

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE KEEP FORT PIERCE BEAUTIFUL OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, HELD 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, 100 NORTH U.S. #1, FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, AT 11:00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, 17TH MARCH 2026.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

Present: Shirley Walker; Bob Burdge; Renella Mitchell; Charlene Adair; Debbie Edmond

Absent: David BuShea; Levi Lovell

Staff Present: Marsha Commond, Special Projects Coordinator
Calvin Daniels, FPUA PR Specialist
Tamara Jean-Francois
Lisa Gittens, Deputy City Clerk

4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of the minutes from February 17th, 2026 Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful Advisory Board Meeting.

Motion was made by Renella Mitchell, seconded by Shirley Walker to approve the Minutes.

AYE: Bob Burdge, Charlene Adair, Debbie Edmond, Renella Mitchell, Shirley Walker
Passed

5. **Comments from the Public**

Jamerick Morrell

6. **Old Business**

- a. Bluetube Pilot Program Draft

Marsha Commond gave an update on the expansion of the Blue Tube program from the island to the mainland. The program on the island has been successful due to reliable, self-motivated volunteers. Most of the existing tubes are in good condition, though a few may need rewinding or repair, but we are waiting on a timeline before moving forward with that.

We are proposing a pilot program to gauge community interest and participation. Morse Creek Linear Park is the proposed starting point, with two tubes installed. The model follows existing programs like Adopt-A-Street, introducing an "Adopt-A-Tube" concept where participants commit to maintaining and restocking the stations. The program is essentially an expansion with a new name and branding. Since "Blue Tube" is trademarked, the proposed name is

“Clean Ways.” The concept focuses on preventing litter from entering waterways while encouraging better habits and environmental responsibility. The program will remain under the Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful branding. The draft outlines the structure, goals, and expectations to track progress and create a scalable model for future expansion. Volunteers will supply reused plastic bags, encouraging recycling and reducing waste.

Stations will be placed near existing trash receptacles where possible. In areas without receptacles, such as private properties like Bent Creek Park, alternative arrangements will be coordinated with property management and the community. The program encourages both formal adopters and informal volunteers to participate by restocking bags and helping keep areas clean. Community involvement is essential to making the program self-sustaining.

There is also a need to inventory existing tube locations, including areas like Indian River Drive, and address a few damaged tubes that require replacement.

Overall, the goal is to create a structured, community-driven program that can expand successfully beyond the pilot phase.

7. New Business

a. Great American Cleanup Event Update

The annual Great American Cleanup was held Saturday at Rotary Park and was very successful. There were 327 registered volunteers, plus additional day-of participants. Volunteers collected 0.99 tons (2,182 pounds) of trash. While that’s less than last year (1.46 tons with 566 volunteers), it reflects cleaner conditions across parks and public areas. Many participants noted that locations like Jay Park, Old Fort Park, JC Park, and the marina were already very clean, which is a positive sign of ongoing community impact.

The event saw strong participation, good organization, and positive feedback, especially about hosting it at Rotary Park, which helped showcase the location. Suggestions for future outreach include engaging local churches.

Overall, the cleanup and related efforts continue to make a meaningful impact on keeping the city clean and engaging the community.

b. Arbor Day Tree Planting Update

Arbor Day has been rescheduled to April 24 at Pinewood Park, likely at 10:00 AM. The event will include a ceremonial tree planting (about five trees), a tree giveaway, and recognition of the board for its contributions. The city is also working to renew its Tree City designation through the Arbor Day Foundation.

8. Staff Discussion

9. Board Discussion

A request was made to issue badges to Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful board members, similar to the Parks Advisory Board. Badges require IT approval and must be justified by official duties, not just to bypass security. Board members noted involvement in community events (e.g., cleanups, Arbor Day) as possible justification. The process includes applying as a volunteer, completing paperwork, and possibly a background check. Staff will coordinate with the relevant departments to begin the application process.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.