
Citizens Beautification Committee Minutes
January 22, 2015

The Citizens Beautification Committee met in the Osborn Room of the Bloomington Police Department at 6 p.m. January 22, 2015. Present were Josh Barnett, chair, Martha Burk, Robin VanDermay, Sue Floyd, Valerie Dumser, Patricia Morin, David Lamb, Amy Davis and new committee member, Laurel Schumacher. Erica Larkin, Patricia Marton and Marlene Gregor were absent. Following introductions Josh called the meeting to order. Martha moved to approve the consent agenda and Robin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Past committee members Anne Driskell and Tammi Winters, who were also present, were presented with plaques in recognition of their service to the city.

There was a brief discussion of the citizens' input at the Citizens' Summit at the BCPA last Tuesday.

The first agenda item was the plan for the 2015 community cleanup week. Robin has met with Joe Tulley and Michael Brown of the Ecology Action Center. The EAC will send an email asking people to identify places which need to be cleaned. There will be a banner hung above Main Street. Cleanup week is April 11-18 this year. Kicking off the week will be the Sustainable Living event the prior week. Robin will pick up buckets from parks and rec on the 27th; they will be spray-painted and distributed to people. We discussed various ways to promote the event, including contacting civic organizations, including Neighborhood Associations and Friends of the Trail. David asked if we should have a common meeting spot on the 18th to assign cleanup spots to groups or individuals. It was suggested that there be several meeting places throughout the cities. Meeting spots will be determined later. Nora will handle the publicity for the city. There will be a flyer to send to the schools promoting the event. Josh suggested that the sign-up form, which will originate with several organizations, be filtered to a single web site for coordination purposes. Robin will be asking committee members to work in shifts that day. The next cleanup committee meeting will be at 8 a.m. March 5 at Coffee Hound in Normal.

Pat reported on plans for our Arbor Day celebration April 24. She distributed a list of school sites where we have planted trees on earlier Arbor Days. Following a discussion the committee chose Brigham School as this year's site. We will plant a white oak tree.

Josh announced there is one opening on our committee and asked us to talk to anyone we know who might be interested in serving.

Val suggested a field trip to the Arboretum when the weather is warmer.

Martha reported that the Downtown Bloomington Association will expand its Grow the Square plantings. The location at Market and Main will become a park. Pots on downtown Bloomington streets will again be planted. Calendars will be sold again this year. "I heart Bloomington" signs are again available. Christmas decorations were once again erected downtown with the help of this committee.

Dave reported that Parks and Rec is still involved in removing ash trees and that bids for mulch-making will go out soon. Free mulch should be available by March 1. Residents can pick it up at the parks.

Josh and Amy have not been able to meet with Jeff Jurgens at the city regarding the annual bus tour of the city to prepare for the Beautification Awards. They will try to catch up with him next Monday to get an answer to the Open Meetings problem. Amy announced that the Master Gardener Home, Lawn and Garden Day is March 7. Robin will handle our registration for a booth. Pat suggested we need a display board for both the Ecology Action booth and the H,L &G Day booth.

There were no public comments. Robin moved to adjourn and Sue seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Amy Davis, meeting recorder