

ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Appointed by Lee County Board of County Commissioners

LEE COUNTY ROADWAY LANDSCAPE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF
October 1, 2013
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/PUBLIC WORKS CENTER
1500 MONROE STREET, FORT MYERS, FLORIDA
6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

AGENDA PACKAGE ACCESS

<http://www.leegov.com/gov/dept/dot/rlac/Pages/default.aspx>

1. Call to Order 6:00 P.M. (Debbie Hughes)
2. *Approval of the March 5, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes (Debbie Hughes, 5 min.)
3. New Business:
 - a. Introduce Mr. Ronnie Simpson, representing At-Large-Arborist-International Society of Arboriculture. (Bob DeBrock, 5 min.)
 - b. Resignation of David Salko. (Bob DeBrock, 5 min.)
 - c. Acknowledge Debbie Hughes accomplishments noted in the Newspress. (Bob DeBrock, 5 min.)
 - d. Reminder of upcoming RLAC election of officers. (Bob DeBrock, 5 min.)
4. Old Business:
 - a. Project Status Update (Bob DeBrock, 5 min.)
5. Other Business: (limit 10 min. per topic)
6. Adjourn by 7:30 P.M.

NOTE: The Roadway Landscape Advisory Committee (RLAC) consists of members appointed by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners to advise on matters related to roadway landscaping activities in Lee County. The committee meets regularly each month and meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Bob DeBrock at (239) 533-9425.

C/O Lee County Department of Transportation, 5560 Zip Drive, Ft. Myers, FL 33905 (239) 533-9400

ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RLAC)

DATE: March 5, 2013

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: 2115 Second Street, Fort Myers, Florida

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Sibley, District 2
David Salko, Horizon Council
Jennifer Evans, Florida Native Plant Society
Stephen Brown, Horticultural Extension Agent
Debbie Hughes, Fort Myers/Lee County
Garden Council
Winston Church, Keep Lee County Beautiful
Michael Weston, Urban Forester

STAFF PRESENT:

Ehab Guirguis, LCDOT
Doraine Wetzal, LCDOT
Robert DeBrock, LCDOT

MEMBERS EXCUSED ABSENT:

Barbara Niland, District 5

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Al O'Donnell, District 3
Gail Archer-Dearie, District 1
Esta Rubinstein, District 4

OTHERS PRESENT:

JB Schuetz, City of Ft. Myers
Jonathan Romine, Ensite
Isaac Wilder, HOA Siesta Isles
Ann Wilder, HOA Siesta Isles
Esther Schultz, HOA Siesta Isles
Michael Sklorenko, HOA Siesta Isles
Cancy Keim, HOA Siesta Isles

Quorum Confirmed with 7 members present.

Debbie Hughes called the regular monthly meeting of the Roadway Landscape Advisory Committee (RLAC) to order at 6:00 pm.

Approval of the December 4, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes:

Debbie Hughes asked for a motion to approve the December 4, 2012 RLAC meeting minutes, a motion was made by John Sibley to approve the minutes, seconded by Jennifer Evans; the motion was called and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Organizational Changes

Ehab Guirguis, Engineer Manager II has been with Lee County for 12 years. Ehab oversees the operations of Lee County Landscape, Drainage and Bridges. He explained that Lee County DOT is going through some organizational changes and announced that Robert DeBrock will take over the position as liaison for the RLAC. Bob comes highly recommended. He has been with the County for 10 ½ years. During that time he has been involved in over 30 CIP projects entailing

already requested to switch to the Horizontal Coco Plum. Debbie also suggested for color, Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, Stephen added that they are cold sensitive and loses their leaves in the winter; Jonathan said they are hard to locate and that Collier County tried using them and had no success.

