

**Madison Beautification and Tree Board**  
**Board Meeting Minutes: September 19, 2011**  
**Madison Municipal Building**

**Board Members Present:** Liz Cuneo, Shrail Heinrich, Sue Bish, Pat Cross, Gigi Bullman, Joe Hackett, Julie Ray, Rose Berry, Chad Hunter, Amy Goddard Robison, and Lisa Thomas

**Board Members Absent:** Carol Umstaedter and Ronica Ondocsin, Council Liaison.

**Visitors:** Lee McBride, Sarah Katis, and Karen Lawler

**Proceedings:**

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

Finance report was provided by Sue Bish, Treasurer:

- \$ 9, 623.35 (Beautification Board)
- \$ 6,544.63 (Tree Board)

Minutes were presented with Chad Hunter motioning to approve and Julie Ray seconding the motion.

**Tree Board Updates**

**Arbor Day Poster Contest:**

Amy Goddard Robison reported that the 2012 Poster Contest is well underway. Columbia Elementary has already committed and has requested 130 posters.

Liz Cuneo asked Lisa Thomas to assist Amy with the judging portion. Lisa noted that she could be of assistance in getting other schools involved through her work contacts also. Judging will take place in January, with the winning poster being personally delivered to the judging site in early February.

**Arbor Day Planting:**

On behalf of Carol Umstaedter, Liz Cuneo reported that our Arbor Day Planting has been scheduled for Dublin Park on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. The Mayor has confirmed he will be present.

Next week, Carol Umstaedter will be meeting with Bonnie and LeRoy from Parks and Recreations to select locations for the eight Chinese Elms that will be planted. The trees are being donated by board member Joe Hackett.

**Tree City USA:**

Madison has been honored with a Tree City USA award for the tenth consecutive year. Liz will lead a small presentation to mark the occasion at the September 26<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. All members are encouraged to attend as the Mayor is presented with the award, a commemorative pin, and an official Tree City USA flag. Carol has recommended that the flag be flown at the Hughes and Madison Blvd intersection.

**City Park Survey Project:**

Carol Umstaedter is working with Dr. Andrew Scott and Mr. Charles Kirkland on the City Park Tree Survey.

## **Beautification Board Updates**

### **Huntsville/Madison Joint Meeting:**

The 2011 Beautification Board Joint Meeting is being hosted by Huntsville this year and has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Botanical Gardens (Murray Hall). Social Hour is at 5pm with the meeting beginning at 5:30pm. The main topic of conversation will be sharing how each group manages their annual beautification awards program. Other committee members will share special topics such as the Signature Bench and Trash Receptacle Program.

### **Signature Trash Receptacle Project:**

Sue Bish shared the receptacle design with the new members and reported that one has been ordered. She anticipates delivery to City Hall in late October.

The board also submitted a grant to the Madison Street Festival for funds to support a second receptacle. If approved, it will also be placed at City Hall.

### **Christmas Parade Float:**

Chad Hunter and Rose Berry have been busy planning the Beautification Boards float entry for this year's parade. They briefly shared their vision and said the theme is "Let it Snow."

### **Yards of Madison:**

Liz Cuneo reported that thirty-one certificates have been mailed this month.

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

Shrail Heinrich reported the Mighty Shawnee Indian Princess group will be conducting their fall planting on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at their Adopt-a-Spot in Historic Downtown Madison. She will be out of town but Liz Cuneo graciously offered to deliver an array of pansies and tulips the morning of the planting.

There was discussion regarding recognition plaques for the Adopt-a-Bench program. Sue Bish will talk with Earl from New Market Iron Works to see what he suggests.

### **Beautification Awards Program:**

Pat Cross reviewed her After Action Report for the Beautification Judging and passed the information on to Liz. The 2012 date has been set for Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. Pat passed around a property suggestion sheet and asked members to review the areas listed and to add their own recommendations.

Pat said that all properties nominated in 2011 will receive a letter next year encouraging them to apply and the application form will be included. New properties, identified by the committee, will also receive a letter.

### **Signature Plant:**

Rose Berry and Chad Hunter created a wonderful display in the lobby window of the Madison Library to recognize the anniversary of the City adopting the 'Knock-Out' Rose as its signature plant. Liz Cuneo encouraged all members to stop by and view the display.

Gigi Bullman requested consideration from the board to purchase and donate books to the Madison Library that pertain to Rose Care. She specifically mentioned "Right Rose, Right Plant." She also asked the board to make additional recommendations. The board allocated \$75 towards any new purchases and also requested that one of the books pertain to native trees of Alabama.

Rose Rosette Disease (RRD) continues to be identified in local landscapes. As part of the Board's charter to educate and inform the public, Liz will update the article on RRD she wrote previously and include pictures of the disease and submit them to the local papers. Gigi Bullman is planning a seminar at County Extension Offices concerning RRD. In another effort to get the word out about the disease, Gigi will invite local landscapers to the seminar so they can learn more about the disease and how to deal with it. Pat Cross will supply Gigi with a list of the landscapers in Madison who participate in the Beautification Awards program.

As our area is still trying to recover from the devastating tornadoes which destroyed so many of our beautiful trees, Lee McBride suggested that an article concerning the proper types of replacement trees for our area and the proper planting of same would be a good idea. He said he would be glad to work with Carol to help write such an article. He also recommended several brochures on native trees and planting that would be available at the County Extension Office. Gigi Bullman will check on the brochures to see what might be available.

Liz Cuneo will be briefing the Mayor on the status of the RRD after she, Sue and Gigi do another rose survey, which is scheduled for early October.

**City Hall Plantings:**

Liz Cuneo has contacted Marvin at City Hall and requested the hanging baskets be removed for the season. She also contacted North Alabama Lawn Care to assist with landscaping around the signature bench donated to the police department.

Chad Hunter will take care of planting the urns at the entrance of City Hall for the fall.

**2012 Officer Elections:**

Pat Cross announced the 2012 slate of officers, which will be voted on during the October meeting.

Liz Cuneo – President  
Carol Umstaedter – Vice President of Tree Board  
Chad Hunter – Vice President of Beautification Board  
Julie Ray – Secretary  
Sue Bish - Treasurer

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

**Meeting adjourned at 7pm**

**Minutes submitted by Secretary, Shrail Heinrich**