CORTEZ ROAD GATEWAY

Ms. McClellan distributed a packet regarding the Cortez Road Gateway and provided a brief history regarding the original agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation and Manatee County Public Works to maintain the medians on Cortez Road west of 75th Street. As materials in the medians died; they were not replaced. The County does not have an urban forester on staff. The plan is to make the area presentable with bahia sod and trees as identified in the packet. There will be a walkthrough on Cortez Road with Public Works staff to evaluate the existing landscaping and trees.

ARBOR DAYS

Ms. McClellan reviewed the application for Tree City USA, and the Arbor Days projects. A tree was planted on Anna Maria Island and the El Conquistador project will take place in 2019. Projects at Robinson and Perico Preserves are also included to plant 11 live oaks, to provide shade at the entrances of the preserves.

Motion was made by Member McClellan to accept the proposal of 11 live oak tree planting and continue progress on El Conquistador Parkway after the old FPL poles are removed. The motion was seconded by Member Tussing.

Ms. McClellan distributed a packet regarding an update for El Conquistador Parkway. All of the poles will be removed by April 2019. It is not feasible to connect reclaimed water to this area. There is an irrigation system that works on well water. The packet includes the details of the plan for planting 33 trees from 34th Street West to 47th Street West.

The motion carried 8-0 with Members Burton, Nicholson, Hawkins, Lansing, and Parks absent and two seats vacant.

TREE COUNTY USA RECERTIFICATION

Ms. McClellan referred to the Tree City USA Certification and the requirements to prove the designation. The recertification must be submitted every year.

ADJOURN

There being no other business, Chairman Webster adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.