

APPROVED AS WRITTEN, MAY 16, 2022
TRAILER ESTATES PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
EMERGENCY MEETING
APRIL 11, 2022
9:30 A.M.
MARK'S HALL
1903 69TH AVENUE WEST
BRADENTON, FL 34207

The meeting was called to order by DUANE TROTTER at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL of BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Mary Chandler, Lori Dalton, Kathleen Gregory, Russell McAlister, Louis Nickels, Pete Price, Sandy Simonich and Duane Trotter present. Mark Barneby also joined the meeting.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE (CLUB): Sandy Stevens, Sandy Spence, Kathy Handy, Julie Hoch, Debbie Best, Karen Baker, Joanie Fearson, Barb Braun

DUANE TROTTER: Duane identified that numerous text messages between Board members and the Beatification club are subject to Sunshine Law and Pubic Records. All texts are to be turned into the office immediately.

BACK GROUND: Duane stated the Beautification Committee was formally established February 2008. The committee was empowered and designated to provide recommendations to the Board for Beautification and betterment projects using donated funds. Standing committee are subject to the Sunshine Law. Until the revision of PP8, Beatification Committee Charge, the committee had no authority to expend funds without prior Board approval. In March 2022, the policy changed allowing up to \$500, approved at a Beautification Committee meeting, without prior Board approval. It also allowed up to \$2000 for Boutiques inventory. On March 21, 2022 the committee resigned and became club. The reason provided for the resignation was to prevent any possible litigation against the Committee members or the Board of Trustees for any Sun Shine law violations.

Duane stated this meeting is in no way to diminished previous actions of Beautification Committee. He thanked them for all their hard work and gallant efforts. With the resignations, all funds were to be turned over to the district. Due to the transition, several questions and concerns were raised regarding accounting procedures. The district is under strict auditing rules, and all assets from the Beautification committee belong to district. At the April 4th, 2022 Board meeting, the Beautification committee was requested to provide documents regarding approved projects, future projects and receipts. The Beautification club treasurer notified the Board treasurer regarding possible irregularities regarding club funds. These comments made, raised serious questions which leads us into today's emergency fact finding meeting.

Irregularities w/club funds: fact finding.

Mary stated at the Board meeting held on April 4th, 2022 concerns with reconciling the accounts. A meeting with Les Salomon was to be held to determine reconciliation of accounts. This meeting did not happen. The Beautification club Treasurer, contacted Mary on April 6th 2022 with her concerns of money to be deposited. Mary read the report of contact from Julie Hock. (This was statement is public record). Mary address gifting of funds from the Bingo kitchen of \$200.00 for Mark Yawbergs' retirement. The Beautification club had accused Mary of deleting texts. Mary addressed the several text messages and identified no text had been deleted and had been turned into the office. She asked how does one know if texts are deleted. All texts have been entered into public record. A discussion followed regarding the report of contacts from the Beautification Committee/Club. Mary thanked Julie for her honesty asked if Beautification Club Treasurer wants to correct any of the statements.

Duane addressed the meeting with Karen Baker & Sandy Spence held on April 8, 2022 addressing the \$357 & \$110.50 found on April 7, 2022. A discussion followed identifying how this came about. A discussion then followed regarding 50/50 funds and collected in the amount of \$78.00. This money belongs to the club and will be returned.

Sandy Spence addressed previous money raised and continued sales of items after the resignations. Items were still being sold such as shirts until padlocked. There are still outlying bills and was their intent to deposit the remaining money and wait to see how it would go with no intent to keep park's money. She stated a \$1000 is nothing in comparison to the \$50,000.00 raised for park projects over the years. She also addressed the text message and her thoughts on spending up to \$2000.00 and the background on the History cabinet purchased.

Sandy Stevens- As Beautification Chair- gave money from bricks to office. Rose Garden money never was a problem. All went to the office. When resigned during transition- no one said they were going to keep it. The plan was to deposit the money in the clubs account and then write a last check to the board. She addressed how hard it was to leave the Beautification Committee, but was very concerned with the sunshine law.

Karen Baker- stated she had not received any direction- had forgot about the \$357 because Les and her never got to meet. She put the money up for safe keeping. She had already bought the teacups.

Various topics were provided by both the Beautification Committee/Club and the Board.

Mary Chandler detailed why she has to look for audit issues.

Louis Nickels asked about the background of Les Solomon, Treasurer of Committee.

Sandy Spence- Asked questions on what a club can and cannot do with sales going to the club

Kathy Handy-Addressed the 50/50 sales and the \$78.00 to club

Sandy Spence asked since various items are provided to other clubs, meeting halls etc., can the club have certain items provided such as the Boutique pop up shop. Duane will meet with the Beautification club and discuss.

Mark Barnebey gave a general description of what club vs committees can do. A committee is appointed by the Board. The Board controls the committee with appointments, Sunshine Law etc. If it is a club and not ran by the district, sunshine laws do not apply. We must be careful on what type of function you are having. He cautioned the Board, stating, if the Board asks a club to run a function, the park rules apply. If a club runs bingo and holds 50/50 raffles, they must abide by Florida State law. There is a myriad of state laws to follow. If the District conducts bingo, the District rules apply.

If the District is conducting bingo, the district cannot donate funds to Mothers Helping Mothers. The Continuing Recreation trustee can assign a resident to run Bingo if desired.

Debbie Best – QuickBooks system is registered in the office. On March 21, 2022 quick books data was current.

Mary Chandler discussed her role as the Board Treasurer and resigned from the Board due to the accusations of not doing her job appropriately.

Duane asked the club if they have turned in all funds. The response was yes.

Lori Dalton also resigned from the Board of Trustees.

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

Joe Carey- 1803 Wisconsin. Thanked the Beautification Committee members for everything they have done. This meeting is all about optics. He addressed his concerns with the meeting.

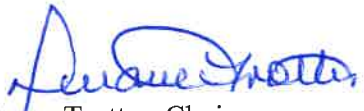
Dottie Deerwester- 1804 Ohio. Board policy goes to workshop before trustee. She addressed two topics brought up at a board meeting that were not discussed at a workshop. She also spoke to Districts Counsel regarding Bingo regarding the statement of “run by” versus a park event. She provided clarification of district sponsored versus club sponsored events.

Gordon Elton-1804 Ohio- Sunshine Law applies to Committee following the rules. Facebook comments contains erroneous information. The Park cannot make donations – nor can Park donate supplies.

Sandy Stevens – 1814 Minnesota Avenue: Summarized the Beautification club to be a club due to the fears of the Sunshine laws. Also asked to resolve the issue of Mothers helping mothers.

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Duane Trotter, Chairman