

Citizens Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes
Bloomington Police Department, Osborn Room
109 East Olive Street
Thursday, October 22, 2015, 6 pm

Committee members in attendance:

Val Dumser, Assistant Chairperson
Bobby Moews, Parks & Recreation
Erica Larkin
Laurel Schumacher, Recording Secretary
Robin VanDermay, Chairperson
Amy Davis
Marlene Gregor
Mark Larsen
Patricia Marton

Committee members not in attendance:

Sue Floyd
Patricia Morin
David Lamb, Parks & Recreation

1. Call to Order

Robin VanDermay called the meeting to order. Minutes from last month's meeting were approved by the committee.

2. Roll Call

See attendance above

3. Public Comment

None

4. Regular Agenda

Monthly Reports:

a. Chairman

Robyn spoke about beautification awards. Presentation will be at 7 pm at the city council meeting on October 26. All beautification committee members are encouraged to come.

b. Assistant Chair, information about the Bloomington Arboretum and John English

Val Dumser spoke about an article from a past newspaper (dated April 25, 2003) issue of the Pantagraph about John English. The Bloomington arboretum had original 12 trees for each Bloomington school. Since then, other

trees have been added for a variety of reasons. The Arboretum was named after John English. The committee suggested that we, as a group, should take a field trip to view it. It is something that the beautification committee might want to promote in the future. The tree book project is directly connected to the arboretum.

The committee discussed having a future meeting at the arboretum.

Val also shared that she has documents from past beautification projects. The committee discussed the importance protecting and archiving the paperwork. Bobby Moews suggested that the Parks and Rec dept. would help to organize and store documents. Saving the paperwork records digitally would be the best option. Mark Larsen and Val will discuss further and give some thought to collection and storage.

c. Awards update, City Council Meeting 10-26 7pm

As previously mentioned, the Bloomington beautification awards will be distributed at the next city council meeting which is Monday October 26th at 7 pm. Amy Davis gave the bills for the awards to Bobby Moews, who will pay the bills for the awards.

d. Clean up week

Robin shared that the beautification committee has previously been involved in clean-up day. The committee discussed whether involvement should continue. The discussion was about how can we, as a committee, get it out to the public? How can we help and be involved? Using social media and Next door neighborhood web site to get the word out was discussed.

We suggested that Nora Dukowicz be invited to an upcoming meeting (January) to help with pushing out the information. A successful clean-up will involve getting the information out to the public. Other ideas included getting sponsors for banners, being stationed at various city parks to pass out garbage bags and get community and neighborhood involvement.

e. Tree Book update

Tree committee has not been able to meet yet. We would like to meet at 5 pm on Thursdays beginning in January 2016, prior to the regular meeting time. Robin will check on the room availability.

f. Downtown Bloomington Association Design Committee, Marlene Gregor

DBA artist group had a scavenger hunt involving children, offering prizes. All participants learned a lot. They want to do it again.

November first Friday will have artist trading cards that will sell for \$5-15 to have an original piece of art to get them interested in art. There will also be scare crows contest. Hoping to get publicity for this.

Mural committee reported the Jeff Little mural is up. It is very nice and getting positive feedback. Next mural is a work in progress that will say Not In Our Town.

Corner of Main and Market, nice flowers were planted. Very well received. West of this to the ally, woody bushes were cut down but stumps were left. Stumps were painted white and tops were painted different colors.

Holiday decorations are in the works.

FlashMob is coming to the BCPA for pray and peace. Half hour of silence.

Facebook site and Nextdoor Neighbors is being used to communicate downtown information.

Looking for a downtown walking paths and the DBA is being asked to get involved.

Discussion of how to be proactive on informing public of Lincoln attractions downtown. It could be improved.

g. Bloomington Parks and Recreation

Bobby Moews discussed holiday decorations for downtown. Design committee from DBA will be taking charge of the downtown decorations. The wreaths will be heart shaped with rope lights and red bows. Wreath making party on November 13 & 14. Bloomington. Parks and rec will install when the wreaths are complete.

Ewing Park was designated by Audubon as an important bird park. Only 93 sites in the country with this designation. This is an important honor for our city.

294 trees will be planted throughout the community this fall. Ash trees are being removed or treated.

Lincoln branch of constitution trail, a group of girl scouts are planting a butterfly garden. Bloomington parks and rec is offering assistance by preparing the ground. The garden will be planted in the spring.

From Fire station 5 bike racks were acquired. Placement in the downtown area is being discussed. Bike fixing station has also been installed in the downtown area.

5. Adjournment

Amy Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Erica Larken second. A vote of 8 to 0 in favor of adjourning, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

The next committee meeting will be Thursday, November 19, 2015, 6 pm in the Osborn Room of the Bloomington Police Station.