

Madison Beautification and Tree Board

Board Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2011

Madison Municipal Building

Board Members Present: Liz Cuneo, Carol Umstaedter, Debbie Overcash, Sue Bish, Pat Cross, Gigi Bullman, Jeanne Steadman, Julie Ray, and Lisa Thomas.

Board Members Absent: Rose Berry, Shrail Heinrich, Chad Hunter, Amy Goddard Robison, Eric St. John, and Councilwoman Ronica Ondocsin.

Proceedings:

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

Finance report was provided by Sue Bish, Treasurer:

- \$ 12,356.96 (Beautification Board)
- \$ 6,594.26 (Tree Board)

Minutes were presented with Sue Bish motioning to approve and Julie Ray seconding the motion.

Tree Board Update

Downtown Revitalization Tree Recommendations:

VP Carol Umstaedter and Eric St. John met with Madison City's Director of Engineering, Gary Chynoweth, to discuss the environment that the trees would have to contend with in the downtown area. Due to the cleanup activities from the April storms, work on the Downtown Revitalization, outside of the widening and paving of Wise Street, will not resume until October, after the Madison Street Festival. Due to this delay, the tree recommendation from the selection team (Carol Umstaedter, Eric St. John, Jeanne Steadman and Chad Hunter) will not be required as soon as first thought. However, Carol and her committee plan to present recommendations to Mr. Chynoweth as soon as possible.

Tree Status at Mill Creek:

Carol Umstaedter responded to reports that there were some trees at Mill Creek that had fallen over during the recent storms. Carol checked on the trees and confirmed several trees would need to be staked. She contacted Leroy at Parks and Recreation to request help with staking the trees. While at Mill Creek, Carol noted that one of the will oaks will require a Gator bag in order to survive. Carol also noted that there was damage to several of the red maples due to weed whackers hitting the bark of the trees. Liz Cuneo will discuss the issue with the landscaper. In addition, Carol will also look into tree bases as protection.

Beautification Updates

City Property Rose Survey:

Gigi Bullman provided a status on a survey of Rose Rosette Disease for roses planted on city properties. Gigi noted that the worst case of infestation was at the Madison Public Library, with 19 affected roses. The results of the survey are noted in the table below.

Rose Rosette Survey	
May 16, 2011	
Gillespie Road	13 affected roses
Madison Elementary	5 affected roses
Public Library	19 affected roses
Hughes Road Cemetery	4 small roots need to be removed
Dublin Park (Bill's Hill)	2 affected roses
All other city properties*	0 affected roses

*Madison Blvd Gateway, Palmer Park, City Hall, Dublin Entrance and front door

Liz Cuneo has discussed the situation with Ken of North Alabama Lawn Care and has contacted with his company to remove the affected roses for the Board.

Beautification Awards Program:

Pat Cross informed the committee that she has confirmed five judges, and has mailed seventy notices to past contestants and landscape companies. As of May 16, she has received eighteen nominations for the Beautification Awards. Jeanne Steadman is managing drivers and publicity. Due to the short turn-around between judging and the luncheon, Debbie Overcash will be mailing the invitations to the winners immediately after the judge's results are available.

Pat stated that one of the potential contestants contacted her about not receiving their Beautification Award sign from last year. Pat followed up with Parks & Recreation, who stated they would put up the sign that day (Monday, May 16th).

An additional note during this time was that Pat Cross and Julie Ray volunteered to plant asparagus ferns in the two urns in front of city hall.

Awards Luncheon:

Debbie Overcash reported that the Awards Luncheon is scheduled for June 30th at the Holiday Inn in Madison at 11:30 p.m. Chad Hunter will be helping with flowers and Sue Bish will help with collecting luncheon fees.

Yard of the Roses Program:

Julie Ray reported that due to the Run Through The Roses race postponement to June 18th, judging for Madison's Yard of the Roses contest will take place on June 16th. Julie Ray, Sue Bish, and Liz Cuneo will

serve as judges. Updates noting the date change will be submitted to three local papers, as well as updated to the new Facebook page.

Pride of Madison Program:

In the absence of Shrail Heinrich, Liz Cuneo reported that Bob Jones High School Junior ROTC has cleaned their assigned park at Abington Downs.

Liz also reported that the Adopt-A-Mile signs for the Knights of Columbus were missing. New signs have been ordered and will be placed at each end of the designated mile upon receipt and lettering.

Liz noted that the focus of "Clean Madison Day" was being changed from working in Madison to helping with storm damage clean up in neighboring areas. The date and time will remain Saturday, May 21st, 8am to 12pm. Buses will be provided to take volunteers to specific areas.

City Hall Hanging Baskets:

Jeanne Steadman filled ten hanging baskets with a beautiful collection of plants. Marvin, an employee at City Hall, hung the baskets at Madison City Hall and in front of the new Police Department on Monday, May 16th.

Yards of Madison:

Liz Cuneo reported that the Yards of Madison program has started for the season. Liz requested that all Board Members take note of beautiful yards within their own neighborhoods, as well as throughout the city of Madison, and submit those addresses for the award. Liz requested that the addresses be submitted to her via email within the next week.

Closing Notes and Reminders:

Carol Umstaedter reported that she attended the Huntsville Beautification Board (HBB) meeting and provided a presentation on the differences between a landscape designed for a residence and a landscape designed for a commercial site. They were most appreciative of her assistance.

Sue Bish stated that she talked with Earl from New Market Iron Works concerning the bench for the new Police Department. Earl stated that he hoped to have the bench delivered by May 27th, in time for the open house.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm

Minutes submitted by Julie Ray