

**City of Madison**  
**Beautification and Tree Board**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 21, 2018**  
**City Hall**



**Attendees:**

Amber Braman, Julie Ray, Gerald Clark, Tenesha Thomas, Liz Smith, Beth Agee

**Absent:**

Karen Lawler, Lisa Thomas

**I. Order of Business**

- i. *Welcome:*** The meeting was called to order at 5:37p.m. and all attendees were welcomed by Amber Braman.
- ii. *Roll Call:*** Roll call was conducted and the attendance was noted.
- iii. *Minutes Approval:*** Minutes from the meeting held on July 17, 2018 were approved with editorial changes. Tenesha Thomas motioned to approve minutes with a second from Beth Agee. Minutes were approved by the majority.
- iv. *Treasurer's Report:*** In Karen Lawler's absence, Amber Braman reported that the current balance is \$11,869.93. Amber also issued a friendly reminder to all to submit any outstanding receipts to Karen Lawler so she can closeout all costs for this summer's activities.

**II. Old Business**

- i. *Resignations and Open Positions:*** Amber Braman announced the resignations of Mike Keenan, Marsha Harris and Cathy Scott. In addition, Beth Agee's term will expire on 9/14/2018. Amber noted that with Mike's resignation, Amber would take over the President's responsibilities, and per the MBTB Bylaws, is currently the Interim President. Amber also noted that the positions of Secretary and Vice President of the Tree Board (including Poster Contest) were currently open. In addition, the responsibility for maintaining the Pride of Madison (Adopt-a-Mile) is also open. The current plan to fill the positions for 2019 is for the nominating committee to be appointed and submit nominees in September, and for the Officer election to be conducted at the October meeting.

### **III. NewBusiness**

- i. *Appropriations Meeting with Mayor:*** Amber Braman and Tenesha Thomas met with Mayor Finley prior to the Board meeting. The primary topic of discussion was the role of the MBTB in conjunction with work at the Hughes Road Gateway, the Madison Municipal Complex, the Memory Gardens Cemetery, Fire Stations, and 150/200 Committee Commitment. The discussion also included the necessary funding to cover those responsibilities.
- ii. *150/200 Committee Update:*** Amber provided confirmation that for the 150/200 Committee, the Board is obligated to provide 200 trees during 2019 to support the activity. There is no size requirement of the trees and it was discussed that sapling giveaways at the Arbor Day Workshop, Chamber Expo, and Poster contest could cover the majority of the obligation. The Board will also look at the Arbor Day Tree Planting and Replacement Plantings throughout the city to provide trees of a more notable size to support the 150/200 Event. The Board must also name a tree species that would be the Heritage Tree for the 150/200 Event. The Heritage Tree would be noted on the city website and would be noted in the 150/200 Event literature/publicity. Liz Smith suggested using a dogwood since it was a favorite at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Board members are encouraged to do some homework and return to the September meeting with other viable suggestions.
- iii. *Calendar Update:*** Amber Braman provided an updated calendar. All Board members need to review the calendar and provide any updates to Amber Braman prior to the September meeting.
- iv. *Beautification Ordinance - Qualifications Defined:*** During the previous meeting, the Board discussed the qualification that all Board members were required to live in the city of Madison. This requirement was investigated by Amber Braman and Tenesha Thomas. According to Amber, the purpose of this requirement was to ensure that the expenditure of Board funds would be determined by Madison city residents with no perception of conflict of interest. Amber shared that this was a state law and not something that the Board or City Council could update.
- v. *Beautification Bylaws – Suggested Updates:*** Tenesha Thomas took an action to obtain the latest approved version of the Bylaws and distribute to all Board members. All Board Members have an action to review the Bylaws, and provide any comments to the Bylaws to Amber Braman. All comments will be discussed at the September board meeting.
- vi. *Roles and Responsibilities:*** Julie Ray took an action to provide the draft handbook to all board members to help complete for a MBTB Handbook delineating roles and responsibilities for the various activities that the board supports throughout the year. All Board Members have an action to review, provide updates to one section, and provide those inputs back to Julie for consolidation.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm