

CITIZENS' BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

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Citizens' Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2015, 5 pm Parks Dept Maintenance Building

Members Present: Josh Barnett, Martha Burk, Vai Dumser, Sue Floyd, Erica Larkin, Patricia Morin, Robin VanDermay

Members Absent: Marlene Gregor, Amy Davis, Patricia Marton, *Laurel Schumacher*
Schumacher

Staff Present: Robert Moews, David Lamb

Josh Barnett called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Public Comment

No comments were offered by the public.

Arbor Day Tree Bagging

Members of the committee and staff bagged saplings in preparation for the city's Arbor Day Celebration taking place later in the week.

2015 – 16 Committee Leadership Elections

After some discussion by committee members, it was decided to postpone elections of new committee leadership until the May meeting in hopes of a higher attendance of committee members. It was decided that Vai Dumser would call the meeting to order and lead the committee through the election process (it will be the first item on the agenda). Josh Barnett offered to send out the minutes of April and the meeting notice/agenda for May. Josh will also see that they are posted on the CityBlm website. Bobby will take care of posting the meeting notice at the Bloomington Police Station. Motion made by Patricia Morin, second by Sue Floyd, motion passed unanimously.

2015 Arbor Day Celebration Update

Patricia Morin shared with the committee that everything was set for the Arbor Day Celebration at St. Mary's Elementary School. Josh said that Mayor Renner should be in attendance and that all current and incoming aldermen/women had been invited. David reported that the parks crew would be there about an hour before hand to make sure everything is set-up for the event. Patricia also mentioned that the children would have a short performance piece to share as part of the program.

2015 Beautification Awards Update

Nominees are now being taken for 2015 Beautification Awards. The city's communications manager, Nora Dukowitz, has posted the information on cityblm.org and will send a press release out next week to all location media. Josh reminded all that committee members each are expected to nominate 5-7 properties. The committee will decided at the May meeting when the drive around will be to judge the properties. David will secure the Parks & Rec van and take care of the driver. Robin asked about paper nominations and where they went when

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sent in. Josh shared that they should be turned into the Parks, Rec & Cultural Arts office at the City of Bloomington. However, the last two years, the committee received no paper nominations and all were received through the CityBlm website. Bobby agreed to check with Parks, Rec & Cultural Arts offices for paper nominations as they come in.

2015 Clean-up Week Report

Clean-up Week was another success thanks to the partnership of the City, Town and Ecology Action Center. New for this year, Josh and Michael Brown, Exec Director of the EAC, were featured on WGLT's Sound Ideas program promoting the effort. Some committee members expressed a desire to find another location for the committee to clean in 2016. While far West Market St had promise, many of the areas with the most need of cleaning were on private property.

Statement of Economic Interest Forms

Josh reminded all that Statement of Economic Interest Forms were due to Kathy Michael, McLean County Clerk, by the beginning of May. Committee members will be fined if their SOI is not turned in by the deadline. Questions should be directed to the McLean County Clerk's office.

Chairman's Report

Josh announced that Martha Burk has resigned from the committee effective April 30. Josh reminded the committee that April 30 is also his last day. Mark Larsen will be appointed to the committee in May, but that will still leave two openings. Josh has reached out to Michael Brown at the EAC to see if he has a recommendation for new members. The mayor appoints all committee members.

DBA Design Committee Report

Martha shared the DBA is working on a cookbook full of recipes from local residents. She also reported that the DBA's Grow the Square program is being rebranded Grow the Downtown. There will be a larger focus on plantings and beautification efforts throughout downtown – not just around the square. Work on downtown murals continues and community members should start seeing new projects in the coming weeks.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Bobby and Dave reported Bloomington has once again been named a Tree City USA and they will give a report about this program at an upcoming city council meeting. Mulch is now available at Miller Park for the general public. Mowing has started in all parks and will continue throughout the summer.

New Business:

It was discussed the possibility of developing a new planting at the corner of Mulberry St and Center St. That area is a vital entrance to downtown and new plantings with flowers will spruce up the current empty lot. Robin agreed to work with David to learn more about this. It was also discussed the possibility of Bloomington becoming a Monarch Butterfly City. This would be a great item to add to the Parks Dept current list of awards.

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The meeting ended with Josh thanking the committee for the pleasure of serving with them for the past four years.

Josh thanked everyone for coming. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.