

City of Madison
Beautification and Tree Board
Tuesday, April 17, 2018
City Hall
5:30 p.m.



Attendees:

Mike Keenan, Karen Lawler, Beth Agee, Marsha Harris, Amber Braman, and Gerald Clark

Absent:

Lisa Thomas, Cathy Scott, and Julie Ray

Minutes

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Mike Keenan.

Mike Keenan welcomed everyone. Mike addressed the concerns of Cathy Scott. She has a conflict of scheduling that would make her miss more than three meetings. He wanted to reassure that Board Members are not removed from the board that have excused absences and appreciates their time they volunteer to the organization.

Mike Keenan called for a motion to approve March 20th, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Karen Lawler moved to approve the minutes as written and Marsha Harris seconded the motion.

All Aye

Treasurer's Report

Karen Lawler reported that the current balance is \$4,445.65.

Reimbursement check was made to Marsha Harris for Arbor Day; however, Liz Smith still needs her reimbursement for the ISA conference.

Karen Lawler will need to sit down with Cory Brown and get an itemized sheet for the plants that have been planted at the gateway and city hall. She plans to cut a check for the difference.

Karen Lawler further apologized for handling family issues first and will be depositing the City Board appropriation check next week

Pride of Madison (Adopt-a-Mile)

Beth Agee has cleaned up the accounts and suggests pulling signs that have no point of contact nor have shown any upkeep. She has made a point of multiple attempts to contact persons.

Mike Keenan asked whether we would like to put something in the paper for recognition of their work and to solicit for more participants.

Mike Keenan brought forward a request from rotary club who wishes to personalize their adopt-a-mile sign with their logo.

The Board discussed an additional sign underneath the adopt-a-mile sign.

Beth Agee stated that it would most like need to be a case by case basis and board would have to approve each one. We need to keep our adopt-a-mile signs consistent.

Gerald Clark noted that there can be Supreme Court issues with allowing persons to add whatever they want to their signs.

Beth Agee motioned to not alter nor add any additions to the adopt-a-mile signage and Karen Lawler seconded the motion. All Aye.

Beautification Awards

Amber Braman reported that the keepmadisonbeautiful blog and Facebook were updated with the Arbor Day week and the announcement of the Beautification Nominations. She contacted Gregg Parker with The Madison Record to post the announcement.

Beth Agee asked to be sent last year's list of Master Gardeners to solicit for judges.

Amber Braman suggested that we do a blanket email to the whole organization.

Karen Lawyer requested that Amber email her last year's spread sheet for the Beautification Master List.

Beautification Awards Luncheon Update

Amber Braman stated that the lunch order was placed and noted we need to notify the Best Western about a week out of a head count of attendees. She and Liz Smith visited Parkers Florist to put the order in for the table arrangements. Order is placed for same amount of arrangements as last year but can be changed will need a notice a week prior to luncheon.

Karen Lawler requested that a formal invite go the Mayor and City Council to attend and present awards.

Mike Keenan agreed to MC the event. Amber Braman agreed to not being the MC and would work the check in table since we will be short handed that day on board members attending.

Beautification Award Signs

Julie Ray presented a complete list of sign requirements for Public Works to complete the installation of the new Beautification Award signs or removal of the old Beautification Award signs from properties not meeting the standards from the previous year.

ISA Chapter Conference

Liz Smith was absent and the discussion was deferred to next meeting.

Beautification Award Signs and Poles

Karen Lawler stated that removing and replacing the Beautification Signs is going to be a huge undertaking by Public Works and that we will be at the mercy of their scheduling. She expects that this task will need to be broken down into a few days and that Julie Ray and she will oversee the project.

Karen Lawler requested that the Care Sheet for the new signs be placed on the blog and Facebook. Further, to assure people that the signs are coming and to be patient. She also noted

that any poles that are cemented will not be removed by Public Works but the sign will be taken down.

New Business

Gateway

Mike Keenan wanted to discuss further about the Gateway. He has had discussion with Dustin Riddle about the upkeep and management. Mike Keenan and Gerald Clark have spoken in length with Mayor Finley about the appropriation and desire for us to continue maintaining the property.

Karen Lawler stated that the board has had issues in the past with the landscapers who did not take care to properly manage the bedding and border. Throwing weeds in the bed and killing plants only give the Board more work and it is back breaking work to fix the gaps of monkey grass in the edging.

Karen Lawler noted that the current Budget does not have a line item for the Gateway.

Amber Braman suggested the use of more perennial flowers.

Karen Lawler remarked that we have typically used Lantana but could look into Cat mint.

Beth Agee noted that some of the crape myrtles do not look very good and may be dead.

Mike Keenan requested the board make a plan for what they want planted and he would solve the man power issue. He would also do a follow up with the Mayor about the management by the Landscapers.

Bicentennial

Mike Keenan question the board whether to drop the Knockout Rose as the city flower since it has had significant and recurring disease issues and the municipal ones are being pulled.

Karen Lawler noted that there was a discussion a few years ago about using pollinator plants and not one particular plant to replace the knockout roses since there is no one plant that does not have diseases.

Discussion by the Board about possible pollinator and native plants included day lilies, oak leaf hydrangeas, lime light hydrangea, abelia, butterfly bushes, native azaleas, evergreen blueberry bushes, and helabores.

Beth Agee requested the board send five suggested plants to Mike Keenan for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41p.m.

Minutes prepared by Amber Braman.