

MINUTES

BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE BOARD MONTHLY MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2009

Those in attendance:

Pat Cross, President
Liz Cuneo
Debbie Overcash, Vice President
Shrail Heinrich
Allison Wheeler
Jeanne Steadman
Carol Umstaedter
Gean Nelson
Kristen Kulavich, Secretary
Chandler Hall (sitting in for Betty Hall)
Mitzi Adams
Stephen Simpson, Treasurer
Bill Holtzclaw, Council Representative
Gigi Bullman, Advisor
Sue Bish, Advisor

Those absent:

Karen Jernigan
Darla Malueg
Rose Berry

Guests:

Stacy Krupp
Donna Elegante

OPENING BUSINESS:

Pat Cross, President, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. She introduced two Girl Scout Cadet Troop 631 sponsors, Stacy Krupp and Donna Elegante, who talked with the Board about the recycling project the Girl Scouts had undertaken to not only provide recycling bins to the city elementary schools, but to place them in the city parks as well. As the girls had talked with city officials, including Mike Cassell, city park director, they had discovered that it would take an extremely large amount of recycling bins to cover the parks. As the cost of them is quite high, they were asking for the Board's help in purchasing them. Bill Holtzclaw volunteered to speak with Mr. Cassell to determine the exact number needed which would help the Board decide if and or how much money they would be able to donate to assist in bin purchase. He will report back at the next meeting and the Board will make a decision at that time.

Pat Cross then requested a review and approval of the previous month's minutes. As not everyone had received the minutes in time to review them, the approval was tabled until such time as everyone could read and approve.

Stephen Simpson provided the treasurer's report. As of August 17, 2009 there was \$14,644.21 in the Beautification Board fund and \$5,748.13 in the Tree Board fund.

UPDATES:

Pat Cross and Debbie Overcash updated the Board on the success of the Beautification Awards Luncheon. There were 48 awards presented of the 58 nominations submitted. As they were briefing, the Power Point presentation that was shown at the luncheon was running, providing the Board with a picture of each winning landscape. Pat hand-delivered the awards that were not picked up and reported that all the recipients were not only pleased with their awards but in some cases, had not even been aware there was a Beautification Board!

Mitzi Adams reported that she was continuing to work on the Board web site, www.madisonalbeautification.org. She has made recent additions to the site, but did comment that it was an on-going effort.

Liz Cuneo updated the Board on Channel 42 slides. She had asked the Madison IT department to remove one outdated slide, update another one and had added a slide which provided the Beautification Board's meeting date, time and place. As of the meeting, it had not been updated to Channel 42, but Pat Cross will monitor the channel and let Liz know if it does not appear shortly so she can re-contact the IT department.

Kristen Kulavich reported on the 10K Run/Celebration. Construction is finishing up on the race route, so it is hoped that it will soon be certified. There will be a meeting of interested parties on Wednesday to further flesh out the race and celebration. Chandler Hall also presented the Board two T-shirt/Logo designs for the race and asked for Board opinion. After spirited discussion, Chandler was going back to the company who had volunteered their time for the design to see if they would be able to incorporate our thoughts into a revised design. Chandler did not think, however, that a new design would be ready for the Wednesday night meeting. Pat Cross also reported that Darla Malueg had secured the Highland Lakes clubhouse for the Celebration event and that the \$100 rental fee had been paid, as well as the \$250 refundable damage deposit.

Pat Cross discussed the on-going rose care at the cemetery at Hughes Road and Madison Elementary. Pat, Jeanne Steadman and Sue Bish had sprayed Round-up on the weeds on Hughes Road the previous Monday morning and then Pat and Liz Cuneo returned to pull weeds that evening. This morning Liz and Pat returned to Hughes Road and sprayed more Round-up and then moved on to Madison Elementary where they pulled up some of the more obvious weeds and sprayed Round-up where needed. The Madison Elementary site is in good shape, with minimal maintenance needed. There is one dead rose bush that will have to be pulled out and one bush that we believe has mites that will have to be removed as well. The Hughes Road site will need more regular maintenance to keep it in good shape.

Pat Cross reported that the 2010 budget request had been submitted to the city.

The Board will have a booth at the Madison Street Festival. Everyone was asked to take a time slot in the booth to spread the word about the Board and the work we are doing. Kristen Kulavich passed a sign-up sheet around for people to volunteer an hour or two to the effort.

PROGRAMS:

Liz Cuneo reported that there were 25 nominations for Yards of Madison (YOM) in the month of July. Each time Gregg Parker at the Madison Spirit runs an article about the program she receives more inquiries. One person nominated her entire neighborhood for the award. As this lady has also been the leader in ensuring her neighborhood won their first Beautification Award, it was decided that she would receive a 1000 Points of Light Award. This will be mailed at the same time as the August YOM awards are sent out.

As Karen Jernigan was absent, there was no report on Pride of Madison, but she is moving forward with the program, identifying spots which need sponsorship and setting up meetings to address areas of concern.

NEW BUSINESS:

Carol Umstaedter updated the Board on the Tree List and Tree Board Training. She indicated that there will be an Advanced Master Gardener's Tree Training presented by Ken Creel, Extension Service Agent. She asked for anyone interested in the training, which will cost \$70 for each person, to let her know ASAP so she could get their names submitted and accepted. Pat Cross indicated that the Board would pay for the training. The program is over a three day time span, September 24, October 8, and Nov 12, from 8-4. Gean Nelson, Gigi Bullman and Carol all said they would be interested in attending, so Carol will submit their names.

Bonnie Summerour of Parks and Recreation reported to Carol Umstaedter that she is working with the Alabama Urban Forestry Association (AUFA) to offer a course on tree care in North Alabama in 2010 that will be held at Dublin Park. She will keep us apprised so we can sign up as soon as it becomes available.

Carol Umstaedter also talked about the tree list we currently have posted on our web site and how quite a few of the trees are not appropriate for this area. We discussed how the list needed to be revised, and perhaps taken off the web site until it could be properly updated. Carol informed the Board that we do have a volunteer arborist, a Mr. Stony Gray, who will be willing to work with us when his health permits. Carol also suggested that when we have a new city attorney in place, that he/she be included in any discussions to re-vamp the tree ordinance due to liability issues.

Gean Nelson gave the Board a Power Point presentation on the traffic calming islands on Sullivan Street and what we might do to make them more attractive. There are a lot of issues involved, with no easy answers. The Board will continue to seek alternatives to what is currently in place, but which will also meet city requirements.

There being no further business, the Board was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Cuneo
Acting Secretary