

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
City of Leon Valley

21 January 2015

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting

1. OPENING OF MEETING: Mayor Chris Riley opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m. on 21 January 2015.
2. ATTENDANCE:
Members: Lupe Carpio, Donna Charles, Lyn Joseph, Jerry Perales, Chris Riley
Guests: Dan Stacks and Chris Chambers, Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of last meeting, 17 December 2014, were approved as written.
4. GUIDELINES FOR BEAUTIFYING TEXAS ROADWAYS:
The Mayor introduced representatives from Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), Dan Stacks and Chris Chambers. They responded to questions submitted by members and then opened the meeting for additional questions.
 - Primary concerns when considering planting or placing pots with plants along State highways and roads are safety, utility locations, unrestricted view for motor operators, maintenance and upkeep, drainage and future plans for road construction.
 - Easement considerations when planning any type of plantings are ten foot from solid edge of road and six foot from the curb keeping in mind the other concerns listed above. Usually if there is an overhead power line, it is in the right of way of the State.
 - Submissions for projects are to be submitted for each "area" project considered, not bundled as one.
 - Leon Valley would be expected to maintain plantings that are approved along Bandera and Grissom.
 - Mr. Chambers stated that plantings which provide screening of parking lots along Bandera and Grissom would do much to add to the aesthetic appeal.
 - TXDOT has funds for plantings which improve air quality. There are no other funds. At this time, TXDOT is unable to provide monetary or other assistance in the beautification process. Suggestions were to begin work on Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliate awards which may result in a monetary award of some significance.
 - Mr. Chambers had suggestions for plants which thrive in the drought, wind, poor soil, full sun, and vehicular exhaust along the roadways. They are Texas Sabal Palm, Dessert Willow, Pride of Barbados, Texas Sage, and Mexican Buckeye.

- Attention was directed to a Beautification Master Plan for all Leon Valley roadways and medians drawn up by Halff and Associates. It had not gotten to the approval stage. The Mayor will contact them for details and reasons it was not implemented.

The members expressed great appreciation to Mr. Stacks and Mr. Chambers for their attendance and for leading an in- depth discussion, which will guide beautification planning. They also left the following handouts:

- Special Provisions for Landscaping Improvements on TXDOT Highway Right of Way
- Authorized Signs on the Right of Way
- Application for Use of State of Texas Right of Way for Temporary Signs for Special Events with Supplemental Sheet

5. UPDATE ON KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL (KTB) AFFILIATION:

- Ms. Charles shared that Leon Valley is listed as an affiliate but through the Public Works Department. She spoke with Melinda Moritz, Director, Public Works regarding changing the page to be Leon Valley in general. She offered to check with KTB about how this can be done.
- Ms. Joseph provided information that she had obtained from two KTB webinars. Primarily, the information pertains to award criteria and application. There is much documentation to be done throughout the year with the prospect of applying in February 2016.
- In preparation for applying for a KTB's Government Community Achievement Award, each member is asked to consider heading up one of the major areas for fact gathering and documentation. They are: Community Leadership, Public Awareness, Education, Beautification and Community Improvements, Litter Prevention and Cleanup, Solid Waste, and Litter Law and Illegal Dumping Enforcement. Please come to the next meeting prepared to state your interest in working in a particular are. The award nomination will take the effort of many but winning the award will pay off in over \$100,000 dollars of beautification funds.

6. MEMBERS' EMAILS:

Lupe Carpio	dcarpio65@att.net
Donna Charles	donna.charles@sbcglobal.net
Carolyn Diaz	CJD44@hotmail.com
Shirley Jonas	shirleyjonas1961@yahoo.com
Lyn Joseph	lynjille@aol.com
Jerry Perales	j.peralies@leonvalleytexas.gov
Chris Riley	mayorriley@leonvalleytexas.gov

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Due to a lengthy presentation, some topics on the agenda were not covered and will be discussed at the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 18 February 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.


DONNA J. CHARLES
Secretary