

Beautification Commission Minutes

April 20, 2022

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present were, Sonja Perry, Robyn Shank, Jean Hatch, Brad Basar, and Laura Shumate. Present by zoom were Paula George and Susan Harvey, Susan Green was absent. Guests were Kevin (DPW) and Ginny Doran.

Approval of minutes: No corrections or additions. Motion made by Jean Hatch and a second by Robyn Shank, all approved. Members on zoom cannot vote.

Public Comments

Financial Report

Approval of Bills: No bills currently, Our proposed budget was increased, most likely because of DPW's raising costs.

Community Garden Report

Robyn Shank and Ginny Dorner reported for the Garden Club.

The Garden Club is doing a sunflower planting to honor the Ukraine. Ralph at Pine Hill Nursery said he will plant the seeds and donate the flowers. The GC crew leaders will decide where to plant the flowers throughout the Village.

Yuchasz Walk Through

2 new top layers of brick on the wall that are deteriorating. A new Red Bud tree was planted in the fall to replace the dying birch.

Zupin Anderson Garden

Paula George's grant was successfully obtained to establish QR Codes for the Zupin-Anderson Garden. Paula worked on the information for the tags over the winter and the metal tags are almost ready to order.

Beautification Gardens

Terrace Garden

Temporary options were discussed regarding the decaying conditions of the railroad ties. This is a major concern with ground bees nesting in the rotten wood. We may have \$1000 in the budget to use for this. Brad and Kevin will go investigate.

Chlorination Building

The building needs some new plantings. Jean suggested butterfly bushes. Members will go shopping for bushes.

Pumphouse

The Pump House will have a new Butterfly Mural. We will plant butterfly bushes here. We may need to put the plantings in containers for protection. Laura brought up that maybe we can put some QR Codes here. Bonnie Miller and Jane Hamilton are GC contacts for information regarding the installation of the mural.

Cedar Street Parking

shrubs were trimmed down last year

Median Garden

Sonja mentioned a crooked tree on the East end of the garden that needs to be evaluated. Can it be straightened, removed, replanted elsewhere, or?

Boardwalk

Excavator never came last year to move the big rocks. Sonja mentioned that we planned to keep the area 3-6 feet closest to the water. Sonja, Kevin, and Jean will go after the meeting to look at the plans for the Boardwalk Garden

Report from Council

We need to go over the 13 Ways Recommendations as a Commission and see how we are involved. We also need to go over the by-laws to review at our next meeting. Green ER is having a kickoff in the Village Saturday at the museum. The Denos Museum will have a display for several months.

Steps must be taken for us to be a Monarch City. Educational information will be presented at future events that are taking place. The Butterfly Mural, Wednesday nights on River Street will have information available. There will be a Monarch release at Harbor Days Kickoff. Highlight gardens with pollinator friendly plants and avoiding certain pesticides in The Village.

Report from DPW

DPR will be 2 positions shy, so we must be patient with projects.

New Business

Adopt-a-Garden

Kaitlyn came up with amazing sign ideas that will be put in the gardens to advertise the adopt-a-gardens. The size of the sign would depend on the size of the garden. Adopt-A-Garden has a \$300 budget. The Triangle, Median, and Curvey Gardens have been adopted. Kaitlyn has done a great job of advertising. Laura thought we should do a more targeted marketing to businesses, church's, Rotary, and organizations. Jean will research tags to be put in the gardens that won't fade in the sun and are weather resistant. We have about 9 gardens that need to be adopted,

The Tree Doctor

The 2022 plan for Spring and Fall fertilizing is for 29 trees that we have identified (It includes the trees planted in the Gazebo and Library Gardens), it does not include the 4 or 5 trees we planted last Fall. The Tree Doctor said it would be about \$1200. Sonja asked for thoughts. We have \$1000 budgeted; we can use some of our trees and planting budget. Laura moves to fertilize all the trees for Spring and Fall. Laura makes a motion to fertilize all the trees, Jean

seconds the motion. All in favor, motion passes.

Bridge Baskets

Basket's will be filled by DPW with soil. We will schedule the planting of the bridge baskets at our next monthly meeting.

Picture/document file

We discussed sending our pictures and documents to one sight for storage so we can access for future use. We talked about residents sending in pictures, and that we need to filter them and get a disclaimer.

13 Ways - Talk about 13 Ways recommendation's our April 4 meeting

Governance Training

May 18, 6:00pm at the Government Center by Michigan State University

This is training for all Village Council Commission Members whom are part of the Village Government.

Annual Commission Reports will be due in September

Old

Business

Garden Brochures

Sonja updated the Garden Brochures with new pictures and information and added the year 2022. \$401 for 500 brochures. Sonja asked for a motion, Jean made a motion to order 500 brochures. The motion passed with full agreement.

Trees

The tree budget is for replacing dead trees on Village Properties. We need a procedure to replace or plant a tree for a homeowner's personal area. We have extra trees sometimes that might be available. Sonja thought there was a procedure developed a few years ago. We need to try and find this.

Boardwalk Garden

The excavator never came last year to move the big rocks at the Boardwalk Garden. Sonja mentioned that we planned to keep the area 3-6 feet closest to the water. Sonja, Kevin, and Jean will go after the meeting to look at he plans for the Boardwalk Garden. Blue Star and Zupin-Anderson Garden's irrigation was discussed. There was a problem when the Village lost power and the irrigation did not come on, many plants were lost. Money was put in the Village budget to replace these systems.

Adjournment

Laura made a motion to adjourn, and Brad seconded. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Harvey