Jonathan summarized the recommendations from the RLAC members: the Royals need to be Florida Royals, and a suggestion was made to use Buttonwood instead of Crape Myrtle some were in favor to keep the Crape Myrtles. Live Oaks will be replaced by Jamaican Dogwood, Coco Plum will be horizontal, will use Muhly Grass in place of Fakahatchee, change from Hibiscus to Jamaican Caper, Green Island Ficus is Jonathan's preference over the Carissa but it will be determined by County Staff. The Lantana will be replaced by Golden Creeper. The HOA will be responsible for the annuals.

David Salko made a motion to approve the design for Siesta Isles HOA Grant with the modifications discussed to add more natives and to send a revised plant list to the RLAC members for confirmation, seconded by Winston Church; the motion was called and carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project Status Update by Bob DeBrock

- Plantation Extension from Idlewild to Colonial - In contract maintenance. Final completion.
- US 41 from Littleton to Charlotte County line - In contract maintenance. Final completion.
- Three Oaks from Corkscrew to Alico - In Contract Maintenance.
- Estero Pkwy Ext from Three Oaks to Ben Hill Griffin - In contract maintenance.
- Three Oaks Pkwy from Bonita Bill to E. Terry – Received approval from the Board, working on contracts.
- Colonial from Six Mile Slough to SR 82 – Received approval from the Board, working on contracts.
- Gladiolus/Bass Rd. from Winkler to San Carlos – Soil is compacted in the median, working on a soil amendment plan.
- Bonita Beach Rd. – also having compacted soil problems.
- Summerlin from Boy Scout to Cypress Lake – Preparing for Bid.
- Six Mile Cypress from Daniels to Colonial – working on plans.
- Bonita Beach Rd. from Old 41 to Lime – working on plans.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Debbie inquired about the volunteer tree planting project with Russ Ringland. There are several areas that are looking quite bad. Bob said the County has been out with the water truck but the watering is Russ' responsibility. Bob added that they are being more rigid with the permitting process to regulate the plantings. Ehab stated that Staff is enforcing the use of Florida No 1

about 20 million dollars, which he served as Project Manager. His credentials include being a Certified Arborist Municipal Specialist, FNGLA Certified Horticulture Professional, Certified Stormwater Inspector, and Certified Pesticide Applicator as well as being certified in Hazardous Materials Operations and Intermediate Maintenance of Traffic. Bob is a member of the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture), SMA (Society of Municipal Arborist), FNGLA (Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association) and he attended the Municipal Forestry Institute sponsored by the SMA. Bob has been diversified through his tenure at Lee County DOT Operations and is a valuable asset. He is ready to take on this new challenge as liaison to the RLAC for Lee County.

Siesta Isles HOA grant request.

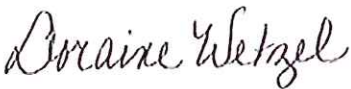
Bob DeBrock introduced Jonathan Romine from Ensite and explained that grant programs fall under the specifications as outlined in the LeeScope Master Plan. Bob explained that the funds if approved by the Board of County Commissioners need to be allocated by September 30, 2013. Jonathan presented the design plan for the Siesta Isles HOA Grant. The project is located along Siesta Dr. near Ft. Myers Beach and the design for the grant encompasses the medians only. There was a \$6,000.00 matching grant in 1998; a limited amount of plants still exist. The proposed plan will relocate some of the larger palms. The HOA will be responsible for the replacement of signs and the plantings in the roundabouts. The Siesta HOA was established in 1981, since that time they have taken care of the maintenance including some tree replacements. The proposed plan includes several dedicated crosswalks using pavers; low volume drip irrigation, and the plant pallet chosen for this design includes some canopy trees to provide shade through the corridor.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$61,000 and the grant request for Lee County is \$44,000.00. Winston Church asked if the HOA was contributing any additional funds toward the \$44,000.00, Jonathan stated that the HOA is asking for 100% of the requested funds for the Grant. David Salko voiced his concern on the use of Crape Myrtles, Flax Lilies and the annuals, he stated the annuals will pose a maintenance issue because they will only last a few months and will have to continually be replaced, he suggested choosing some type of perennial like Lantana's which would provide color. The Crape's and Flax tend to stress in this particular environment, he suggests Ficus and Emerald Blanket Carissa. Jenny Evans would like to see more Natives in the design since they are drought tolerant. Debbie asked Jonathan who would be maintaining the medians; Jonathan stated that the HOA will be using their existing landscape contractor to continue to maintain the medians. Stephen Brown added that his experience with Flax has done well in this environment. Debbie recommends they use Golden Creeper instead of the Ficus. John Sibley would like to see more natives incorporated in this design. He also noted the Lantana Camara is a category 1 invasive exotic and objects the use of this type of plant. Jenny noted that the Fakahatchee grass dries out in the winter and suggest he use muhly grass. Stephen recommended using Gumbo Limbo instead of the Live Oaks. JB noted the Geiger would be an alternative to the Crape Myrtle, Michael Sklorenko added that the reason to keep the height of the trees is to accommodate the view of the dock area for those residence living in the condo's. Jenny suggested Jamaican Dogwood, Stephen agreed with the Jamaican Dogwood suggestion; Jonathan has concerns of finding the size they need at an affordable price. John Sibley also made a suggestion to use Horizontal Coco Plum; Jonathan stated that County Staff had

