

**Lehigh Pride Team**  
John C. Miller, Chair 334-0313  
The Beautification and Conservation Subcommittee  
**Lehigh Acres Community Planning Corporation**  
**P.O. Box 1408, Lehigh Acres, FL 33970**

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16 B & C SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting convened at the Pottery Room of the Veterans Park Recreation Center as published, all conversation tape recorded and presented to the Recording Secretary, Karen Adams.

Time 7:10 Pm, present were Barbara Joe-Yen, Sue LaLeike, Damon Shelor, Jerry Clement, Terry Wolfley, Linda Carter, John Miller.

Chair opened the meeting by reading the Lee County Landscape Code Purpose and Intent. Sec 10-412. Seven important items that guide our deliberations.

Linda Carter brought up topic of residential requirements and discussion was around the requirements for trees and bushes that seem inadequate but the owners should be encouraged to add to their plants and landscaping. The standards of the Florida Yards and Gardens need to be emphasized, possibly with handouts by builders. We will consider the minimum requirements for Lehigh. Wolfley suggested that when plants are set out and watered 30 days they will survive if they are native in most cases.

Carter printed out a book that Terry sent over to her titled Florida Highway Landscape Guide and this volume is large to study so I passed it out in four sections asking the members who accepted the sections to go through their part and write down or mark those parts that will be of importance for our use. We can possibly, then print those sections and distribute farther among members. Damon suggested making a menu or index and marking the applicable pages. I stated that the study would educate us on terminology and suggest ideas for later when the consultants work with the subcommittee.

Chairman Bo Turbeville stopped in briefly to invite all of us to a joint meeting with zoning and Parks.

I said we are waiting for Dwayne Day of Auto Web Cars used car sales to explain how his lot was hidden by a special Lehigh Code for used cars and wanted him to suggest his ideas for better ways to beautify a used car lot. I distributed photos I had taken of Fort Myers, Palm Beach Blvd where used car lots have proliferated for a section some two miles long and numbered probably 20 lots with vehicles and a really junky look in my opinion. This is the worst case that we in Lehigh would want to avoid on prominent streets. Dwayne had called my home after I left for this meeting to say he could not make it because of an extended meeting at his business.

Damon said the reason why these used car lots have been able to avoid real beautification is because their owners are occupying existing properties that are grand-fathered to old codes. Sue mentioned the lot on Plaza and Business way in Lehigh that is using a grass area and no beautification. Jerry mentioned the lot on Lee Blvd in Lehigh across from Muggs and Juggs which is plain like those in Fort Myers. We pretty much do not want any more of these types of situations to start up without some reasonable standards. People buy cars on impulse and having cars showing greatly adds to business while hiding the cars with landscaping like the berm and bushes at Auto Car Web drastically cuts sales according to Dwayne Day. We think there could be a compromise where nice plants greatly improved the scene while still allowing customers to see cars while passing by.

I passed around photos of the back of Bank of America on Homestead and everyone liked that shady look that invites people to come there. We worry that too much shrubbery can encourage vermin and snakes. A parking lot for Firestone that had cars there for service seemed to be greatly improved by trees and bushes that the Publix store owner provided with the CRA program. Desmond Barrett asked out of speaking with us and simply asked us to suggest the plant types we would choose for the linear parks along Canals.

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It would seem prudent to offer trees that provide shade spaced a reasonable distance apart and Barbara said there needs to be benches to sit down on in the linear parks. I gave out a homework assignment to pick plant and tree types that we might consider good and photograph scenes that we could use for reference as we pick out plants and figure the gateways to Lehigh Acres.

Sue suggested that we identify types of signs for businesses and various entities that will withstand hurricane winds and not blow out. Well taken.

Terry does not recommend stripping trees for hurricanes but keeping them trimmed to reasonable proportions promotes healthier trees.

Sue asked about the piney trees at Leeland Heights and Lee Blvd, were these good trees? Terry said they are invasive meaning harmful imported Australian Pines. They take over and are susceptible to breakage.

Discussion about protected species, I have a Lee County Protected Tree List and passed it around for everyone to see and write down the website. It is five pages and at [http://library2.multicode.com/gateway.dll/fl/florida/33258/33333?f=templates\\$fn+document](http://library2.multicode.com/gateway.dll/fl/florida/33258/33333?f=templates$fn+document) ... We discussed some of the more obvious species found here. I recommend that everyone try to find the species of tree in the Lee County Codes and match them up with the State Waterwise book to see which types live best here in Lehigh Acres. Everyone has a copy of Waterwise and I have more.

Residential clearing for single or duplex home sites is exempt from saving protected trees but businesses and developments are required to identify and move or preserve. Sue does not think the rules are properly enforced. Clearing around Ponderosas often kills the tree because of cutting roots too close in and beetles come to roost. They are very chancy to move.

I opened up Randall Arendt's book, Conservation Design for Subdivisions and noted that he is considered a noted authority on modern development and more of his work is found at Amazon.com.

Berms and bushes will deflect street noise but must be maintained or they attract pests. It costs \$80.00 to remove a rattlesnake. Quick discussion about birds and the environment as developed. The last landscaped area behind the Bank of America is an example of a created area that is left to grow in with weeds.

Meeting adjourned and everyone went to the joint subcommittee room with Bo and the others at about 7:45..

Respectfully submitted,

John Miller on 6/25/05 Tape to be delivered to Karen tomorrow.

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