

# ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Appointed by Lee County Board of County Commissioners

**LEE COUNTY ROADWAY LANDSCAPE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
February 3, 2015  
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. (Winston Church)
2. Approval of the May 6 and November 11 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.  
(Winston Church, 5 min.)
3. New Business:
  - a. Quorum approval of recommendation letter for Shoppes at Plantation from 2/7/14
  - b. Approval of 15-16 Proposed Project Prioritization List
4. Old Business:
  - a. Project Status Update:  
Projects in CIP maintenance:
    - Gladiolus Dr. / Bass Rd. from Winkler Rd. to San Carlos Blvd. / Health Park to Gladiolus Dr. final 5/7/2018.
    - Colonial Blvd. from the Six Mile Slough to S.R. 82 will finalize 11/20/2018
    - Three Oaks Pkwy. / Imperial Pkwy. from Bonita Bill St. to E. Terry St. final 1/19/2019
    - Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. from Daniels Pkwy. to Colonial Blvd. final 5/2015
    - Summerlin Rd. from Boy Scout Dr. to Cypress Lake Dr. final 11/11/19
5. Other Business: (10 min. per topic)
6. Adjourn by 7:30pm

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 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:** May 6, 2014  
**TIME:** 6:00 P.M.  
**PLACE:** 2115 Second Street, Fort Myers, Florida

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Debbie Hughes, Fort Myers/Lee County  
Garden Council  
Al O'Donnell, District 3  
Winston Church, Keep Lee County Beautiful  
Jennifer Evans, Florida Native Plant Society  
Barbara Niland, District 5  
Michael Weston, Urban Forester

### STAFF PRESENT:

Doraine Wetzell, LCDOT  
Robert DeBrock, LCDOT

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Sibley, District 2  
Ronnie Simpson, Arborist-International Society of  
Arboriculture  
Gail Archer-Dearie, District 1  
Stephen Brown, Horticultural Extension Agent

### OTHERS PRESENT:

JB Schuetz, City of Ft. Myers  
Greg Diserio, DMJA  
Mayer Berg, Riverland Nursery  
Clark Ryals, Forester

**Quorum was confirmed with 6 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 March 5, 2013, October 1, 2013 and February 4, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

Debbie Hughes asked for a motion to approve the March 5, 2013, October 1, 2013 and February 4, 2014 RLAC meeting minutes, a motion was made by Winston Church to approve the minutes, seconded by Jenny Evans; the motion was called and carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Palm Beach Blvd. trees blocking Riverland Nursery.**

Bob DeBrock introduced Mayer Berg, owner of Riverland Nursery. Mayer stated that Riverland Nursery has been in business for 7 years and is located on Palm Beach Blvd. approximately 3.5 miles east of I-75. The original sign was installed by following ordinance but now as the trees have grown they are obstructing the view of the sign. Mayer is requesting the RLAC to give recommendations on what can be done to make his sign more visible to motorist traveling on Palm Beach Blvd.

Mayer Berg presented a video showing the view from Palm Beach Blvd. from both directions as you approach the business. Al O'Donnell noted that the sign is obstructed by one tree however the size of the letters on the sign is not large enough to read even when not obstructed. Mayer stated that regardless of the size of the letters, what he is trying to accomplish is for potential customers to be able to see the sign as they approach the business to locate the entrance.

Currently there is a sign stating "Pine Straw" that is plain to read. Mayer stated that this sign is illegal and was not intended to be advertisement for the business; the code is not being enforced at this time. Al stated that the committee could support a variance to keep the sign.

The committee stated that there are two issues, first to have the trees limbed up to open a site window or to support a variance to allow a sign or banner. Jenny inquired if the trees directly in front of the nursery is fine and does not impact the view. The request is to open up the site from the approach in both directions.

Mike Weston stated that westbound there is about a 200 foot visibility and eastbound there is about 350 feet visibility.

Al O'Donnell made a motion to recommend the county to have the trees (three to four trees on the west side and one on the east side) trimmed up to open a site of visibility to the sign, seconded by Jennifer Evans with clarification that if the trimming of the trees is not a permanent fix, this committee does not support the removal of the trees; the motion was called and carried.

Winston Church made a motion to send a letter to the Commissioners giving their support that a permanent variance be provided to keep the existing signs that are visible to approaching motorist, seconded by Barbara Niland; motion was called, no motion carried with 50% of members opposed.

### **Election of Officers.**

Bob DeBrock stated that the committee will vote on a Chairman and Vice Chairman then a Secretary will be appointed by the Chairman elect. Those in office currently cannot serve the same office, however they can be nominated for another position. Winston Church was nominated for Chairman and by a show of hands was voted in unanimously, Debbie Hughes was then unanimously voted in as Vice Chairman. Winston appointed Barbara Niland as Secretary.

