



Minutes
Citizens' Beautification Committee - Regular Session
Thursday, February 19, 2026 - 6:00 PM

The Citizens' Beautification Committee convened in regular session in the Oak Conference Room at the Government Center at 6:00 PM. Chair Gina Lavazza called the meeting to order.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Gina Lavazza Committee Chair, Jennifer Aurora Committee Member, Izola Tyus Committee Member, Ronald Van Donk Committee Member, Daniel Freburg Committee Vice Chair,
ABSENT: Nephele Delis Committee Member, Valerie Wyatt Committee Member, Deborah Johnson Committee Member

Staff Present: Jeff Hindman, Staff Liaison

3. Public Comment

Mayor Dan Brady provided public comment and thanked the Committee for its efforts and ongoing contributions to the beautification of the City of Bloomington,

4. Consent Agenda

Items listed on the Consent Agenda are approved with one motion; Items pulled from the Consent Agenda are listed and voted on separately.

- A. Consideration and Action to Approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Citizens' Beautification Committee Regular Meeting.,** (Recommended Motion: The proposed Minutes be approved.)

Committee Member Tyus made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Van Donk, .

Chair Lavazza directed the Secretary to call roll:
Ayes: Lavazza, Aurora, Freburg, Van Donk, Tyus
Nayes: None
Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

- A. Presentation and Discussion on Route 66 Art Project updates on presentations with Oakland School students,** (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

Committee Chair Lavazza briefed the Committee that she and Secretary Aurora visited the 5th grade art classes at Oakland Elementary School, where they shared the history of U.S. Route 66, discussed the significance of the upcoming centennial, and provided additional details about the project students are creating for the event. More information will follow as the project progresses.

B. Presentation and Discussion of the final review of the new Beautification Committee tri-fold., (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

Committee Member Delis, who created the tri-fold, was not in attendance. The tri-fold was shared with the Committee Members present. Minor housekeeping edits were noted, and this item will be placed on the March agenda for a vote.

C. Presentation and Discussion on 2026 Arbor Day School to be nominated. Once nominated who will make contact with the school? Gina Lavazza will send out press release to the local media., (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

Arbor Day 2026 will be held on Friday, April 24. A list of previously selected schools was provided in the notes. Based on the participation from the oldest to the newest, Washington School would be approached first.

Staff Liaison Jeff Hindman will reach out to Washington School to inquire about interest for 2026. If the school is not interested, Benjamin Elementary School will be contacted.

Once a school is confirmed, the Committee will move forward with a press release and next steps.

D. Presentation and Discussion updating the Beautification Awards information and application on the website and creating a new QR code for the updated application. Brainstorm ideas for reaching out to the community about when voting opens for the awards., (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

The Committee discussed the upcoming Beautification Award timeline and the need to update the application to reflect 2026. Members also discussed extending the nomination deadline to June 15 to allow additional time for submissions. Marketing ideas were shared, including social media promotion, attending pop-up events at First Fridays and Downtown Bloomington Farmers Market, as well as issuing a press release.

E. Presentation and Discussion on the Farmers' Market. Dates are out. Possibly find 2 days in May to have the table to highlight the community and awards., (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

The Committee discussed upcoming Downtown Bloomington Farmers Market dates for hosting an informational table to promote the Committee and Beautification Award nominations.

Members discussed covering at least two Saturday mornings in May, identifying May 16 and May 23 as the initial target dates. Vice Chair Freburg expressed interest in covering the May 30 timeframe.

Secretary Aurora will cover the 7:00am-9:30am shift during the May 16 market. The Committee will finalize sign-ups and coverage at the March meeting.

F. Presentation by the Parks and Recreation Department on Events and Activities happening in the Parks Department., (Recommended Motion: None; Presentation Only.)

Staff Liaison Jeff Hindman shared that the staff had been working on forestry work both in the parks and on the city right of way. They had also been grinding stumps in preparation for the spring tree planting season. Jeff also just placed the spring tree order. The team removed trees, lighting and pots from the 500 block of N. Main St. in preparation for the Street Scape project. The utility staff had been preparing the pools and splash pad chemical rooms for the upcoming season and the team was also starting leaf clean up in the parks .

6. New Business

Committee Member Ronald Van Donk asked the committee when was the last time anyone had read the COB Code for the Beautification Committee. He encouraged the committee members to read it and was curious exactly what the committee's role would be moving forward.

7. Adjournment

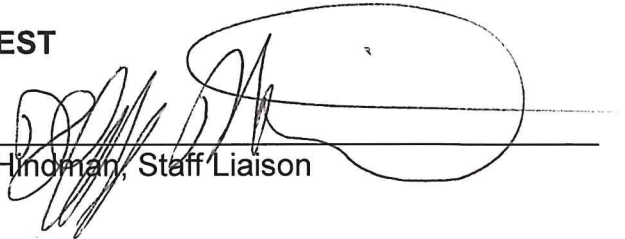
The meeting adjourned at 6:59PM.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON



Gina Lavazza, Committee Chair

ATTEST



Jeff Hindman, Staff Liaison