

# ROADWAY LANDSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Appointed by Lee County Board of County Commissioners

LEE COUNTY ROADWAY LANDSCAPE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
February 2, 2016  
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 June 1 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. (Winston Church, 5 min.)
3. New Business:
  - a. 30% and 60% roundabout plans. (Johnson Eng. Scott Smith, 20 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
    - Summerlin Rd. from Boy Scout Dr. to Cypress Lake Dr. final 11/11/19
5. Other Business: (10 min. per topic)
6. Adjourn by 7pm

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:** September 1, 2015

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

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

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Sibley, District 2  
Al O'Donnell, District 3  
Greg Diserio, District 4  
Barbara Niland, District 5  
Stephen Brown, Horticultural Extension Agent  
James McCord, American Society of Landscape Architects  
Clark Ryals, Urban Forester  
Phil Buck, FNGLA

### OTHERS PRESENT:

JB Schuetz, City of Ft. Myers  
Scott Smith, Johnson Engineering  
Frances Turner, Johnson Engineering

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronnie Simpson, Arborist-International Society of Arboriculture  
Gail Archer-Dearie, District 1

### MEMBERS EXCUSED ABSENT:

Debbie Hughes, Fort Myers/Lee County Garden Council  
Winston Church, Keep Lee County Beautiful  
Jennifer Evans, Florida Native Plant Society

### STAFF PRESENT:

Doraine Wetzels, LCDOT  
Robert DeBrock, LCDOT  
Beth Workman, LC Community Development  
Sarah Clarke, LCDOT

**Quorum was confirmed with 8 members present.**

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

### **Approval of the May 5, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes:**

Barbara Niland asked for a motion to approve the May 5, 2015 RLAC meeting minutes, a motion was made by Greg Diserio to approve the minutes, seconded by James McCord; the motion was called and carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Alico Road from Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy. to Airport Haul Rd. 60%.**

Scott Smith from Johnson Engineering presented the 60% conceptual landscape design plans for Alico Road from Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy. to Airport Haul Rd. Scott moved through the length of the design and pointed out the areas where the plans were modified to satisfy the recommendations brought out from the 30% plans.

Large canopies are located in the center of the median with smaller oriental trees on the ends. It was agreed to have no plantings in the turn lane tapers.

It was discussed in the last meeting to have the plant material that was on the approved University Overlay. Scott checked the University Overlay with his plant palate and made changes where necessary.

The suggested plant list includes; canopy trees: Red Maple, Hong Kong Orchid, Orange Geiger, Golden Rain Tree, Muskogee Crape Myrtle, Sweetbay Magnolia, Slash Pine, Cathedral Live Oak and Pink Tabebuia. The palms include: Royal and Sabal Palms Shrubs: Coontie, Saw Palmetto, Horizontal Cocoplum and Silver Buttonwood.

Scott stated they are matching the landscaping on the east side with what already exists on the west side of Ben Hill on Alico.

Sabal would be planted to the edges of the median to maximize space. He tried to keep a consistent pattern yet use a variety of species. He has made the design to accommodate the future 6 lane expansion.

The total estimated cost including 5 years of maintenance is close to \$300,000.00.

Stephen suggested having sabals that are naturally booted not manually slicked. Stephen also stated that he should allow some curvature in the palms to give it a more natural look instead of having all straight palms. Scott stated the New Grades and Standards allow for curved trees and pass them as number 1's. Phil Buck added that the G&S do not allow for slick trees. Bob stated that he doesn't feel we need to be concerned over this as long as we specify naturally booted palms and the placement of the curved palms would be at the discretion of the County. John inquired about the regenerated palms. Bob stated the regenerated palms have a better chance for survival. Scott stated he could include the use of regenerated palms as an alternate on the list with a cost to be reviewed. John Sibley stated that in the long run the regenerated palms seem to be more cost effective. John also stated his concern over using Orange Geiger in cold sensitive areas. Scott said that since they are limited to the plant list he will look for a substitute.

Beth asked what percentage of Natives we have in this design; Scott stated that he is at approximately 60% native.

Greg Diserio inquired about how the Silver Buttonwoods will be maintained; Scott's response was that they would be planting them far enough apart to prevent crowding and allowing them to grow to their capacity.

John Sibley made a motion to accept the 60% Conceptual Landscape Plans for Alico Rd. from Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy. to Airport Haul Rd. with stated recommendations to choose substitute flowering trees and use the naturally booted Sabals, seconded by Stephen Brown, motion was called and carried.



## **Final Discussion and vote on the Fourth revision to the LeeScape Master Plan**

Beth brought out that on page 32 it states:

*We recommend that 75% of the tree plantings be native or acclimatized, to assure long term success. Tropical flare, where appropriate, can be obtained with the remaining 25%. Understory plantings should consist of at least 50% native or acclimatized plants. No plant material from the current Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council Invasive Plant List (FLEPPC) shall be used.*

Acclimatized is anything that is not native that has adapted to where it is planted. The tropical flair where appropriate covers it, the word acclimatized should be struck from this paragraph. This would still guarantee the 75% for trees. Al stated that as written this could allow for all non-native to be planted, Bob stated that all design plans are brought before the committee for vote, the committee decides what gets planted. Greg stated that the LeeScape is a guide and not code, the Land Development Code is for developers to follow for developing property, the plantings done by the County are all above code because a road can be built without any landscape. Beth debated that as a committee we need to be clear to the designers to assure native plantings. Bob asked if the statement can stay but to add the statement "to exclude anything not on the invasive list".