### **Fowler Street wild flower planting.**

Bob DeBrock showed several pictures of the wildflower plantings on Fowler Street. The wildflowers are hanging over the curb and many plants are dying. Debbie stated that the sunflower is not a good species of wildflower; it does not match the characteristics of a wildflower that can be mowed after they seed. These wildflowers need maintained by pulling out the dead plants and adding in new. Bob stated that the county does not have the resources to keep the wildflowers in these medians maintained the way they should, they currently have no maintenance agreement. Al stated there would be less maintenance to the wildflowers by

removing the dead plants and replacing them with dune sunflower, than to install the Bahia and keeping it mowed.

JB suggested they use "needle point peanut grass" instead of the sunflowers. Al stated that there is no irrigation and the peanut grass would need irrigated. JB added that they have had success with the peanut grass in other areas by using fertilizer and plateau. They require water for a while after installation but once they are established they do well.

Bob stated that he would get a bid proposal to hire a contractor to maintain the existing wildflowers at the recommendation of the committee. Jenny stated her concern of the contractors having the knowledge of properly maintaining the wildflowers, she has offered to supply training for them prior to starting maintenance. Debbie Hughes requested a sign be put up advertizing the wildflowers.

### **Vacant positions**

Bob announced there are 4 open positions and ask the committee members to nominate individuals for these positions. Greg Diserio has submitted his application to fill the ASLA position. Debbie Hughes said that Dr. Ali is willing to fill the position of FNGLA effective after August. Jennifer offered to move to the District 4 position and fill her spot in the Native Plant Society if unable to fill the Commission seat. Al O'Donnell will contact McFearson, designer of Bonita Bay for the District 4 position which leaves an opening for the Horizon Council. Bob would like to have nominations of all positions by the next meeting in August, and possibly have applications submitted.

### **LeeScape Masterplan**

Bob stated that the county has hired Ensite to write the 4<sup>th</sup> addition of the LeeScape plan. He provided a list of tasks for the committee to review and add to if necessary. The appendix was not published because it was never completed. Al stated that a Master Plan is general and does not include the specifications needed for designing roads. He added that from the beginning of this committee they envisioned LeeScape as a guideline for a Landscape Architect in the designing of roads which needs to be specific. Bob stated that we would have to consider it as a Work Plan. Al added that they would like for it to tell what, why and what it costs. JB mentioned that to put costs in the Plan would require revisions as the prices change.

Debbie mentioned that core level needs to be defined. It was stated earlier that only trees could be implemented in the designs and adding understory would be considered enhanced core level. Bob also said that understory in core level should not include drip irrigation. Al added that the irrigation can be simplified cutting the cost. Bob also said that we will comply with FDOT standards and that planting on the sides should be eliminated.

Al stated that on US41 in the area of Gladiolus/Summerlin to Bonita there are seeded Hong Kong Orchids that need removed. These can be replaced by the non-seeded Orchids. Bob will discuss with staff.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Project Status Update by Bob DeBrock**

Projects in CIP maintenance:

- Gladiolus Dr. / Bass Rd. from Winkler Rd. to San Carlos Blvd. / Health Park to Gladiolus Dr. – In a 5 year maintenance, final 5/7/2018. Al recommended to check for the seeded Hong Kong's and have them removed by the contractor if found.
- Colonial Blvd. from the Six Mile Slough to S.R. 82 – in maintenance phase will finalize 11/20/2018
- Three Oaks Pkwy. / Corkscrew Rd. to Alico Rd. – Pre-bid for maintenance agreement – final 6/3/2014
- Three Oaks Pkwy. / Imperial Pkwy. from Bonita Bill St. to E. Terry St. – went into maintenance this past January – final 1/19/2019

Projects in CIP construction:

- Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. from Daniels Pkwy. to Colonial Blvd. – finish this month – final 5/2015
- Summerlin Rd. from Boy Scout Dr. to Cypress Lake Dr. – working on a change order to include Cypress Lake to Gladiolus.

Mike Weston questioned the area of Daniels by Jet Blue Park; he noticed they were taking out plants. Bob explained that the White Geiger's failed and they replaced them with Wax Myrtles. He added that the drainage is bad in this area.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mike Weston announced that he is resigning from the RLAC. He introduced Clark Ryals who has filled his position and would be a potential RLAC member.

