the people grow their vegetables and flowers. If anyone is interested, there may be a few plots available. They are eventually going to put a pavilion in, and hopefully, another 48 plots will be added in the future. The fence will be going in next week. The Garden is located near the Civic Center, on the south side of the parking garage." Ms. Albers said, "During the Second World War, the people in the towns had something like this, and it was called a victory garden." Officer Knaggs asked, "Is it going to be fenced?" Ms. Colonnese responded in the affirmative. Officer Knaggs asked, "Are there hours?" Ms. Colonnese replied, "It is sunrise to sunset. It will always be locked. There will be a combination lock so that people can go in and out when they want to." Officer Knaggs asked, "Can you make sure I get the combination?" Ms. Colonnese responded in the affirmative. Chair Taylor said, "There is a vegetable gardening class this Saturday at the Morningside Library, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m." Ms. Colonnese inquired, "Wasn't it Thursday night?" Chair Taylor replied, "That's my history lesson, you're right. It's Thursday night, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m." Ms. Lankow said, "Their plant sale is Saturday." The Special Project Coordinator said, "It will be neat when the pavilion is set up, and they can do some classes in the shade." Vice Chair Newell stated, "I know they were looking for trees around the perimeter of the fence, once it is up." Ms. Colonnese replied, "Crystal Perkins was the project manager on this, and she did a fantastic job. She told me she didn't need the trees at this time."

7b. UPCOMING EVENTS

▪ **AMERICA RECYLES DAY (NOVEMBER 15)**

The Special Project Coordinator stated, "We're moving forward in formally requesting a clothing drive for America Recycles Day, through our Human Resources Department. They are doing something new now, because a lot of peoples' events are coinciding, and a lot of times, we are taking away from one event with another event. We just want to make sure we're doing it during a time when we can get the most press and

participation that we can. The idea is to work with Hope's Closet, and get clothing for a certain age group. I think that for the most part, they want youth clothing. Ms. Colonnese and I went out to tour their facility, and they are taking big steps to move forward and help the community, so we would love to be a part of it, if we could be. I think we'll be able to move forward with it, we just need to pick a good date."

7c. PROJECTS

▪ TREE CITY USA- ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION APPLICATION

The Special Project Coordinator stated, "We need to make sure we fill out the application. It will be our 11th year in a row of being named a Tree City USA City, should we meet all the criteria. At this point, it is just the application process, but I think it is exciting, and something cool to bring to the group." Vice Chair Newell said, "I was in a different city, and I saw a sign that said they were a Tree City USA City. Do we have those?" The Special Project Coordinator replied, "We have five. We already had three, and I can research the locations of those, as I don't know them off the top of my head. We got two more . . ." Vice Chair Newell interjected, "I just never see them around town." Ms. Lankow said, "There is one at Becker Road, one on Crosstown Parkway, and one on St. Lucie West Boulevard, right when you come off of I-95 on the east side of I-95." The Special Project Coordinator said, "They just gave us two more, so we have to figure out where we want to put those. That will make five signs, which is pretty neat." Chair Taylor said, "I think it would be nice to have one on Green River Parkway. Could we use trees on Green River Parkway?" The Special Project Coordinator replied, "I think a lot of what we're doing is the watering. The trees were inexpensive enough that if you have to send out a watering truck plus the time, it ends up being hundreds of dollars to water \$8 to \$20 trees. It kind of depends, but we do have a backup plan with our Environmental Services Manager, but before they get planted throughout the City, I want to make sure residents have the opportunity to snag them. The Planning and Zoning Department has allocated funds next year for us to buy trees again, so when we approach that time, I want to have a discussion on a better way to run it if we don't have the attendance we expected. I knew at the end that we could give away two to three trees to residents who wanted them and were going to plant them, but if you have an hour and a half left and you still have 100 trees, do you give them away, or do you wait? I didn't play the guessing game and I waited, and now we have extra trees, so it is hard. You want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to come out and get a tree." Ms. Caraballo asked, "Did you keep the trees at the Botanical Gardens, or did you bring them back to a certain area?" The Special Project Coordinator replied, "We have them at the Public Works facility on Thornhill Drive."

