

**Citizens' Beautification Committee
Meeting Minutes of June 26, 2014
Osborn Room, Bloomington Police Station**

Members Present: Josh Barnett, Martha Burk, Amy Davis, Anne Driskell, Sue Floyd, Erica Larkin, Patricia Morin, Robin VanDermay, Patricia Marton, Jan Lauderman (ex-officio)

Members Absent: Val Dumser, Marlene Gregor

Staff Present: Jeff Hindman, Bobby Moews

Guests Present: none

Josh Barnett called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes of the May 2014 were approved as written.

Yearly Planning Session

Sub-committees were firmed up for the coming year:

Clean Up Week (Month?)

Robin VanDermay

Sue Floyd

(Parks & Recreation)

Arbor Day

Patricia Morin

Anne Driskell

(Parks & Recreation)

Beautification Awards

Erica Larkin

Amy Davis

Yearly schedule of activities:

January:

Clean Up: work on poster; approve poster

Arbor Day: Begin discussion

February:

Clean Up: Poster ready; Letters to groups

Arbor Day: Pick tree and school

Administration: Reminder about election

March:

Clean Up: Home, Lawn, and Garden Day, Saturday, March 7, 2015; Press release, mid March (city must approve)

Arbor Day: Trees ordered; Contact Superintendent and schools

Administration: Election of Officers

April:

Clean Up: Clean-Up Month; Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo, around 4/12

Arbor Day: April 24, 2015; Press Release about 2 weeks before; Tree bagging

Administration: Transition for officers

May:

Beautification Awards: Press release to encourage nominations

Administration: Summer adopt-a-pot planting

June:

Beautification Awards: Close nominations; Judging

July

Beautification Awards: Order awards; Order yard signs

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August:

Beautification Awards: Presentation at Bloomington City Council meeting (may put off until Sept. if desirable)

September:

Beautification Awards: Open nominations; Newspaper article

December:

Clean Up: work on poster

Adopt-a-Pot decorated for holidays

Dinner

Work on holiday decorations with DBA Design Committee

Robin VanDermay asked if anyone on the committee would volunteer to help her with upkeep of our various projects (W. Market, Post Office plot, Adopt-a-Pot, Bittner Park, etc.) Bobby Moews will have someone from Parks and Rec. look at the W. Market plot and see what can be done.

Jan Lauderman suggested that the committee needs to decide if we want to be a policy and development committee (original mission of the committee) or a garden club. No decision was taken.

DBA Design Committee Report

Martha reported:

The Mural sub-committee has posted two new murals on the McLean County Art Center website and is calling for artists.

The plan to paint the traffic control boxes in downtown has been put on hold for now, due to city personnel changes.

The Design commit plans to decorate downtown again for the holidays – opportunities to participate will be upcoming.

A banner project is being planned for 4 blocks each of East and Madison street. 20 banners in all. Purpose is to inform drivers of what is available downtown.

There will be a scarecrow contest in the pots and plots downtown in the fall.

Chair:

Josh noted that he has had meetings with the Mayor and the Directors of each city department to talk about the Beautification Committee.

Proposed Beautification Grant Program – Josh has spoken to Mayor Renner and others about this program and had positive feedback. The Beautification Committee would award 5 grants of \$1,000 to residential or not for profit properties in areas in need of improvement. Owners would apply in the fall. If the money made it through the budget discussions, they would be awarded in the spring. Money would go through gardening center. Amy and Josh will work on this proposal.

Awards:

Anne reported that the recycled awards, while a nice idea, are too expensive to be practical. She proposed that we table this idea and use the same awards as last year. This proposal was accepted (seconded by Martha). Anne will order the awards.

Drive Around for Beautification Awards:

An extensive discussion ensued. Our usual process of all driving around together violates the Open Meetings Act. In order for it to work, we would have to:

1. Post a notice of meeting place in Pantagraph
2. not have any discussions on the bus
3. Public welcome to ride with us
4. Post the entire route in the Pantagraph
5. Stop at each place on the route in case anyone wants to join us.

It was agreed that this would be too cumbersome to work. Josh will talk to the city legal staff again about this. We will discuss this again next year.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Bobby and Jeff shared that regular summer activities continue in their department. Robin asked how the Market Street planting the committee spearheaded was being maintained. Bobby indicated city crew had not been out there. He went on to say that looking back, it was probably a tough spot to pick for a planting because it is outside of the regular area maintained by city crews. Josh said in the future, new plantings should only be added if they can be maintained by current staffing levels within the Parks Dept. Bobby agreed. He also said he would send a crew to investigate the current status of the Market Street planting.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: None

Josh thanked everyone for coming. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.