



City of North Port
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Beautification and Tree/Scenic Tree Highway Committee

FROM: Juliana B. Bellia, Director *JBB*
Chuck Speake, Operations and Maintenance Manager *C.S.*

DATE: January 30, 2019

SUBJECT: Alternatives for the Rehabilitation of the Biscayne Drive Median Landscaping Project

Pursuant to a directive from the City Commission, the Department of Public Works staff has been requested to coordinate with the City of North Port Beautification and Tree/Scenic Highway Committee and Mrs. Alicia Acardi, Recipient of the City's Greenest Citizen of the Year Award for 2018 to address the maintenance issues at the Biscayne Drive Median Landscaping Project. The following provides Alternatives for the Rehabilitation of the Biscayne Drive Median Landscaping Project:

The current Biscayne Drive Median Landscaping Project has proven to be very maintenance intense. Some of the reasons for this are the proximity to residential lawns with a very high weed content and the traffic moving those seeds from the lawns and roadways into the medians, the types of plants that were installed and the inability to utilize selective herbicides to maintain weed control, and the size and spacing of the plants that were used allowed for the weeds to quickly take over and crowd out the landscape plants.

To improve the efficiency of the maintenance and appearance of the Biscayne Drive Median Landscaping Project changes will need to be made to the current landscaping. The following three Alternatives are proposed for the Committee's consideration:

Alternative Number One

Leave the trees and bushes in place and remove the remaining landscape plantings. Turf would then be installed in place of the removed plantings. Additional trees and bushes could be added where appropriate. This would provide an aesthetically pleasing median with grass and trees that is easy to maintain with regular mowing, edging and tree trimming when needed. The estimated annual maintenance cost of Alternative Number One is \$20,250.00.

Alternative Number Two

Leave the trees, bushes and low maintenance plantings in place, remove the failed and challenging plantings and replace with turf. This would provide an aesthetically pleasing median with grass, trees and

low maintenance landscape plants that would be much less maintenance intense than the current design. This option would require regular mowing, edging, weed treatment with herbicide, hand pulling of weeds and tree trimming as required. The estimated annual maintenance cost of Alternative Number Two is \$33,382.56.

Alternative Number Three

Leave the trees, bushes and low maintenance plantings in place, remove the failed and challenging plantings and replace with low maintenance plantings. This would provide an aesthetically pleasing median with grass, trees and low maintenance landscape plants that would require more maintenance than the other options but less maintenance than the current design. This option would require regular mowing, edging, weed treatment with herbicide, hand pulling of weeds and tree trimming as required. The estimated annual maintenance cost of Alternative Number Three is \$45,500.00.

Examples of the low maintenance plantings that are currently in place are Juniper, Muhly Grass, Dwarf Firebush and Schefflera.

Should you have any questions, or desire any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

JBB/CS/cs

Attachments: 1. Alternative Number One
2. Alternative Number Two
3. Alternative Number Three