Ms. Caraballo said, "Plant-A-Tree is at the end of September, and Hazardous Waste is in early October. What if we brought the leftover trees with us to Hazardous Waste, or a voucher to receive one of the trees? Everyone that comes in is community-minded and environmentally-minded." The Special Project Coordinator said, "We talked about doing that. The events are so close together that we get wrapped up. We had a pretty decent response from the Adopt-A-Street groups, so we thought they were going to disappear.

In the future, it's a thought we need to move forward with." Ms. Colonnese said, "We really wanted to focus on Hazardous Waste, and people don't get out of their vehicles at that event. We wanted to focus on what we were doing that day." Ms. Caraballo asked, "Is there parking in the area?" Ms. Colonnese replied, "There is parking, but you want to keep the flow of traffic going, and I think that's part of what made the decision." The Special Project Coordinator said, "We may be able to do a pull off." Ms. Caraballo said, "You could have a tent and a big banner. When they pull up, you can tell them that if they are interested in picking up a free tree they could pull off, and we could have a secondary line where they pick up the tree." The Special Project Coordinator said, "Ideally, you want the last person who walks in to get the last tree, but that is never going to happen. I would honestly rather have a few left over than have the last couple of people have disappointment in their faces. It's just a guessing game." Ms. Lankow said, "We always have something left over. I remember us being in the same predicament last year." The Special Project Coordinator said, "I just don't want to squash the partnership in any way with Planning and Zoning, because without them, we don't have the amount of trees we would like. I want to make sure we're still following through with what we said, that residents were going to get the trees." Mr. Colando asked, "Did we have more trees this year than we did last year?" Ms. Lankow said, "We had 500 this year, and 600 last year. The year before last, we had 1,000 trees." Mr. Colando asked, "How many do you think were left over?" Ms. Lankow replied, "Probably about the same amount." The Special Project Coordinator said, "I think there was more of a turnout in the past." Vice Chair Newell said, "I don't know why this one was so poorly attended." Ms. Lankow said, "The weather was bad. It had been raining for five days straight, and it was supposed to rain that day, but it didn't. When it is nice and sunny out, people are more apt to come outside and participate." Mr. Colando said, "It was opened up even more this year to the county than it was last year." The Special Project Coordinator said, "It was more advertised this year for the county, because we were working with the Extension Office, which is in Ft. Pierce." Ms. Lankow said, "It has always been." The Special Project Coordinator said, "You do what you can. We actually advertised more." Ms. Lankow said, "Even our Public Information Officer put stuff on the county's website." The Special Project Coordinator said, "I'd still chalk it up to a success. I think it was a good day. We still had a good turnout. We didn't get rid of all the trees, but people were happy. People really had a lot of positive things to say about the educational booths, whereas other events where there are free things, residents just want to get their stuff and get out of there. During this event, some of them were like that, but I think once they realized that we weren't going to run out of trees, they seemed to calm down, and it seemed that they really liked the educational booth. I liked seeing that. They seemed to enjoy it, and they should enjoy the Botanical Gardens, it is gorgeous there."

▪ **FDOT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY (I-95 OFF-RAMP, CROSSTOWN PARKWAY)**

The Special Project Coordinator stated, "I have to leave, so I am going to turn it over to Ms. Colonnese. Ms. Caraballo had some stuff to report on the FDOT Drive it Home Campaign. One thing we talked about with the Committee was trying to get more engagement, and she did just that. Before I leave, I wanted to thank Waste Pro, St.

Lucie County, and anyone else who has come to help out at our events. Officer Knaggs, I know you were at the Tree Giveaway. I think this Committee is awesome, thank you guys for everything.”

