

Nov 1, 2016

Lori and Council

I have pulled out the recommendations of the America in Bloom judges from the 20 plus pages to make it easier to digest. See attached.



Bob Vedder

City Improvement- Judges Suggestions 2016-

Judges Suggestions

Floral

Consider getting more training with seminars such as Disney puts on.

Also get information from the Florida Nursery Growers Landscape Association (www.fngla.org) on care and maintenance of baskets, to get the WOW factor

Recommend encouraging restaurants to do more with boxes and planters

Recommend establishing community trial gardens could be in coordination with local nurseries or growers.

Recommend a floral festival. Homeowners could showcase specific plants etc

Recommend using fountains and other vessels for displaying seasonal planting themes. Maybe having a contest for best Christmas or holiday planter.

Make a vertical plant wall on bare walls, seek out other floral chapters to assist.

Landscaping

There is need for more landscaping around entrances to ball fields as well as near backstops, bleachers and dugout areas. They recommend reviewing the agreement with county. It should include hardscape items like sidewalk, trash receptacles. The wooden backstops need painting in some cases. Try to put dumpsters so they face driveways and parking as noticeably. They recommend city and county look to VisitFlorida.com as potential source of funding for these changes.

Have Public Works hire landscape architect to develop a park renovation plan for John Nolen Park.

They recommend continuing the business and residential awards programs for landscaping.

They recommend a community garden (they were unsure if there were any). They think one could be put into one of the many parks.

They saw two butterfly gardens and think there could be more pollinator gardens. They recommend contacting sarasotabutterfly.com that is a club in Sarasota for more information.

Urban Forestry

They like that we have started a tree inventory and suggest we continue. When finished look to see if we qualify for a growth award from Tree City USA.

They suggest having a Heritage Tree or Landmark tree designation program. There are lots of these that should be documented and the trees protected. We might discover through use of early pictures in the archives. From this you might develop a brochure to direct people to the important trees. They suggest story boards for those historic trees. There is more info at americanforest.org.

They suggest determining if our Arboretum can qualify as a Certified Arboretum through the Arbnet Arboretum Certification Program. Arbnet.org

Consider a variation of the Canadian tree planting program at Patriots park as living tributes to those who served our country.

Have a comprehensive plan to inform the public of loss of Sabal and Cabbage Palms.

Environmental

The city needs to develop a more comprehensive recycling program. They feel that the city nor the county will be able to reach the 75% diversion rate set up by the state. They think that the county and the cities should reach the goal. They think there should be a process in place to track by municipality what the diversion rates are. The current process of collection is not efficient. The recycling bins are small causing problems caused by wind and rain. This method also causes residents to put materials in waste stream. They recommend that the city go to large containers that are secured and can be operated by one person trucks. This single stream system will maximize recycling. The city should do at no cost to the homeowners. This should allow for one pickup a week. Savings will be in manpower and fuel.

They recommend expanding the EV charging stations and LED in parking lots.

They recommend investigating a methane recovery system if it does not already have. Project could be funded from low interest loans from EPA Revolving Fund or our power company Florida Power and light.

Heritage Preservation

They found it unusual that a city our size had so many entities promoting history making it a little confusing. They recommend having a centralized committee, board or group that focuses on activity and fund raising coordination, grant acquisition and information sharing. This could be done by redefining the Historic Preservation Board makeup to insure that one member from Museum and Archives, Venice Area Historical and one from Venice Heritage inc be on it.

They feel the materials at the museum are not protected properly and should be moved where there is a fire suppression such as certain gasses. They suggest visiting www.archives.gov/preservation/emergency-prep/fire-prevention.html

While they understand Eagle Point is private they think it should be included on the historic visitors map.

They researched Images of America a historical volume for Venice they think the historical Society should update and republish.

They further recommend the annexation of the land where railroad station is if not already in hands of city.

Overall Impression

There are areas near the Legacy Trail that have the potential for alligators (they were shown a picture by a bicyclist of one. Should have warnings and consider barriers where that can happen.

They think the mural program should be expanded, one such wall is on the Founders Walk between Venice and Miami.

There is no program for sculptures to feature there works in public. They feel the Advisory board should establish a rotational program (or through the art center).

They felt the signage at beaches is very confusing. They recommend a much cleaner look and such it is easy to read and not different in different places.

They think the John Nolen Park sign deserved to be grander to fit his stature. They also felt the picnic tables were loosely arranged. They thought they should be on cement pads with trash cans near the picnic tables. These should be in the new parks plan.