

**Thomasville Beautification Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 18, 2023**  
**Thomasville Aquatics Center**

**Voting Members Present:**

Nathan Smith  
Larry Darr  
Olivia Ilardi  
Cheri Johnson  
Hilda Warner  
Carol Brown  
Denise Barnes  
Molly Hussey  
Tyler Allred

**Non-Voting Members Present:**

Jeannette Shepherd  
Todd Sechrist

**Voting Members Absent:**

Myra Scott Gray  
Crystal Hodges  
Brooke York Murphy

**Non-Voting Members Absent:**

David Bovender  
Raymond Widener

**Guests:**

Michael Brandt  
Cameron Marsden  
Eric Kuppel

Carol Hubbard Brown, chairperson, called the **meeting to order** and **welcomed the guests.**

**The minutes from April 20th** were read individually and one correction was noted. Nathan Smith made the motion to accept, Cheri Johnson seconded and the motion carried.

Carol Brown presented the **financial report** for April. Larry Darr made the motion to accept, Denise Barnes seconded, and the motion carried.

After some discussion and clarification, Nathan Smith made a motion to accept Thomasville Lawn and Garden (National Highway) as **Business of the Month**. Tyler Allred seconded and the motion carried.

Todd Sechrist nominated the residence of 424 Lexington Avenue as **Yard of the Month**.

Todd Sechrist gave a **landscaping report** which included:

- The sprinklers at the Big Chair are repaired and working.
- The baskets and the plantings at the Big Chair, Fountain and Clock Tower are all completed.
- Grounds Crew Landscaping will now work on the larger areas and the welcome signs.
- He did an assessment of the landscaping at the tunnel-underpath. He recommended taking out the trees on the “tennis court” side and replacing them with low growing shrubs. It was later decided to maintain what is there until the newly contracted streetscape architects ( Withers Ravenel®) can give input.
- Todd recommended that the committee enter into a contract with the sprinkler company to maintain and service the sprinklers biannually, for a cost of approximately \$300. This will be voted on in July.
- The repairs to the wall at Will Harper park include repairing the existing wall, applying a thinset of concrete, painting the wall using Conflex Sherlastic Elastomeric Coating® and sealing it.. A quote from Musgrave Painting, Inc. was received. The estimated cost for all of the above is \$12,950. City Manager Michael Brandt suggested discussing the project with Chuck George, regarding some possible assistance from a historical agency with the State.
- Michael Brandt inquired about the Ginkgo Biloba tree at Will Harper Park. Todd explained that it has been replaced twice and is a slow-growing species. He will use some fertilizer to help its growth but recommended not replacing it again should it die.

Tyler Allred gave a **report for Litter Sweep** that included the following:

- ❖ A short exercise on the positive things that have occurred in Thomasville in the last 20 years (Aquatics Center, landscaping at the George Hundley Underpass, rebuilding stands at Finch Field, painting at the Big Chair, Clock Tower, and improvements to the fountain, etc.)
- ❖ The Litter Sweep on May 13th yielded approximately 15 bags of trash in the downtown area and on Blair Street. One new volunteer, Jeff Henderson, participated. Eric Kuppel from Keep Davidson County Beautiful also participated.
- ❖ Tyler would like to focus on the areas of the Memorial Day Parade route and at Cushwa Stadium prior to the Memorial Day festivities on Monday, May 29th.
- ❖ **The next Litter Sweep will be held on Saturday, June 10th.**

There was no **Adopt-A-Street** news to report.

Carol Brown reported that **National Night Out** will be held on August 1st at the Thomasville Police Department. The committee will once again serve sno-cones. We will set up at 5:00. The event is held at 6:00-8:00.

Carol also reported that **Everybody's Day** will be Saturday, September 30th, from 9:00-4:00. We will discuss our plans at a later meeting.

Denise Barnes reported that she has received three new motors for repairing three of the elves for the **Christmas** display. The other three, that need to be shipped to New York for repairing, will go in July or August. Todd and Denise will look at shipping options.

**Light Up the Holidays** will be held on Saturday, November 18th. Plans will be discussed at a later meeting.

**Michael Brandt, City Manager**, reported the following:

- ★ Thomasville is now a finalist as a Main Street Associate. The committee will visit the city on Tuesday, June 20th.
- ★ The City of Thomasville will begin observing Juneteenth this year. The city offices will all be closed in observance of this day.
- ★ The memorial sign (which was purchased by City Beautification) has been permanently moved to the corner of Lodge and Memorial Park Drives.
- ★ The streetlights (decorative) downtown will all receive LED lights. Todd suggested looking at ways to clean the globes as well.
- ★ Carol and Michael met and discussed creating a wrap for the new Davidson County Transit Bus. Some space will be needed for advertising. Several options were discussed: trolley, Big Chair and Clock Tower, and a train (or caboose). These options will be explored.

**Cameron Marsden, Tourism Director**, shared the following information:

- ➔ There will be a free concert on May 26th at Finch Field. Red, White and Blue, An American Bluegrass Band, will be performing. There will also be fireworks.
- ➔ On Saturday, May 27th, there will be a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (at the rest stop off of I-85).
- ➔ A concert will be held at the T. Austin Finch Auditorium on Sunday, May 28th, at 7:00 pm. The 208 Army Band will perform. The admission is free.
- ➔ Monday, May 29th, the Memorial Day Parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the downtown area and conclude with a ceremony at the George Cushman Stadium.
- ➔ The Drye's will perform at Everybody's Night on September 29th.
- ➔ The Thomasville Christmas parade will be held on Saturday, December 9th.

As there was no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. **The next City Beautification meeting will be on June 16th, at 8:30 a.m. at the Thomasville Aquatics Center.**

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Denise E. Barnes