Ms. Caraballo stated, “We wanted to provide an avenue for Keep Port St Lucie Beautiful to adopt a highway, because we do the Adopt-A-Street program. How can we spread that out to the state level? After spending some time trying to get a hold of the people that run the Adopt-A-Highway program, I was told that we had two options: Becker Road, and Crosstown Parkway. They didn’t really offer us Crosstown Parkway at first, but I was driving and didn’t see a sign on Crosstown Parkway, so I called FDOT and asked. They told me that there was a beautification project and that’s why they didn’t tell me about it. I asked them when it was over, and they said in September, which was literally not even four weeks away. As a team effort, Ms. Colonnese, the Special Project Coordinator, and Project Manager Capezzuto worked together on that application. Have we been approved yet?” Ms. Colonnese replied, “We have been approved, but we have to wait until the project is done. We will get to adopt that part, and we’ll have our name on the sign.” Ms. Caraballo stated, “I am excited about that. There has been some discussion on how we should technically clean the highway. We were talking about having our Litter Control Team handle the cleanup, because of the perceived danger in actually working on the highway, and on one of the days they’re assigned to clean up a regular street, the Keep Port St. Lucie Beautiful Committee would take that day.” Ms. Colonnese said, “The Litter Crew would do the actual highway, because of the dangers. They have the knowledge and the equipment, as well as things they can put out on the road. It’s more of a safety issue, but our group was thinking that maybe the Committee could clean up another road one day.” Ms. Caraballo said, “If we wanted to do it, we could do it. In order to do it ourselves, we would have to go through safety training, and get recertified every year. I just wanted to put it out there and see what you think.” Chair Taylor asked, “What part of the ramp is it?” Ms. Caraballo replied, “Just the ramp.” Ms. Colonnese added, “Just the ramp, going onto I-95. It is going to be great exposure for Keeping Port St. Lucie Beautiful, and we’re partnering with the Florida Department of Transportation. It’s a win-win all the way around.” Chair Taylor asked, “Is it going to be off, or on?” Ms. Caraballo replied, “Both. There are going to be signs all the way around.” Ms. Colonnese said, “It is going to be beautiful, because they are beautifying it now. I’ve heard there are a lot of trees going up.” Ms. Caraballo asked, “How does everyone else feel about us reciprocating if the Litter Crew comes out?” Ms. McLaughlin replied, “I’m all for it.” Ms. Caraballo said, “I wanted to give a shout out to Ms. Colonnese, the Special Project Coordinator, and Project Manager Capezzuto for helping me with this.” Ms. Colonnese said, “Ms. Caraballo contacted FDOT, got us the application, and met with us.”

▪ **ADOPT-A-STREET PROGRAM UPDATE**

Ms. Colonnese stated, “I’d like to give you an update on the Adopt-A-Street program. I contacted the different Adopt-A-Street groups and updated our records. Apparently, we have 91 Adopt-A-Street groups. Since October, we have 16 new groups. I am going to try to keep in contact with them on a regular basis.” Chair Taylor said, “I saw your

update reminding to input, which was good. If you'd send a monthly reminder out, I'd like that." Ms. Colonnese said, "I try to do that, and I do get a lot of response back afterwards. I get a lot of reports, so it helps a lot. After everyone responds, I send a thank you. I appreciate what they do. The more they clean, the better the City looks." Vice Chair Newell said, "It lets them know that they don't go unnoticed, and that we are grateful for what they are doing."

