

**YUMA CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE EAST MAIN CANAL BEAUTIFICATION  
WORK SESSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 27, 2024  
PUBLIC WORKS TRAINING ROOM  
155 WEST 14TH STREET  
YUMA, AZ 85364**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Arturo Morales, Vice Chairman  
Kyla Smith, Commissioner  
Lonna Brazeel, Commissioner  
Deirdre MacDonald, Commissioner  
Kirsten Carpenter, Commissioner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Greg LaVann, Chairman  
Andrea Berezna, Commissioner

**STAFF MEMBERS:** Joel Olea, Director of Public Works  
Michael Flowers, Public Works Manager  
Laura Zavala, Admin Support Supervisor  
Darla Kuhn, Customer Account Specialist

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm. by Vice Chairman Morales.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Brazeel made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 30, 2024; Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Unanimously, the motion was passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Call to the Public:**

No members of the public were present during this meeting. A welcome was given to the new commissioner, Kirsten Carpenter, during this time.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES:**

### **East Main Canal Beautification Subcommittee:**

A date has been set for April 27, 2024, to begin planting trees along the East Main Canal. During a recent meeting with Director Olea, Manager Martin Agundez, and Maria Morales (APS), it was decided that there would be enough volunteers between APS, YRMC, and NexGen to complete this part of the project. Due to the proximity and danger of the canal, the focus will be on adult volunteers; no children will be allowed. There will be a follow-up meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss what media outlets will be present.

### **Promotion and Marketing Subcommittee:**

No updates currently.

### **Beautification Award Subcommittee:**

The commission voted to award Javier Trujillo Rodriguez a Beautification Award for his property at 1430 S. 7th Ave. Commissioner Brazeel made a motion, and Commissioner MacDonald seconded it; the motion was unanimously passed. No discussion followed.

## **STAFF UPDATES:**

Public Works recently finished a mini beautification project at the intersection of 1st Avenue and 18th Street. Behind the Joe Henry Optimist Center, there was a bus stop where vehicles parked along the sidewalk, close to the stop sign, causing the school bus to park almost in the middle of the street, which made it unsafe for children to board. To ensure the safety of the children, Public Works installed "No Parking" signs to allow 30ft of space from the stop sign. They also removed overgrown grass and dirt and installed asphalt to level the sidewalk. As a result, the bus stop can now park up against the sidewalk, allowing children to board safely without having to step into the street.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

None currently.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

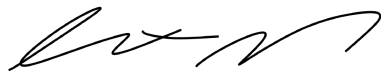
Commissioner Smith informed the commission that as a representative of the Gowan Company, she has been in contact with the Parks and Recreation Department regarding the planting of palms as well as other landscaping ideas on Main St. Six palms have already been planted in the area and there is more to come soon. Commissioner Smith is passionate about beautifying Main St. in the downtown Yuma area. She was encouraged to attend available meetings with the downtown district as a citizen of the community and continue conversations with downtown merchants in hopes of bringing some new ideas to fruition.

The commission would like to extend an invitation to Carolyn McKeown, who is running for Mrs. Arizona, to attend one of our meetings. Carolyn McKeown has recently initiated the “Beautiful Yuma Project,” which focuses on cleaning trash off the streets of Yuma. The commission would like to appreciate her efforts and encourage her to join the Adopt-a-Street program, as both programs share the same objective.

During the meeting, Commissioner MacDonald asked about abandoned homes and what actions could be taken in such cases. In response, Director Olea clarified that the city would respond to any homes that violate city ordinances. Additionally, Director Olea encouraged the commission to report any homes that they suspected were in violation through the Yuma See Click Fix application.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner MacDonald moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:42 p.m.; Commissioner Smith seconded the motion, which was unanimously passed.



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Vice Chairman Morales

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Date