Meeting Adjourn at 7:30 pm  
Respectfully submitted,

Doraine Wetzel  
Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachment: Attendance Record

## ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RLAC)

**DATE:** November 4, 2014

**TIME:** 6:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** 2115 Second Street, Fort Myers, Florida

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Al O'Donnell, District 3  
Greg Diserio, District 4  
Clark Ryals, Urban Forester  
John Sibley, District 2  
Stephen Brown, Horticultural Extension Agent

### STAFF PRESENT:

Doraine Wetzel, LCDOT  
Robert DeBrock, LCDOT

### OTHERS PRESENT:

JB Schuetz, City of Ft. Myers  
Phil Buck, FNGLA

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronnie Simpson, Arborist-International Society of  
Arboriculture  
Gail Archer-Dearie, District 1  
Jennifer Evans, Florida Native Plant Society  
Winston Church, Keep Lee County Beautiful  
Debbie Hughes, Fort Myers/Lee County  
Garden Council  
Barbara Niland, District 5  
James McCord, American Society of Landscape  
Architects

**Quorum was not confirmed with only 5 members present.**

John Sibley called the regular monthly meeting of the Roadway Landscape Advisory Committee (RLAC) to order at 6:05 pm.

### Approval of the May 6, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the May 6, 2014 regular meeting minutes will be postponed until the next meeting since a quorum was not met.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### New members and Reappointments.

Bob DeBrock welcomed and introduced the new members to the RLAC.

James McCord was not present at this meeting but will represent the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Greg Diserio, representing District 4 (Commissioner Hamman) has been a Landscape Architect here in Florida since 1981 and works with Dave Jones & Associates. They primarily deal with commercial and public roadways.

Clark Ryals is the Senior Forester for Lee, Hendry, and Collier Counties. He is with the State of Florida Forest Service. He handles a variety of tree issue calls and has helped Universities with Tree City USA. He helps rural land owners set up management plans and is moving forward to create awareness for urban forestry. Bob added that Clark is also helping DOT with its iTree program.

The following members have been reappointed, Debbie Hughes, Jenny Evans and John Sibley. There are two vacancies yet to be filled: FNGLA and Horizon Council. Bob noted that Phil Buck from FNGLA is interested. Phil is a Board Certified Master Arborist presently working for Crawford Landscaping and has worked with them for 5 ½ years. He has served as the City Arborist for the City of Naples.

### **LeeScape update and comments:**

Bob stated that the intent is to condense the current Master Plan. The plan is to have a front end Master Plan with appendix that could be changed as regulations and FDOT standards change.

Al O'Donnell would like to see a more intensified core; he used Corkscrew Road as an example where the plantings are in the center using no irrigation. With a very limited palette of understory/midstory plants (silver palmetto, thatch palms, oleanders) a significant upgrade in appearance was achieved. The addition of midstory plants and the ability to have lane separation on a four lane road has made a huge difference. The roadside retention areas were planted with Cypress trees and some guard rails were hidden with silver saw palmetto.

Al also noted that the LeeScape does not include installation of core landscape by private party and follow up maintenance by the County nor does it include installation of enhanced landscape by private party and maintenance costs by private party.

Al mentioned that he does not feel we should accept any donations of plant material that are dug and relocated on public right-of-way.

Al also stated that another type of landscaping not envisioned in LeeScape is non irrigated plantings or temporarily (2 year) irrigated plantings. This would limit the palette to primarily Live oak, Sabal palm, Silver palmetto, Coontie, Royal Palm, Paurotis & Thatch palm. JB has also indicated he has had some success with temporarily irrigated peanut to establish. Al has seen some success with temporarily irrigated mimosa as a ground cover. He said this list can be expanded somewhat as there are a number of drought tolerant ~~non?~~ native palms that will establish if temporarily irrigated. Projects have been presented and installed in past years where the irrigation and wells and electric constituted 40%-60% of the total job cost. The use of potable meters for a 2 year period or watering trucks to establish projects that are planted only in the summer can be a cost effective alternative to a project that is so expensive that it may never be installed. Sarasota County has had a lot of success doing almost all of its roadway projects without permanent irrigation. Stephen Brown stated that Fort Lauderdale has some non-irrigated horizontal coco plum that is doing well. Al believes that I-75 needs to be enhanced in Lee County to match that of other counties.

### **Fowler Street wild flower planting.**

Bob stated that there have been several complaints which need addressing. Staff recently cut back the plantings because they were growing over the curb and into the road. A lot of the plants have died and need removed. He proposes to remove the wild flowers and install sod which would bring down the maintenance cost. Al O'Donnell asked Bob to get the maintenance costs associated with taking the dead plants out and replacing with Coontie verses Bahia. John Sibley stated that there is already Coontie there. Al would like to see more Coontie added if they plan on taking the dead plants out.

