

## **Beautification Meeting - April 23, 2015**

Present: Fred Forbes, Elaine Perrotta, Barb Ingersoll, Wendy Warren, Jane Shaw, Sondra Parmiter, Tish Tucker, Ruth Miller

Sondra put together a spread sheet with suggestions that the committee members made regarding improvements needed in the community. Each of us will prioritize the projects numbering one through ten and turn in at next meeting, May 15.

Elaine asked Fred if there is any additional money set for us to work with, besides the \$5,000 for Christmas decorations. Fred said yes, but he has not proposed an amount. Fred also said he is hoping our plan calls for two things: Perennial flowering bushes with constant blooms and our usual annual flowers with the seasons. We all agreed. It was suggested that we may be able to augment the planting with Earth Works.

The question came up about overlapping with the Architectural committee and their plans for the fountain at the roundabout. We proposed a change there as well. Fred said he would find out and will call Elaine and let her know regarding this.

Conversation ensued regarding our preserves. Possible vines chocking off plants, etc. Fred said we pay the state of FL a ransom, "x" amount of dollars, to say it is no longer a preserve. Sometimes the state will not allow us to touch anything, even the vines.

Jane posed a question regarding the maintenance of the community, i.e., street paving, power washing, etc. Fred said yes, there is a reserve set aside for this. The next batch of work will be on Glen Hollow, Marsh Elder, and Maiden Cane. Fred said the summer planting begins when the snow birds leave, and it is less planting than winter. If we want more areas done this fall, we need to present it to Fred.

Ruth and Barb are spearheading the Christmas decorations. They spoke with Todd from Earth Works and Bill from Christmas Decor. Christmas Decor works on a large scale with many communities. He looked at Gate House, front entrance - flag pole area - boulevard, possible lighting in pond area, back entrance in front of pond, a community tree, giving a few ideas in that regard. He was asked for a breakdown on prices but he had not given that to Ruth and Barb before our meeting. The benefits of using a large company is they store the decorations, and their economy of scale makes them efficient and economical. Priority now is electrical outlets in areas where we need lighting. As long as money is reasonable, we should be able to utilize them. Ruth had another suggestion that we have them do up lighting for us. Also, Ruth had another suggestion for trees that are an outline of a Christmas Tree, which costs \$1,800 and are lighted. These come in various sizes. Another investment would be a poinsettia tree which could be used every year. We talked of utilizing the patio area outside our dining room for these suggestions.

The subject of having a memorial for community members was discussed. Sondra proposed we have a Beautification Memorial Fund, suggesting we have a contemporary style "wall" with plaques with name of donor, and those monies would be used to beautify Hunters Ridge. We would have to establish an amount for a plaque. It was suggested we Google "Donor Wall" to get some ideas, and talk further at next meeting.

On May 5, committee members will visit other communities to gather ideas in landscaping.

Next meeting is Friday, May 15 at 3:00