plants, the last set of plants were inspected by Bob and Mike Williams before they were purchased. Debbie mentioned that Russ has done a good job and has been planting as many trees as possible. She recommends he buy less and plant less since this is a main corridor and should continue to look nice. John Sibley asked if specified sizes are being recommended. Bob and Ehab said they require 3 gallon.

Mike Weston asked if there is anything specified on volunteer projects that falls under standard operating procedures for a maintenance plan. Bob and Ehab stated the Veterans Pkwy volunteers have been told to plant better quality plants, stay off the berms, educate the volunteers on proper planting and limit plants to 500. Debbie would like to see different species used.

Meeting Adjourn at 7:05 pm
Respectfully submitted,



Doraine Wetzel
Administrative Assistant

Chairman

Date

Secretary

Date

Attachment: Attendance Record

**Lee County Roadway Landscape Advisory Committee
12 Month Meeting Attendance Record
A = Absent, EA = Excused Absence, V = Vacant**

	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	
Voting Members	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total	
Al O'Donnell District 3	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1
Barbara Niland District 5	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	EA	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1
Esta Rubinstein District 4	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		2
Vacant American Society of Landscape Architects	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	
Vacant Horizon Council	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	
Vacant Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V	
Debbie Hughes Ft. Myers/Lee County Garden Council	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1
Gail Annette Archer-Dearie District 1	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		2
John Sibley District 2	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		0
Michael Weston Urban Forester	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	EA	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1
Jenny Evans Florida Native Plant Society	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		0
Ronnie Simpson International Society of Arboriculture, Certified Arborist	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		0
Stephen Brown Horticultural Extension Agent	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		0
Winston Church Keep Lee County Beautiful	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	EA	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1
Non-voting Members (Staff)															
Beth Workman Community Development	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	EA	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		2
Bob DeBrock Department of Transportation Parks & Recreation	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		0



LEE COUNTY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The Division of Public Resources
2115 Second Street Fort Myers, FL 33901
Phone (239) 533-2737

Wednesday, July 03, 2013

Mr. David J. Salko
1479 Argyle Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33919

RE: ROADWAY LANDSCAPE

Dear Mr. David J. Salko :

Your term of appointment to serve as a member of the above referenced advisory committee expires August, 2013.

Please advise by return mail if you would accept reappointment to this committee, or if you would prefer not to serve. For your convenience you may mark the bottom of this letter, a self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed.

Once your reply has been received, the Board of County Commissioners will consider it in making an appointment to this committee.

The Board thanks you for your past service on this committee and looks forward to an early reply.

