

## **Madison Beautification and Tree Board**

**Board Meeting Minutes: April 16, 2011**

**Madison Municipal Building**

**Board Members Present:** Liz Cuneo, Carol Umstaedter, Debbie Overcash, Shrail Heinrich, Sue Bish, Pat Cross, Gigi Bullman, Jeanne Steadman, Chad Hunter, Julie Ray, Amy Goddard Robison, Eric St. John, and Councilwoman Ronica Ondocsin.

**Board Members Absent:** Rose Berry and Lisa Thomas

### **Proceedings:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by President Liz Cuneo.

Finance report was provided by Sue Bish, Treasurer:

- \$ 12,326.96 (Beautification Board)
- \$ 6,594.26 (Tree Board)

Minutes were presented with Pat Cross motioning to approve and Julie Ray seconding the motion.

### **President's Update**

The board now has a Facebook page. Liz Cuneo thanked Chad Hunter for suggesting that one be created and Shrail Heinrich for her assistance in setting it up. She reported that within the first two weeks the page had 65 followers. The next posting will be to announce the new recycling program.

The office clean-up day was successful. Liz thanked Pat Cross, Sue Bish, Debbie Overcash and Chad Hunter for their assistance. A 'Knock Out' rose from the library (removed from the grounds of the Children's Garden) has been placed in a pot outside the door.

Liz requested that past presidents join her in the office (date to be determined) to review old files currently being stored with an eye toward updating and removal as needed.

The Madison/Huntsville Joint Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be hosted at the Botanical Gardens by the Huntsville Committee.

### **Beautification Updates**

#### **Signature Bench Project:**

Sue Bish stated that the signature bench the Board had agreed to purchase for the police station will be completed and ready for installation in approximately two weeks.

Pat Cross spoke with Candy Burnett, President of the Hospital Foundation, about benches for the Madison Hospital. She learned the hospital is planning to include 20 benches on their property. Pat stated that she informed Candy that the bench being donated by Madison Rotary will be Madison's signature bench.

#### **Yard of the Roses Program:**

Judging for Madison's Yard of the Roses will take place on May 5<sup>th</sup>, with Julie Ray, Sue Bish, and Liz Cuneo serving as judges. Julie Ray reported that flyers had been distributed to homes along the route, articles had been published in three local papers, and information had been posted to the new Facebook page.

### **Beautification Awards Program:**

Pat informed the committee that she has confirmed five judges, sent notices to seven landscape companies and has received two nominations for the Beautification Awards. She asked the committee for their input on whether to send all past participants (those for whom we have contact info) a letter regarding the new fee requirement. It was agreed that the extra cost in postage was worthwhile.

Jeanne Steadman is managing drivers and publicity and Debbie Overcash will be receiving luncheon RSVP's.

### **Pride of Madison Program:**

Shrail Heinrich reported that the City of Madison will be hosting a "Clean Madison Day" on May 21<sup>st</sup> and in support of this endeavor, all Pride of Madison participants had been encouraged to participate.

Madison in Motion received \$1000 (\$500 from City Council and \$500 from Mayor) to help with initial expenses. The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Signature Plant:**

Gigi Bullman reviewed points from an article shared via email prior to the meeting. It is believed that Rose Rosette Disease is a virus; the University of Arkansas is currently working on a treatment.

Gigi also announced that Dr. Jacobi has agreed to visit again sometime between May 16 and May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Debbie Overcash expressed concern over residents purchasing new 'Knock Out' roses without knowledge of the Rose Rosette Disease. The committee has provided press releases on the topic but discussed additional ways to make the public aware. Gigi volunteered to work with local gardening experts to create a professional statement to have on file.

Gigi also provided all committee members with a copy of AL Smart Yards.

Before leaving the grounds, Liz encouraged committee members to look at the diseased 'Knock Out' rose by the Municipal Building sign so they would be able to see the various characteristics of RRD.

### **Tree Board Updates**

Councilwoman Ronica Ondocsin shared detailed maps of the downtown revitalization plan and asked that the Tree Board provide suggestions for noted replacement trees. VP Carol Umstaedter will lead the committee selection team which includes Eric St. John, Jeanne Steadmann and Chad Hunter. Carol and the committee will report back to the Board at our next meeting with their suggestions as the city has asked for a one month response time.

With no other business to discuss, the Pat Cross motioned to adjourn and Julie Ray seconded the motion.

### **Meeting adjourned at 7pm**

**Minutes submitted by Secretary, Shrail Heinrich**