

Beautification Commission Minutes

September 15, 2021

Roll call: All present except Robyn Shank, who was excused, Marcus Evans from DPW was present

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved.

Public Comments: Terry Bertrand from Barker Creek Nursery spoke to us about Butterfly Charities. Butterfly Charities promote healthy places for butterflies to feed and rest. He would like the Village of Elk Rapids to consider becoming a Monarch City. (We are on a migration route of the butterflies.)

The milkweed and nectar plants needed for food and home are increasingly vanishing around America. We would encourage planting milkweed and pollinator plants to help Monarch's survive. \$1500 has been set aside for the Village of Elk Rapids for 12 MONARCH CITY ELK RAPIDS signs and help with plants designated butterfly gardens by the Charity.

We had a favorable discussion about what it takes, and Terry left guidelines on how to accomplish this project, and the commitment the charity would make if decide to go forward. We could investigate areas around the Harbor and Village and by Rotary Park and other areas that would be suitable for making the gardens. This could be a draw for travelers that go to Butterfly Cities to come to Elk Rapids. We would be listed on the Monarch USA web site. Sonja attended a Garden Club meeting where Page Peters, a local high school junior proposed a butterfly mural that would be portable and displayed at the Well Head building as well as other places.

FINANCIAL REPORT: We have some budget left for DPW, contractual, trees and plantings and the Garden Club. We did not use any miscellaneous, one reason was we did not do any printing this year. \$1830 was paid to Barker Creek.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: no bills due this month. Susan Green asked about the \$4500 allotted for the Garden Club. The GC had a grant of \$3750 from the Grand Traverse Community Foundation. This money had to be used by September and now the GC is using the money we budgeted for them. (\$4500)

COMMUNITY GARDEN REPORT

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE: Jean and Paula took Sara from Traverse City that helped with our rain gardens, to look at the SE corner of the bridge and they determined it was not a candidate for a rain garden. Sara gave Sharon Lanier ideas of how to trim and cut back the bushes without removing any roots. Grapevines are choking out the bushes.

Yuchasz Walk Through Garden – the birch tree was removed
Zupin-Anderson Garden- a tree was removed

BEAUTIFICATION GARDENS

TERRACE GARDEN - Laura talked to Kathy Wittbrodt and the DDA does have some ideas for this area. The plans have been delayed because of covid. Susan Green asked Marcus if he could arrange a meeting of the DDA, Beautification, and Parks and Rec's to discuss the Terrace Garden. Marcus said he could.

Median Garden: Terry Bertrand will clean up the garden and make it ready for winter. He will maintain and re-engineer this Garden at n/c this Fall. We won't need as many annuals for next year. The plants will be divided for other gardens or offered for purchase or donations to Garden Club Members. The budget has been \$1830

to plant and maintain this garden and next year's budget will be \$2000.

Boardwalk Sitting Garden- the equipment hasn't arrived, that was ordered in May, to do the work in this garden, so to be continued. Probably about \$500 of hardscape

Triangle Garden- the irrigation has been repaired

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Outreach for garden help- no luck. Sonja had a great idea to establish an "Adopt a Garden" program. We would put together photos, descriptions, locations, and guidelines which would be publicized to the community, seeking volunteers to maintain a garden. Sonja, Susan Green and Brad will work on guidelines and how, "Adopt a Garden" should be presented and advertised.

Tree Doctor is on schedule to fertilize 17 trees, costing approximately \$500.

Boardwalk Garden hardscape will cost about \$500.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL: Laura talked about the Butterfly Mural, the Trail Town designation. Pure Michigan will be marketing Elk Rapids as a Trail Town destination city. Vacationer's look for these Trail Towns for vacations. She brought up the 13 Ways project, they will have 2 more listening sessions the Chamber of Commerce this coming week. Laura stated that Green ER is supporting Elk Rapids becoming a Butterfly City.

REPORT FROM DPW (MARCUS): The irrigation was fixed in the Curvey Garden; the Yuchasz Walk-Through Garden has had the Birch Tree moved; and the Zupin-Anderson Garden has had a tree removed. The equipment has not arrived to do the hardscape work in the Boardwalk Sitting Garden. The fence line on Cedar Street Parking lot and Noble Street needs attention. The DPW has kept it cleaned up in the past, but we to plan how to redo this area. Remove and replant? We will discuss at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

FALL TREES – 4 trees downtown have been identified to be replaced. Sonja will see what Zimmerman has in stock. **Picnic tables-** The Village has expressed that they have enough benches, in the future when someone wants to donate, we will suggest a picnic table. Veterans Park for one could use some tables. A name plaque can be put on the table.

Susan Green made a motion to keep the tables the same royal blue that we have been getting. Paula Jorge seconded, and all were in favor. Motion passed.

2022 Budget

Adopt a Garden budget

DPW budget increase

Web work budget

New brochures-Sonja talked to Garden Club crew leaders about descriptions and a current date.

We need a new cover picture.

Barker Creek for the Median Garden budget, \$2000

Garden Club \$4500

GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS-

The fence line along Cedar Street Parking and Noble St

New brochures

Sonja made a motion to adjourn and a second by Susan Green. The next meeting will be November 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Harvey