Al stated on Page 4 in the *Level of Service Matrix*; in the past if a private organization funded a project and put in core level landscape that the county would accept the maintenance. These were roads that were built without landscape funded by impact fee credits. The matrix does not allow any possibility for this requiring the initiating party to take responsibility. Bob stated that with the current maintenance budget the project would be turned down because there is no funding available. Bob stated that our goal is to get the front end document of the LeeScape Plan approved with the appendix then the blue sheet would read that anything needing to be added, deleted or changed on the appendix could be addressed by this committee and would not have to go before the Board of County Commissioners.

Al also brought out on Page 14:

*replacing inadequate soils in medians and roadsides of the new construction areas with a proper growing medium*

Al is concerned about the cost that is spent on the soils. The plant material can be manipulated to adhere to the soils. Bob stated this was left in on purpose in case replacing soils is needed.

Page 27:

*These are very sandy porous soils that drain rapidly, dry out quickly, and are very difficult, if not nearly impossible to adequately wet the root zone to properly water the plants.*

Al stated if he has porous soils that drain quickly it is good.

Page 22:

*The design, installation and maintenance of this level are typically funded by the County. Sometimes, the State will pay for the design and installation of this level at their expense, and then turn it over to the County for the on-going long-term maintenance responsibilities.*

Al was hoping that this would allow for private funding.

Also on Page 22 and 23:

*Although each version is more costly to install than core level, the third version is actually less expensive to maintain than the other enhanced versions. However, unless approved by the Board of County Commissioners and adequate on-going long-term maintenance funding is appropriated beforehand, this level should not be pursued.*

Al asked for clarification on what *this level* means, Bob said that would be all enhanced. Al stated if the third level is less expensive than the core then we should be doing enhanced. Bob said that is not correct and should be changed to other enhanced.

In all references in the appendix:

*Banding ... .. do not overtighten*

Al stated that he does not feel you can overtighten, that the banding needs to be so tight that it cuts into the 2x4's or the staking will not hold. Plants are damaged by staking when they are left on too long.

Greg Diserio made a motion to accept the draft on the Fourth revision to the LeeScape Master Plan with the noted conditions; on page 32 adding the list of the invasive plants to be prohibited and to clean up the language on page 22 and 23 concerning core level of maintenance, seconded by James McCord, motion was called and carried.

## **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.
- Summerlin Rd. from Boy Scout Dr. to Cypress Lake Dr. final 11/11/19

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

JB Schuetz brought up a past discussion on a project that the City Director of Public Works had discussed with Randy Cerchie to create an agreement to have Lee County install landscape on Summerlin Rd. from Colonial to Boy Scout Dr. and then the City would agree to maintain it. Bob stated that County Staff is still working on a design that would be non-irrigated. The mowing maintenance has been increased to match the rest of the roadway to Sanibel to 21 times a year.

The City of Ft. Myers is applying for a Florida Highway Beautification Grant for the area of US41 from Colonial to Boy Scout Dr. the deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>. The project is one mile long with a design heavy with native plantings.

John Sibley made a motion to support the City of Ft. Myers with their application for a Florida Highway Beautification Grant for US41 from Colonial to Boy Scout, seconded by Greg Diserio.  
A letter of support will be sent to JB from the RLAC.

Al O'Donnell stated there is a serious problem with the fertilizer at the Foxtails between Bonita and Ft. Myers. Bob stated that the County is addressing the problem. Bob stated the County is aware of this problem and we are in the process of obtaining a new contract quote which will include a new fertilizer formula to address the problem.

Meeting Adjourn at 7:00 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**

	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	
<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>Mar.</b>	<b>Apr.</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug.</b>	<b>Sept.</b>	<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Nov.</b>	<b>Dec.</b>	<b>Jan.</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>Total</b>
Al O'Donnell														
District 3														
Barbara Niland				A										1
District 5														
Greg Diserio	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		1
District 4														
James McCord	A													1
American Society of Landscape Architects														
Vacant	V			V				V						V
Horizon Council														
Phil Buck	A			A										2
Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association														
Debbie Hughes				EA				EA						2
Ft. Myers/Lee County Garden Council														
Gail Annette Archer-Dearie	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		3
District 1														
John Sibley														
District 2														
Clark Ryals	I													1
Urban Forester														
Jenny Evans								EA						1
Florida Native Plant Society														
Ronnie Simpson	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	A	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING	NO MEETING		3
International Society of Arboriculture, Certified Arborist														
Stephen Brown	A													1
Horticultural Extension Agent														
Winston Church	A							EA						2
Keep Lee County Beautiful														
<b>Non-voting Members (Staff)</b>														
Beth Workman														
Community Development														
Bob DeBrock														
Department of Transportation														
Parks & Recreation														