

# ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Appointed by Lee County Board of County Commissioners

LEE COUNTY ROADWAY LANDSCAPE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
November 4, 2014  
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 in Winston Church's absence)
2. Approval of the May 6, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes. (Debbie Hughes, 5 min.)
3. New Business:
  - a. Welcome: Bob D. (10 min.)
    - i. James McCord, American Society of Landscape Architects
    - ii. Greg Diserio, District 4 (Commissioner Hamman)
    - iii. Clark Ryals, Urban Forester
  - b. Reappointments: Bob D. ( 2 min.)
    - i. Debbie Hughes
    - ii. Jenny Evans
    - iii. John Sibley
  - c. Vacancies: Bob D. (5 min.)
    - i. FNGLA
      1. Phil Buck from FNGLA is interested
    - ii. Horizon Council
  - d. LeeScape update and comments (Open discussion, 15 min.)
  - e. Fowler Street wild flower planting (Open discussion, 10 min.)
  - f. Playa Del Sol Blvd. (Open discussion, 10 min.)

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**

**Projects in CIP construction:**

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

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 Wetzel, 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

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

	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014									
<b>Voting Members</b>	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total	
Al O'Donnell District 3	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING												
Barbara Niland District 5				EA	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1	
Greg Diserio District 4				V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING			
James McCord American Society of Landscape Architects				V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING			
Vacant Horizon Council				V	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	V		
Vacant Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association				V	NO MEETING	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			
Gail Annette Archer-Dearie District 1															
John Sibley District 2				A										1	
Clark Ryals Urban Forester	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	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	EA	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1	
Ronnie Simpson International Society of Arboriculture, Certified Arborist	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1	
Stephen Brown Horticultural Extension Agent															
Winston Church Keep Lee County Beautiful	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	EA		
<b>Non-voting Members (Staff)</b>															
Beth Workman Community Development	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING			
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			