

Madison Beautification and Tree Board
Board Meeting Minutes: March 21, 2011
Madison Municipal Meeting

Board Members Present: Liz Cuneo, Carol Umstaedter, Debbie Overcash, Sue Bish, Pat Cross, Amy Goddard Robison, Chad Hunter, Eric St. John, Lisa Thomas, Rose Berry, Gigi Bullman, Jeanne Steadman, Julie Ray

Board Members Absent: Shrail Heinrich

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by President, Liz Cuneo

The president welcomed the newest Board member, Julie Ray.

The president asked for approval of the February minutes. Debbie Overcash moved for approval with Julie Ray seconding.

Finance report was provided by Sue Bish, Treasurer:

- Beautification Board: \$12,722.13
- Tree Board: \$6,594.26

Tree Board Report:

Carol Umstaedter, vice president, provided an Arbor Week wrap-up. She indicated that the workshop provided diverse and interesting information to the public. It was hoped that more publicity next year would provide higher attendance. She is in the process of finishing her after action report on all Arbor Week/Day activities.

Beautification Board Reports:

Liz Cuneo, president, informed the Board that the roses had been completely removed from the requested areas, to include the cemetery on Hughes Road. She also discussed rose rosette disease and removal of the roses with Terry, who was designated by Sarah Sledge to be the contact with the Board on rose issues at the library. Terry will monitor the roses and inform her of any additional infection there.

Eric St. John reported on his trip to the Gulf States Horticultural Expo and the discussions down there concerning rose rosette disease. There is tremendous concern among all those attending not only about the disease but how fast it is spreading and how many roses are being affected. He reiterated to the Board that once the rose is infected the only way to deal with it is to remove it. He anticipates seeing more roses infected as blooming begins this spring. He also confirmed that, as we had heard from Dr. Jacobi, we will be unable to plant in an infected area, possibly for as long as seven years. They are also seeing the disease begin to infect other varieties to include antique and Cherokee roses (which is what 'Knock Outs' are bred from). He believes the situation will get worse before it gets better.

Gigi Bullman briefed the Board on the companion plant committee meeting. Eric brought several varieties of Viburnums for the Board to see, which the committee believes will be excellent companion plants as we re-plant this fall. Gigi asked for Board input into plants they believe should be considered

in our replanting efforts. The committee will continue to meet to develop a viable plan for areas in which the roses have been removed with an eye toward fall planting.

Sue Bish, Treasurer, reported on the signature trash receptacle being designed. She was able to show the design to the Board. At this point, the cost is being estimated at \$800. She will work with New Market Iron Works to make it as affordable and practical as possible.

She also informed the Board that the signature bench that the Board had committed to place in front of the new police department is being built and should be delivered within five weeks.

In the absence of Shrail Heinrich, Liz Cuneo updated the Board on the Pride of Madison (POM) program. Shrail is in the process of updating the guidelines for POM which will then be posted on the city web site. She will also produce an article for the newspapers informing the public that there are adopt-a-mile and adopt-a-park sites available. She is also developing an adopt-a-bench program, whereby the public can purchase one of the signature benches and place it in an agreed-upon location in the city and a plaque will be placed on it stating the reason for the bench.

Work is beginning on an art sculpture trail which will be called "Madison in Motion" under the Pride of Madison program. These sculptures will be placed first on the Mill Creek Greenway, with the hope that more will eventually be placed throughout the city.

Pat Cross reported on the beautification judging. She has mailed letters to all the contractors who participated last year informing them of the changes for this year. She has also contacted potential judges. She has four confirmations and one regret so far. Jeanne Steadman will begin publicity on the program in April.

Debbie Overcash reported on the luncheon plans. She received the contract from the Holiday Inn and forwarded it to Liz for signature. It has been signed and returned to the Holiday Inn. They have waived all but \$100 of the room fee and will be providing us the equipment needed for the luncheon.

Liz asked for a volunteer to chair the Yard of the Race contest. Julie Ray volunteered. Liz will forward her all the information developed from last year to insure the success of the contest.

Liz announced that due to Chad's suggestion, Shrail will be developing a Facebook account for the Board. This will give us another way to inform Madison citizens of our activities and update them on our programs. Liz is continuing to work with the city's IT department to update the Board web site.

Liz stated that she would be sending out several dates that she would be available to work at the Board's office. She is hoping that some of the members will be able to join her in putting the office in order. When she can find a date that works for most, she will contact the fire department and see if they can find the file cabinets and move them back into the office.

Carol Umstaedter updated the Board about her attendance at the Huntsville Tree Commission meeting.

There being no further business, the Board was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. with Carol Umstaedter moving for adjournment with Chad Hunter seconding.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Cuneo, Acting Secretary