Bob stated that he will take the recommendation to staff to remove everything but the Coonties and then install more Coonties. John volunteered to help county staff remove plants if they plan to add more Coonties instead of laying sod.

Al added that Golden Creeper would work well and offered to provide some plants.

Bob asked the members their thoughts on shell mulch. JB stated that he has an opportunity to get some recycled mulch. Al stated that he has been using recycled mulch and top dressing with pine straw. The cost of the recycled mulch is \$12 to \$13 per yard.

### **Playa Del Sol Blvd.**

Bob stated he received a lot of good comments. He forwarded the comments to the Association concerning adding the sight lines and the issues with plantings. Clark asked about the plant choice. Bob said the property owners have chosen the plants and the design.

Most of the comments from the RLAC members all agreed with the initial comments from the Traffic Division. Bob stated that he was pleased that everyone was on the same page and will keep everyone updated. Al suggested they send a revised plan for the advisory committee to review.

Greg asked if they had applied for a grant. Bob stated presently he has not heard anything about a grant and presume they have the funds to cover their current landscape design. Originally they wanted to start planting in November.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Project Status Update by Bob DeBrock**

Projects in CIP maintenance:

- Gladiolus Dr. / Bass Rd. from Winkler Rd. to San Carlos Blvd. / Health Park to Gladiolus Dr. – final 5/7/2018.
- Colonial Blvd. from the Six Mile Slough to S.R. 82 – will finalize 11/20/2018.
- Three Oaks Pkwy. / Imperial Pkwy. from Bonita Bill St. to E. Terry St. – final 1/19/2019.
- Ben C. Pratt / Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. from Daniels Pkwy. to Colonial Blvd. final 5/2015.



Projects in CIP construction:

- Summerlin Rd. from Boy Scout Dr. to Cypress Lake Dr. Almost complete.

Al O'Donnell noticed there were two dead Royals on US41 and asked about the procedure to replace them. Bob stated that a vendor will be hired to do replacements. We have a replacement fund and money can be used from the 6024 account if we do not receive any grants.

JB inquired if there were plans of upgrading Summerlin Rd. from Boy Scout to Colonial; Bob stated that there isn't anything currently planned, but it can be added to the list. JB said he would be willing to work on a partnership with the County on this area.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Bob stated that the committee will be reviewing the prioritization list. Bob will send the list out to the Committee members to review and for them to make any additions.

Bob pointed out some troublesome spots, one being McGregor from Cypress Lake to San Carlos and another is North US 41. Bob stated that some of the plant beds are non-existent. Al added that he recommends running the drip tubing down the middle. Reducing the drip lines is more economical. Bob said he would like to plant some understory without drip beds. John Sibley asked what is so costly in putting in irrigation. Bob stated the pump stations are expensive and the expense of running the power to the stations. In some areas depending on the water source it could result in high impact fees.

Meeting Adjourn at 7:30 pm  
Respectfully submitted,

Doraine Wetzel  
Administrative Assistant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachment: Attendance Record

# ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Appointed by Lee County Board of County Commissioners

February 7, 2014

Rebecca Scheffler Morris, RLA  
RSM Design, Inc  
19040 Pine Run Ln.  
Fort Myers, FL 33967

**RE: Roadway Landscape Advisory Committee Recommendation to Replace Understory in the Daniels Pkwy.  
Right-of-way Near The Shoppes at Plantation east of Plantation Pkwy.**

Dear Ms Morris:

On behalf of the Lee County Roadway Landscape Advisory Committee (RLAC), the committee would like to thank you for presenting this item and giving us the opportunity to make a recommendation to the BoCC. The RLAC discussed this item in detail during their February 4, 2014 meeting.

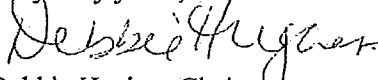
Although the required quorum of 6 voting members was not met, the 5 members in attendance unanimously recommended to replace understory in the Daniels Pkwy. right-of-way, with lower growing understory to improve sight distance to the adjacent businesses.

Recommendations include:

1. Removing 36 Silver Buttonwood and oleander shrubs
2. Installing coontie on approximately 4' spacing

Again, thank you for presenting this item the RLAC.

