

Madison Beautification and Tree Board

Board Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2011

Madison Municipal Building

Board Members Present: Liz Cuneo, Carol Umstaedter, Debbie Overcash, Shrail Heinrich, Sue Bish, Pat Cross, Gigi Bullman, Chad Hunter, Julie Ray, Amy Goddard Robison, Rose Berry and Councilwoman Ronica Ondocsin.

Board Members Absent: Jeanne Steadman, Eric St. John, 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:

- \$ 11,961.47 (Beautification Board)
- \$ 6,594.26 (Tree Board)
- \$ 1,065.00 (Income for Beautification Awards nominations)

May Minutes were presented with Julie Ray motioning to approve and Carol Umstaedter seconding the motion.

Tree Board Updates

Carol Umstaedter reported that she talked with Gary Chenoweth and he plans to have one section of trees planted on the west end of Main Street before the Madison Street Festival. Carol will be providing a tree recommendation list for all areas beforehand and will also supply the Historical Society, to include Chad and Jeanne, with a copy for their approval.

A few of the trees planted for Arbor Day at the Mill Creek Greenway park are having issues. Although two of them appear to be dead, Carol said there was some indication that the roots may still be alive. She has been watering the trees often in hopes of reviving them. However, it was suggested that she pursue pricing on Gator Bags to see if that might be an option as well.

Debbie Overcash asked Carol to check on a tree at Horizon Elementary School. The tree was planted in remembrance of a student and it appears to be in dire circumstances. Carol will check the tree and report back to the Board with options.

Beautification Updates

Beautification Awards Judging:

Pat Cross reported that judging went well. Although some of the past winners did not participate (Pat hand delivered applications when she had not heard from them) we had several first time nominees. In total, seventy-five properties were judged and sixty-four were awarded. Eleven scored a perfect 100 and will be recognized with an Excellence Award at the luncheon. Five properties were nominated for the Knockout Award.

Mayor Finley stopped by the morning of the judging to personally thank our volunteers, who were also treated to lunch at Main Street by the Board. Pat thanked Rose, Debbie, Ronica, and Sue for serving as drivers and Jeanne Steadman for her coordination of the luncheon and the gifts for the judges.

Jeanne Steadman will email letters to the non-winners and Pat will create a slide show, showcasing the award winning properties for the luncheon.

Beautification Awards Luncheon:

The luncheon is confirmed for June 30th at the Holiday Inn with an RSVP date of June 24th. Debbie Overcash brought one of twelve lovely green vases purchased for the luncheon to show the Board members. The vases will house floral arrangements for each table and will also serve as door prizes.

Liz said award plaques have been ordered and will be handed out by Council President Tommy Overcash and Councilwoman Ronica Ondocsin at the luncheon. All board members are encouraged to attend but will be responsible for covering the cost of their meal.

Yard of the Roses Contest:

Julie Ray announced that Run Through the Roses has been rescheduled for September 10th. The Yard of the Roses committee will begin PR in August and conduct judging on September 8th.

Pride of Madison Program:

Shrail Heinrich said that an Adopt-a-Mile group from Bob Jones High School had requested reflective vests. After talking with Liz and Sue, she ordered 30 for a little over \$100. New Adopt-a-Mile signs are also being ordered this week.

Yards of Madison:

Liz reported that for the first time in the program's history, a recipient has returned their certificate. The lady kindly stated that she was a renter and not responsible for the lovely gardens. Liz asked board members to keep an eye open for properties to nominate. It was felt by the Board that it was important to keep Yards of Madison going and that after the program received some publicity, the public would respond with their own nominations.

Signature Plant:

Gigi Bullman has measured the rose bed in front of the cemetery and will be providing details soon on the suggested plantings. She asked if there were easement or utility restrictions that need to be taken into consideration. (Councilwomen Ondocsin will check) Gigi emphasized that she felt it was important to have the plan and needed maintenance requirements outlined/in place before landscaping bids went out in October. Shrail suggested providing a plan to the Cemetery Board as well and adding suggestions for complimentary plants for the entrance beds.

Liz reported that North Alabama Lawn Care has been working to remove additional diseased roses. She said they have cleaned and replenished the mulch in both the Madison Elementary and Gillespie beds; they look very nice.

Signature Bench:

The signature bench, which was donated by the Board to the Police Department, has been delivered and placed in front of the new addition (east side of building). Shrail will work with Redstone Recognitions on a bench plate to recognize the donation.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Shrail Heinrich