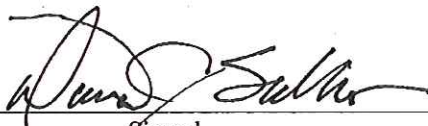
Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Public Resources Division

I WILL ACCEPT REAPPOINTMENT

I WILL NOT ACCEPT REAPPOINTMENT



Signed

13 JUL 26 AM 9:00



Passionists: Debbie Hughes' handiwork touches Southwest Florida Sept. 8, 2013 News-press.com

You might not know her name, but if you've ever admired the orchids at the Edison Home's Garden Shoppe, strolled through the herb garden at Terry Park or wandered the Garden Council's shaded paths, you've had the pleasure of Debbie Hughes' company.

This passionate gardener and professional horticulturist has been seeding little oases of beauty throughout the region for years. Her trademarks include leaves as colorful as flowers, multiple layers of texture, fragrant plants and playful accents.

Hughes' cottage garden at her vintage flamingo-colored home in the Woodford neighborhood east of downtown Fort Myers encapsulates her garden philosophy.

Flanked by young coconut palms and enclosed in a white picket fence, it's a bright oasis perfumed with pinwheel jasmine, sweet almond verbena and a sprawling, silvery groundcover she calls "stinky plant," with leaves that emit a bracing musk when crushed.

"It's supposed to keep the cats away," Hughes says with a chuckle, as her Yorkie, Roxy, darts around her feet.

Whether or not it does is almost beside the point; she just likes it. Affection is another of Hughes' guiding principles, and it shines throughout her garden: in the bright row of dinner plates edging the pearl earring

shrub; in the tiny “fairy garden” tucked next to the fire spike and in the glittering prisms and baubles dangling here and there like Gypsy jewelry.

Yet side-by-side with the whimsy is rock-solid science and years of hard-earned experience. Born in Illinois, Hughes was an exercise physiologist who followed her surgeon husband to Florida in 1994 (they’ve since divorced). Once she got her hands into the subtropical soil, she had an epiphany.

“There comes a time in life when you realize what you should be doing,” she says. “And for me, that was gardening.”

She began learning everything she could about growing things here, becoming a Master Gardener — “a Master Master Gardener” is what Lee County horticulture extension agent Stephen Brown calls her, then a certified horticulturist who served for six years at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates, where she still leads tours.

Hughes, 55, worked to recreate Edison’s vegetable gardens, which the inventor grew in rich organic soil — “Tons of muck and manure,” she says. She also helped launch the Estates’ popular Garden Markets, an annual November event that gathers vendors that offer the plants and expertise needed to create a lush, old-Florida-style landscape.

A few blocks away, she helped establish the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council complex, where area plant societies and garden clubs meet, research and highlight their work.

“I signed the original lease on what was an old fourplex,” Hughes says. The grounds are now a showplace, lush with flowers, fruit trees, bonsai and bromeliads mingling in a garden named after one of Hughes’ horticultural heroes: Fort Myers’ grande dame and philanthropist Berne Davis.

Hughes also was the visionary behind the inviting demonstration herb garden of Terry Park in east Fort Myers, shaded by kaffir lime and allspice trees. Medicinal and culinary herbs thrive side-by-side — yarrow and rosemary, mint and lemon grass — their fragrances mingling in a tantalizingly pungent perfume.

Brown points out that she’s part of the fabric of the extension office’s plant programs.

“She’s part of our advisory committee, and she’s very proficient in dispensing horticultural advice, program advice and landscape advice to the county, to the extension office and to other volunteers” — even to Brown himself. “When it comes to roses, if I have questions, I go to Debbie,” he says. “She’s not afraid to challenge me,” he says. Of course, “she’s always wrong and I’m always right,” Brown says with a laugh. Seriously, though: “She’s a huge part of our program, a great mentor and a great gardener.”

As for the gardens she’s created, Hughes is hard-pressed to say which is her favorite. They’re all works in progress, and come to think of it, it’s the work that’s the real reward.

“A garden is never finished,” she says, leaning down to pluck a spent bloom from the jasmine. “There’s always something to do, but there are always new surprises. That’s the reward.”