



Florida Department of Transportation

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SECRETARY

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Florida's Highway Beautification Programs
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Florida Highway Beautification Council

David Johnston, Chair
Marsha Levy, Vice Chair

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Meeting Minutes January 24-25, 2006 Maitland PBS&J Corporate Office 482 South Keller Road

- Welcome and roll call of members and guests
 - Call to order: 1:07 pm, Tuesday, January 24, by Council Chair, David Johnston
 - Members present Dave Johnston, Susanne Karr, Alan Shapiro, Marsha Levy, Marion Hilliard, Charlie Marcus, Ananth Prasad
 - Guests on sign in sheet: Harry Belton, Sean McSweeney, Cathy O'Angelo, Joseph Gray, James McDonald, Michael Kenton, Christopher Male, Alan Hyman, Brad Smith, Lili Withelder, Patty Rippey, Pat Moore, Ken Keogh, Max Pullen, Greg Diserio, Ken Karr, Rachel Rogers, Tim Lattner, Tim Allen, John Simpson, Raul Mederos, Elisabeth Hassett, Susanna Thompson, Bryan Dennis, Susan Preil, Chris Webb, Willson McBurney, Craig James, Bruce Mantell, Brian S. Dick, Jeff Caster,
- Welcome by Willson McBurney, Susan Priel, and Bryan Dennis PBS&J
- Review of Minutes from previous meetings
 - Motion by Marsha Levy to approve minutes from June 7, 2005. Second by Marion Hilliard. Motion carries unanimously.
 - Motion by Marsha Levy to approve minutes from October 11 teleconference meeting. Second by Marion Hilliard. Motion carries unanimously.
 - Motion by Marion Hilliard to approve minutes from October 14 teleconference minutes. Second by Susanne Karr. Motion carries unanimously.
- Council members reports
 - FFGC- Marion Hilliard reported that the FFGC is hosting the National Garden Clubs, Inc. 2006 Convention in Orlando this May. Theme, Paths to Sunshine. Marion reminded the council that the Florida Legislature has designated Florida State Highways as Paths of Sunshine. A written report authored by Elizabeth Pate, FFGC Roadside Beautification Chair, about the department's wildflower program was distributed.
 - FNGLA- Alan Shapiro reported that the nursery industry is still in recovery from the hurricanes of 2005. Some plants will be in short supply, and smaller than is typical. There are also significant labor shortages.
 - Susanne Karr reported that a ten year old HBC project was lost to roadway construction in District Three.

David Johnston, Landscape Architect; Marion Hilliard, Florida Federation of Garden Clubs;
Alan Shapiro, Florida Nursery Growers & Landscape Association; Bill Albaugh, Florida Department of Transportation;
Charlie Marcus, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Susanne Karr and Marsha Levy, Private Citizens

- Marsha Levy reported on the struggle of communities to rebuild after the hurricanes. The urban forest canopy is severely damaged.
 - FDACS- Charlie Marcus reported that some federal funds remain available for urban forest recovery. Information is available at FDACS website. A link can be found on the HBC website.
 - I-75 Highway Beautification and Tourism Promotion Pilot Project
 - By phone. Presentation by John Garner, Juanice Hagan, and Lynn Holschuh on the status of the project, with request for comments and suggestions.
 - Project, as envisioned by the Florida Legislature was to reduce the number of signs along the corridor at no cost to the public, and to increase the amount of landscaping.
 - FHWA has advised Secretary Stutler that the project cannot go forward if non conforming signs are to be relocated to other non conforming locations. The area selected for the pilot is entirely agricultural zoning. Pilot project is on hold.
 - Department is seeking alternative ways to reduce the number of nonconforming signs.
 - Beautification of interstates is an agency priority
 - Pilot projects are encouraged by FHWA
 - Pilot may be relocated
 - Council members shared some ideas with FDOT staff
 - Clusters of signs
 - Signs at overpasses
 - FDOT desires visible results
 - Estimated value of signs along I-75... \$150K
 - State Transportation Landscape Architect's report...Jeff Caster
 - Correspondence from Secretary Stutler
 - Rule Chapter 14-40
 - Landscape Procedure
 - Wildflower Advisory Council
 - Outdoor Advertising legislation
 - Magic of Landscaping
 - FHWA Awards
 - 1.5% for beautification programs, What can be accomplished with 12,000 miles, 186,000 acres, 20 years, and \$500 million.
 - Landscape Task Team
 - District Reports: Brief oral reports were given by each of the FDOT districts
 - Ranking. The council began ranking applications at 3:45 pm.
 - Meeting was adjourned for the evening at 5:10 pm.
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- Meeting reconvened at 8:42 am, Wednesday, January 25
 - Ranking continued. All scores were posted and projected for all present to see and verify accuracy.
 - After ranking the scores of all applications
 - Motion by Susanne Karr to disqualify Charlotte County from ranking due to inaccuracy and conflicting information on the grant application. Second by Ananth Prasad. Motion opposed Five votes to two.
 - Motion by Marion Hilliard to approve the ranking. Second by Charlie Marcus. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Each council member checked the scores and initialed the official score sheet. Fifteen of 19 grant applications were ranked high enough for the Chair to recommend to Secretary Stutler that they receive a grant. This includes partial funding for Town of Mulberry.
 - Motion by Ananth Prasad to consider an application to be non-responsive if applicant costs are not evident, or when the intended use for the grant funds is not evident.. Second by Susanne Karr. Motion carried unanimously.
 - FHBC Meeting Schedule:
 - June 2006 in Broward County, Lakeland, or Tallahassee
 - New Business:
 - Chairman Johnston asked FDOT staff and consultants to give feedback to the Council on the implementation of the new application process

- Members of the Council suggested that at the spring meeting, the Council, with help from staff, examine the council statute, rule, and procedure for ways to improve the grant ranking process.
- Chairman Johnston expressed appreciation to the staff from PBS&J for hosting the FHBC.
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- Meeting adjourned 1:08 pm

Meeting minutes attachments

- Meeting agenda package
- Sign in sheet
- Grant application forms (eighteen)
- Council members individual score sheets for all grant applications
- Spread sheet with all scores, averages, grant amounts and ranking initialed by each council member
- Photocopy of Florida administrative weekly December 30, 2005, Meeting notice.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Jeff Caster, State Transportation Landscape Architect. January 27, 2006