

MINUTES
BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 20, 2009

Those in attendance:

Pat Cross, President
Debbie Overcash, Vice President
Kristen Kulavich, Secretary
Stephen Simpson, Treasurer
Mitzi Adams
Rose Berry
Liz Cuneo
Karen Jernigan
Darla Malueg
Jeanne Steadman
Carol Umstaedter
Sue Bish, Advisor
Gigi Bullman, Advisor
Bill Holtzclaw, Council Representative

Those absent:

Shrail Heinrich
Gean Nelson
Allison Wheeler

OPENING BUSINESS:

Pat Cross, President, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Pat requested a review and approval of the June 15, 2009 minutes, which was then approved by a voice vote. Stephen Simpson, Treasurer, updated the Board on the Beautification and Tree Board accounts. There is currently \$14,749.93 in the Beautification account and \$5,734.32 in the Tree Board account.

UPDATES:

Debbie Overcash updated the Board on the progress of the plans for the Beautification Awards luncheon on July 23rd. The centerpieces, which will be made by Debbie from purchases at Old Time Pottery, will also serve as door prizes. Members from the Board planning to attend the luncheon include: Pat Cross, Debbie Overcash, Sue Bish, Allison Wheeler and Rose Berry. Bill Holtzclaw, Council Representative, will also attend. A printed program and a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Debbie Overcash and Pat Cross will be available that day. Redstone Federal Credit Union donated the certificates to be presented to each winner.

Gean Nelson briefed the Board on her completion of the necessary maintenance on the plants in the foyer of City Hall.

Jeanne Steadman reported to the Board on the status of the hanging baskets at City Hall. She also stated that they had been fertilized.

Betty Hall updated us on the work being done on the City and Beautification and Tree Board websites. She and Mitzi Adams are working on content. The design is almost complete.

Carol Umstaedter reported to the group that trimming of trees and hauling of debris was still on-going by Huntsville Utilities. There have been a total of 779 plants/trees removed. She will give a final report at completion. Carol is re-evaluating the tree survey for the parks.

Pat Cross and Debbie Overcash met with Kate Gray, president of the Madison Chamber of Commerce, and asked her to chair a committee for the 10K Run/Celebration. They also met with Mayor Finley concerning the Run. Darla Malueg checked into insurance/permits and alcohol information with Cameron Grounds, Revenue Director. Darla reported that the Run is awaiting confirmation of sponsorship for the celebration venue at the Highland Lakes clubhouse. A check for the deposit amount will be due shortly. Final edits are taking place with the sponsorship structure and Betty and Chandler Hall are handling the website.

Pat Cross updated the Board on the ongoing rose care required at the beds on Hughes Road and Sullivan and Mill Streets. Another session of weeding and Roundup will be required, as well as application of Image for the nut sedge. Gean Nelson worked on the rose bed at Mill and Hughes (fire station bed) to bring it into compliance with city requirements.

Debbie Overcash updated the Board on the Horizon School landscaping project. The school will schedule a work day and Madison's Public Works Division has provided them with mulch.

PROGRAMS

Liz Cuneo updated the group on the Yards of Madison program. Several new nominations were received after an article featuring the program appeared in the Madison Spirit. Appreciation was expressed to Gregg Parker of the Spirit for his willingness to promote the program.

Karen Jernigan reported that Gregg Parker had prepared an article on the Pride of Madison (Adopt-a-Mile, Adopt-a-Spot, Adopt-a-Park) program for the Madison Spirit, which included the names of several areas in need of adoption. Pat Cross indicated that the Board needs to put additional emphasis on this program, especially in terms of identifying areas in special need of adoption. She also mentioned that the Madison Chamber of Commerce has agreed to adopt the Veteran's Garden in downtown Madison.

The "calming islands" on Sullivan Street were discussed. They are in need of replanting, but due to the special circumstances of the islands, only certain plants will be able to be placed there. It was agreed the Board would continue to investigate how best to landscape these islands.

Pat Cross announced that Mayor Finley will present a proclamation at the September 14, 2009 City Council Meeting for Bill's Hill at Dublin Park, in honor of Bill Cline, a former Beautification and Tree Board member. His presence on the Board contributed greatly to the success of the Board and the City of Madison. He will be missed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pat Cross requested that each program within the Beautification and Tree Board needs to submit their budget requests to her for the new fiscal year by August 13, 2009.

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pat Cross updated that there are term expirations coming up for five board members. If they are interested in another term on the Board, they will need to fill out the necessary paperwork before their term has concluded.

Pat updated that a nursery farm that is going out of business will let the Board have access to its plants for city projects for the next three years.

Pat updated that someone would need to sign the Board up to participate in the Madison Street Festival. After a brief discussion, the Board decided not to have a float in the Festival parade. Stephen Simpson is chair of the Madison Street Festival booth.

Pat announced that she will email Joy Parker of the Huntsville Beautification Board to inquire about the joint meeting held at the end of the year. It is their turn to host.

Jeanne Steadman reminded everyone that September 26th is Green U at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Cuneo
Acting Secretary