7d. STRATEGIC PLAN

▪ RECYCLING DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Ms. Colonnese stated, "We have some people who live in apartments, or don't have recycling in their communities, and they're looking for places to recycle. This is something from a long time ago. The Special Project Coordinator and I met with Ms. Lankow to talk about what we could do. Right now, we are not getting a lot of requests for recycling, so we are just trying to accommodate the ones that are calling. Lyngate Park and the Civic Center have recycling carts. We're looking at adding a few carts to those locations. We are going to contact Parks and Recreation and the City Manager's Office to see if we can put them there to give the residents more options." Chair Taylor asked, "They're at Lyngate Park and where?" Ms. Colonnese replied, "Lyngate Park and the Civic Center. We've referred people there, especially with some of the apartments out there." Ms. McLaughlin said, "At our location, we have containers that people come and put stuff in." Officer Knaggs said, "I would suggest checking with McChesney Park on the west side, because we have a lot of complexes and neighborhoods there." Mr. Collins said, "Whispering Pines also." Ms. Colonnese said, "That would be a great location." Ms. McLaughlin said, "Two Saturdays ago, Ms. Lankow and I worked the Indian River Lagoon Science Fest, and 90% of the questions pertained to people who lived in a community that does not have recycling, so it is very big." Ms. Caraballo asked, "What about the Tradition area?" Ms. Colonnese said, "I haven't gotten any requests from out there; I think they have recycling already. What's good about the places you're suggesting is that they're parks manned by Parks and Recreation employees, which would make it easier." Ms. McLaughlin said, "The last thing you want is bags and bags of trash being thrown in the parks of the City." Ms. Colonnese said, "Anything to promote recycling." Ms. McLaughlin said, "Another thing on the financial end is that if it's in the City, it is picked up by City residential trucks, so the revenue from those recyclables goes towards the City."

7e. GRANTS

▪ FDOT DRIVE IT HOME CAMPAIGN – FINAL REPORT COMPLETED

Ms. Colonnese stated, "The grant for this campaign was for \$15,000 when we applied for it. After we sent all our invoices, we got almost \$15,000. We submitted our final report last week; it was a combined report for the year. They are going to have another grant next year for \$15,000, and we have already signed up for it. We are going to

figure out where we can use it. Last year we bought a lot of supplies, so we will see what is needed this year.”

▪ **KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL – PROGRAM AWARD SUBMITTED**

Ms. Colonnese said, “Part of the previous grant was to apply for a Keep America Beautiful Award. We applied for the Great American Cleanup Day for an award through Keep America Beautiful. The national conference is in February, and it will be held in Orlando, Florida. Hopefully, we will be there to receive our award. The Special Project Coordinator worked very hard on this.”

▪ **CIGARETTE LITTER PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Ms. Colonnese stated, “We received \$2,500 this year for the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. I am about to close that grant out. We have gotten 17 ash receptacles to place around the City. Hopefully, we will get to do this one again next year also.”

Ms. Colonnese stated, “That is all I have, but Vice Chair Newell is going to talk about the app.” Vice Chair Newell said, “Back in April, we went live with our app. You can download this app on your phone, and use it to report a problem, issue, or concern throughout the City, whether it is Code Compliance, someone speeding through a no wake zone, or littering. I get the ‘Other’ category, and people really use the app. It is wonderful. The app is a free download. If you go to the City’s website, you’ll see the different icons for social media, but there’s also an icon that says, ‘PSL App.’ You can click on that, and it takes you to a page that has a video tutorial on how to use it. It is actually quite easy, but let’s say you see litter somewhere, you can open the app, take a picture, and the GPS picks up the location of where it is. Someone will respond to the problem, and they’ll keep in touch with the person who filed the report. It’s a neat way to have more sets of eyes in the community.” Chair Taylor said, “EDC had a presentation yesterday, and I saw the video.” Vice Chair Newell said, “There was a gentleman who sent in a lovely email, and he said that he reported litter on a Saturday, and it was picked up on Monday, so good job, Waste Pro. He was thrilled with it, so I asked him to come in and do a testimonial. It is one thing for me to say that it is a great app, but for a resident to do it on his own is wonderful. There is a video out there of his testimonial. If anyone has an interest in the app, it is free, and does not take up a ton of space on your phone.” Chair Taylor asked, “How many reports do you get?” Vice Chair Newell replied, “It is hard for me to say, I would have to ask MIS for the total number. It depends on what is going on out there. For a long time after Canal Park opened, there were a lot of complaints regarding speeding boats, and I am the ‘Other’ category, so I was getting 27 a day for ten days. You can send in video or pictures. It is a neat app. It comes in waves, depending on what is going on out there, but people do it.” Chair Taylor asked, “Can you use this if your neighbor’s grass is too long?” Vice Chair Newell responded in the affirmative. Ms. Caraballo asked, “Do you think they will ever integrate Utilities by giving you the ability to pay your bill on the app?” Vice Chair Newell replied, “There is talk of that.” Ms. Caraballo said, “I think you would get new users that way. When I first saw the app, I thought I could pay my bill.” Vice Chair Newell said, “When you open it