Very truly yours,

  
Debbie Hughes, Chairwoman

cc: via email  
David Loveland, DOT Director  
Randy Cerchie, DOT Deputy Director  
Ehab Guirguis, DOT Operations Manager  
RLAC

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



**ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**FY 15-16 PROPOSED PROJECT  
PRIORITIZATION LIST**

ROADWAY	PARTNERING	ROADWAY CLASSIFICATION	*CONSTRUCTION STATUS	NETWORK EXTENSION	COMMISSION DISTRICTS	ROADWAY JURISDICTION	*TRAFFIC COUNTS	ROADWAY CHARACTER	GATEWAY ROAD	TOTAL (195 MAX.)	RANKING	ESTIMATED MILES	PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE	COMMENTS
Del Prado Pkwy. from Hancock Bridge Pkwy. to SR 78	0	15	15	20	10	10	35.80	10	0	115.8	1	1.1	\$330,000	100% landscape and irrigation plans on file from 2010
McGregor Blvd. from Gladiolus Dr. to Cypress Lake Dr.	0	15	15	10	5	0	20.60	5	0	70.6	2	2	\$600,000	FDOT maintained. Considerable public interest
Daniels Pkwy. from Gateway Blvd. to S.R. 82	0	15	15	10	0	10	18.20	0	0	68.2	3	3	\$900,000	60% landscape plans on file. No irrigation.
Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. from Metro Pkwy to US 41	0	15	15	0	0	0	19.30	5	0	54.3	4	1.2	\$360,000	FDOT maintained. 50 mph speed limit and no curbing which increases horizontal and bull nose set back clearances
S.R. 80 from Hickey Creek to Hendry County	0	15	15	0	10	0	11.30	0	0	51.3	5	6.7	\$2,010,000	FDOT maintained. 100% landscape and irrigation plans on file. Waiting for FDOT final approval
Beth Stacey & Business Way Roundabout	0	10	15	0	10	10	0	5	0	50	6	0.01	\$25,000	Johnson Engineering working on plans
Sunshine Blvd. & 23rd St. Roundabout - 60' dia.	0	10	15	0	10	10	0.00	5	0	50	7	0.01	\$25,000	Johnson Engineering working on plans
Homestead Rd. from Sunrise to Alabama	0	15	0	0	10	10	0.00	10	5	50	8	2.25	\$690,000	Roadway not built
Burnt Store Rd. from SR 78 to Van Buren	0	15	0	0	10	10	2.60	5	5	47.6	9	2.1	\$ 1,290,000.00	Roadway not built
Estero Blvd	0	15	0	0	10	10	2.50	10	0	47.5	10	6	\$300,000	Roadway not built
Via Coconut Point from Corkscrew to Pelican	0	10	15	0	10	10	0.00	0	0	45	11	3	\$900,000	no plans on file
Metro Pkwy from Daniels to Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress	0	15	15	0	0	0	4.30	10	0	44.3	12	1.3	\$390,000	FDOT maintained. Permitted plans on file. Limited plantings
Ortiz from Colonial Blvd. to MLK	0	15	0	0	5	10	6.40	5	0	41.4	13	1.73	\$519,000	Roadway not built
Luckett Rd. from Ortiz Av. To I-75	0	15	0	0	5	10	1.40	10	0	41.4	14	0.46	\$169,000	Roadway not built
Ortiz from Luckett to SR 80	0	15	0	0	5	10	0.00	10	0	40	15	1.33	\$400,000	Roadway not built
Michael J Rippe Pkwy from Ben C. Pratt/Six Mile Cypress to Alico Rd..	0	15	15	0	0	0	7.50	0	0	37.5	16	3	\$900,000	FDOT maintained. No plans on file
Alico Rd. from Ben Hill Griffin to Airport Haul Rd.	0	15	0	0	10	10	0.00	0	0	35	17	1.78	\$ 540,000.00	Roadway not built
Three Oaks Pkwy. Ext. North	0	15	0	0	0	10	0.00	5	0	30	18	3.5	\$1,050,000	Roadway not built
Ortiz from MLK to Luckett	0	15	0	0	5	10	0.00	5	0	35	19	1.25	\$375,000	Roadway not built
Plantation Rd. and Crystal Dr. Roundabout	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	5	0	25	20	0.01	\$25,000	Johnson Engineering working on plans
<b>TOTAL</b>												41.73	\$11,798,000	
<b>FDOT Total</b>												14.2	\$4,260,000	
<b>County Total</b>												27.53	\$7,538,000	
Note: Maintenance Costs are approximately \$20,000 per mile annually														
Preliminary estimates for landscaping and irrigation in medians only.														
Prioritization points are based on Project Prioritization Criteria approved by the RLAC on 4/6/99 & BoCC on 6/15/99.														
* Traffic Counts Based on 2013 LCDOT Traffic Count Report, or earlier, if 2013 count is not available														