

Sky Valley Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

2:00 PM

3608 Hwy. 246 (City Hall)

Sky Valley, GA

MINUTES

Present: Cheryl Beckert, chair and committee members in attendance Cathy Turner and Don Rice, on call in Maggie Waggoner.

Absent: Debbie Dalhouse Curtis and Becky Whitehead

Approval of minutes

Minutes had been distributed electronically and hard copies were distributed to members present. Cathy Turner motioned to approve and Don Rice seconded. Minutes approved as submitted.

Review of 2024 Projects:

***Rescue at Evergreen Rock**

Plantings of flowering plants donated and planted by Don Rice included sedum, marigolds, snapdragons, white

iris, and dwarf zinnia. The Sky Valley Garden Club donated a kwanzan cherry tree which Don Rice planted.

The City delivered several loads of leaf mulch which Don Rice spread around the bedding areas to help improve the soil quality.

Don Rice and Cathy Turner kept plantings watered throughout the dry summer. Many thanks to Don and Cathy for their exceptional job.

***LaBelle Rock at Rescue Lane**

Drainage ditch was installed by Don Rice and Cathy Turner to help with erosion that was occurring along the road.

The City provided the rock for the drainage ditch. Four oak leaf hydrangeas donated by resident Gerald Strickland were planted in rock area by Don Rice.

***City Pavillon**

Don Rice added two small flower beds at the front corners of the pavillon. Cannas and coleus were planted in those

beds. The City removed several diseased mountain laurels that were between the pavillon and post office.

***Post Office**

Annuals added to bed with perennials. With the heat and lack of rain the annuals did not survive the summer.

Daylilies and pampas grass did not get thinned, A memorial Magnolia tree (species Kay Parris Magnolia) was planted on the hilly slope by the post office. The tree was donated by City resident Myrna Warner in memory of a friend.

***Pond at Time Share Maintenance Building**

The City cleaned out several invasive plants from the pond area and Don Rice did additional clean up. No plantings were done until approval can be received from the City.

***City Hall**

Annuals and several plantings added including a new flower bed around the three flagpoles. The Sky Valley Garden Club donated a kwanzan cherry tree which was planted near the picnic area.

***Front Entrance**

Sunpatiens, coleus, dianthus and assorted annuals were added to the front and side beds. Additional native pollinator

plants donated by the Sky Valley Garden Club were added to the existing pollinator area in the tear drop bed. The pollinator bed was thinned of excess pine mulch and the mulch was taken to the Sky Valley sign on Bald Mtn road and added to the hosta bed. The Garden Club provided and planted the four planters at the entrance sign. Mark Wanamaker's crew did trimming of shrubs & evergreens.

In the fall after a freeze killed the impatiens additional plantings of fall mums were put in the front and side beds.

***Street corners**

The Sky Valley Garden Club coordinated by Joy Akin continued the maintenance and beautification of the following areas:

Ridgepole @ Sky Valley Way - additional plantings of hostas & heuchera added to bed

Big Bear @ Sky Valley Way

Rebel Circle @ Bald Mountain Rd

Driver Lane @ Eagle Circle and Bald Mtn Rd

The Sky Valley Garden Club donated an additional two Kwanzan Cherry trees to replace trees that had died along

Sky Valley Way near the old lodge.

2025 Projects

*Use of Native vs Non-Native plants

A handout was distributed with a listing of native and non-native annuals, perennials, and evergreens that do well in

our zone.

Consensus was that we would make every effort to use natives but recommend the continued use of sunpatiens at entrance as they seem to perform extremely well.

***Pond at Time Share Maintenance Building**

Would like to do additional plantings and clean up in the area but no decision was made until a meeting with Jerry Slope could be arranged. Cheryl Beckert will reach out to Jerry Slope for a time and location and include Don Rice in meeting. Don Rice stated that he had several plants that do well in wetlands and would also like to plant three Blue Spruce in the area if approval is given.

***Rescue @ Evergreen rock**

Recommended that native perennials be introduced to the site along with a few annuals. Don Rice stated that he would try to provide from his garden/greenhouse the following plants: daylilies, lupine, coneflowers, coleus, and coreopsis. He may also have oxeyed daisies and asters to provide if approval from city is given. The City will be supplying additional leaf mulch.

***LaBelle Rock**

Don Rice requested that we try and get more rock from the City to extend drainage ditch and incorporate flower bed into drainage ditch.

***City Hall**

Several of the shrubs in the right front flower bed near the building have died or are in distress.

Don Rice recommended that we talk with Mark Wanamaker about replacing them with similar plants in the left side bed. Planting of annuals will be similar to the plantings in 2024.

***Front entrance**

Recommended sunpatiens be planted at front and side beds. Don Rice will grow native perennials to add to the pollinator area. The perennials suggested were coneflowers, lupine, and coreopsis.

***City Pavillon**

Recommended additional plantings of yellow canna and coleus at the two new beds by pavilion.

*** Post Office**

Recommended that additional perennials be added in front bed the same that are there now as they have done well.

Don Rice again recommended that the daylilies and pampas grass be thinned out and the pampas grass planted on the hilly slope.

***Pond @ Time Share Maintenance Building**

Need to have discussion with Jerry Slope before any recommendations are made.

***New Project - Pedestrian Bridge and waterway below along Sky Valley**

Maggie Waggoner suggested that we look at making that area aesthetically more appealing. She will contact Habersham County Extension Officer, Steven Patrick and Rabun County Extension Officer, John Scaduto for help. Steven Patrick has a great deal of knowledge in water way restoration and Maggie hopes he can provide additional guidance and insight to our committee. She will report back at our next meeting. Don Rice stated that he had tried digging in the area by the bridge and found the soil to be of very poor quality.

***Funding of projects**

No request at this time

***New Business**

No new business

***Time and Date of Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 12th at 1:00. Location will tentatively be at City Hall.

*** Adjourn**

Being no further business Don Rice moved that we adjourn, and Cathy Turner seconded.
Adjourned at 2:45p.m.


Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Beckert, Chair