up, it says that if you have an emergency, call 911, do not report it through the app. If there are certain things, like sewage coming out, you're going to make a phone call, you're not necessarily going to want to use the app. I can report back the number next time, if you'd like." Mr. Colando said, "Code Compliance gets a lot." Ms. Colonnese said, "A lot of them do include the photos. When I saw them, it seemed like a lot of them had photos attached, so that is a bonus." Vice Chair Newell said, "If you go on our website, there is a very quick tutorial on how to use it."

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing heard under this Item.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Albers stated, "I went to Arbor Day this year, and I was very impressed. I don't know whether you buy the tree, or give money towards the tree, but I would like to make two donations: one for my sister, and one for my husband. I would like to know how to go about it." Ms. Colonnese replied, "I believe you contact the Botanical Gardens. I can email you their information, as they do the ceremony. Is that what you're talking about?" Ms. Albers replied, "I went to the ceremony." Ms. Colonnese said, "That's who you contact." Ms. Albers said, "I don't know if you purchase the whole tree, or part of the tree. I know nothing about it." Ms. Colonnese said, "I'll find out for you, and I'll get back to you." Ms. Albers said, "I would really appreciate it, because the time is creeping up. I think it's in February." Ms. Colonnese said, "It's the third Friday in January for Florida."

Mr. Colando asked, "Do we do anything with IRSC for recycling in St. Lucie West?" Ms. Colonnese responded in the negative. Mr. Colando said, "I did see their guys out there with grabbers. I guess it was campus patrol." Officer Knaggs said, "They have campus security." Mr. Colando said, "I saw them out on their golf carts, and I really wanted to take a picture, because they were on the other side of the street cleaning up. Maybe it's something we may want to contact them about. We may be able to get recycling out there, or maybe give them grabbers to help them out. We could even sign them up for the street, as they're pretty much out there already doing the job." Ms. Colonnese said, "I'll see if they want to adopt that street. It would be wonderful."

Mr. Collins said, "I know we've talked about revamping the turnpike exit at Port St. Lucie Boulevard before, and doing beautification. Did that ever get anywhere?" Chair Taylor asked, "Is that where they just put all the trees in?" Mr. Collins replied, "It's where the City sign is. We talked about it before, but I believe it got cut out of the budget last year." Ms. Colonnese stated, "It's on Bayshore Boulevard, where Walgreens is." Ms. McLaughlin said, "It is kind of nasty." Ms. Colonnese said, "Something was going on there, I think it was construction." Ms. Caraballo said, "It was FPL. My husband works for AT&T, so I know all about it. They had a huge outage. FPL hit and killed one of their main lines. He came home every night complaining about it." Ms. Colonnese said, "We can look into it." Ms. Caraballo asked, "Who is responsible for painting the bridge on that pass over?" Ms. Colonnese replied, "I think it's FDOT." Ms. Caraballo said, "I

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wonder if we can make a request, because that wall is white, and gets very dirty. It needs to get repainted.” Mr. Collins said, “That whole area is not as nice as the entrance to the City.”

Chair Taylor said, “I saw the new signs going up on Gatlin Boulevard. It was a cement block sign welcoming people to the City. I guess it will be done soon. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 4th. I just looked at my calendar, and I am not going to be here.”

10. ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Sarah Taylor, Chair

Jeannette C. Baeza, Secretary