

## **Sky Valley Landscape Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**3608 Hwy. 246 (City Hall)**

**Sky Valley, GA**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Cheryl Beckert, chair and committee members in attendance Don Rice, Cathy Turner, and 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.

#### **Discussion Items:**

Don Rice and Cheryl Beckert reviewed the meeting they had with City Public Works Director, Jerry Slope and Water System Coordinator, Cody English. It was a very productive meeting with the following areas addressed:

- Adding a water supply to the Evergreen/Rescue Lane area (Cheryl Beckert will work on funding that project)
- Request for half a load of rock at Ridgepole/LaBelle to finish the drainage line.
- Request for a few loads of organic matter from the city to be dumped at Evergreen/Rescue Lane site.
- Discussion of using shrubs to screen the transformer at the pavilion. Information was provided on contacting Georgia Power before digging.
- Discussion on adding evergreen trees to the peninsular area that has developed in the waterway across from pavilion and adding wetland grasses near the dam to improve appearance.
- Discussion as to improving the bank of the waterway past the pedestrian bridge and around the bridge itself.
- Jerry and Cody said the plantings on the peninsula would be fine but to make sure trees are marked so they would not be damaged when mowing. They also said planting around bridge was fine and any plantings on bank for erosion control would need to be low, allow for foot traffic during the "duck races" and not impeded their

trimming of grass. Jerry suggested that additional plantings be added at the entrance at Bald Mountain Rd and Driver Lane. Cheryl said she would ask the Garden Club if they could do additional plantings.

The meeting was very helpful in clarifying the scope of projects and committee members were very appreciative of the time Jerry and Cody took out of their busy schedules.

Don Rice reported on plants he is growing that may be available for use in planting at several areas in the city. The current list of plants: African marigolds, coreopsis, coleus, yellow canna, snapdragons, rudbeckia, oxeye daisy, coneflower, zinnias, lupine, and native foxglove.

Maggie Waggoner reported on her conversations with several horticultural and streambank restoration individuals. The first step they recommended was to determine how the community will use the area and then work within the confines of the area being a designated trout stream. Maggie will follow up with them as to plantings along a steep bank.

Discussion on projects for 2025 included the use of sunpatiens at City Hall, Front Entrance, and post office. Replace some of the shrubs at City Hall flower bed that do not appear healthy. Plant evergreen shrubs(s) to hide transformer box at pavilion. Plant blue spruce and Fraser fir trees on peninsular at the waterway across from the pavilion. Add additional wetland plants near the dam. Add plantings around the pedestrian bridge and possibly add ground cover on the steep bank north of pedestrian bridge to see how it does. Plant cannas in front of the north and south corners of the pavilion. Extend drainage culvert at the rock on Ridgepole and LaBelle. Plant perennials and a few annuals at the Evergreen and Rescue Lane corner and work on getting funding for the addition of a water supply to the area. Cheryl is to contact the Garden Club to request additional plantings at Driver Lane and Bald Mountain, funding for the water supply line to Evergreen area. funding for several bags of soil, and continued beautification of designated street corners.

Don Rice will contact Steve Mason with Sky Valley Country Club to see if we can do an experimental wildflower garden in the waterway along the ninth fairway.

To get a greater understanding as to the scope of several of the projects the committee members present agreed to meet at the pavilion on Thursday, March 13th to survey the areas.

Cheryl will schedule a meeting with Mark to discuss the plantings at City Hall, Front Entrance, and Post Office. She will also ask Mark about thinning out the pampas grass around the post office.

Cheryl will thin pine straw in the pollinator garden area located in the lower bed at the entrance. Pine straw will be spread around the Bald Mountain City sign where hostas have been planted to further define that area. This will be done during the month of May.

Under New Business a discussion was held as to the "wishes" of the committee. If and when possible, the committee would recommend that the city do a waterway clean up around the pickleball area and also along the waterway located across from the Timeshare maintenance Building. Members cited how the city did a good job clearing the waterway area along Knob Dr and request they do the same at the pickleball area and area along Sky Valley Way in front of the Time Share Maintenance building. Also recommend that we have a community cleanup day to remove trash from the pickleball area.

**Next meeting** is scheduled for April 30,2025 at 1:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Maggie Waggoner and second by Don Rice. Motion approved at 2:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Beckert

Landscape Advisory Committee Chair