

MINUTES
BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 17, 2010

Those in Attendance:

Pat Cross, President
Carol Umstaedter, VP, Tree Board
Karen Jernigan, Treasurer
Rose Berry
Sue Bish
Shrail Heinrich
Darla Maleug
Jeanne Steadman
Gigi Bullman, Advisor
Kristen Kulavich, Advisor

Those Absent:

Liz Cuneo, Secretary
Betty Hall
Debbie Overcash, VP, BB
Stephen Simpson
Bill Holtzclaw, Council Rep

OPENING BUSINESS:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Pat Cross, President. The April minutes were approved with Sue Bish motioning for approval and Jeanne Steadman seconding.

Karen Jernigan, Treasurer, reported that there was \$4,195.86 on account for the Tree Board and the Beautification Board had monies on hand in the amount of \$9,754.16.

UPDATES:

Shrail Heinrich and Jeanne Steadman reported that the Beautification Awards judging will be on Thursday, June 10th. Drivers will be Debbie Overcash, Sue Bish and Rose Berry. There will be seven judges, with everyone meeting in the conference room at City Hall at 8:30 a.m.. Drivers will leave with their judges at 9:15 a.m., returning to Main Street Café at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. Gift certificates from Catbird Seat will be given to the judges as a thank you.

Pat Cross stated that she would again take pictures of the winning sites, using them in a slide show presentation the day of the Beautification Award luncheon, which will be held on Thursday, July 29th.

Sue Bish reported on her efforts to secure a company to construct the signature metal benches and trash cans. She has narrowed her list to three companies. Her main concern at this point will be to finalize the number of benches/trash cans needed to commit to a final order. Pat Cross will talk with Allison Wheeler to see if Greenways and Trails are interested in ordering benches to complement our city's greenways and trails.

Jeanne Steadman reported that the city hall baskets are prepared and at her house awaiting pickup from Marvin at City Hall.

There is still some confusion on the domain name situation. Research is still being done to be able to link the Board web site with the city web site. Shrail will check through her records at home to see what information she might have that could be of use to Betty.

Darla Maleug reported on the Run Through the Roses wrap-up. There were 500+ runners in attendance, with 52 police assisting during the run. The awards were held in the Bob Jones High School gym. Darla also reported that there were 90 people in attendance at the Celebration Saturday night.

Kristen Kulavich stated that she was hopeful next year a 5K race and a 1K fun run would be added to the event. Kristen said there is now a five year plan in place for additions to the race. The Run Through the Roses committee is pursuing a city entity/connection which will allow the race to fall under their purview. Kristen also reported that all of the sponsors for this year's race were so pleased by the results that they have already signed up for next year.

Pat Cross reported that in talking to one of the runners, they praised the race route, but stated that the beginning announcements had been difficult to hear. It was suggested that the public announcement system be improved for next year.

Pat Cross reported on the Beautification Board support for the Run. 200 flyers were handed out by Board members and youth volunteers from Inside/Out Ministries to residents along the race route. The flyers informed the residents about race details and the Yard of the Roses contest. Bill and Betty Adams at 98 Timber Ridge were selected as the winners of the first Yard of the Roses contest. An article on the contest and their information was submitted to the Madison Magazine and Madison Spirit.

Board members placed 150 roses along the race route, picked them up after the race and all roses have been sold. Six roses from the race were presented to Mill Creek Elementary School from the Rose Grant Program.

Carol Umstaedter suggested that perhaps a formalized statement on what the rose grant is and how it is to be used be prepared. Pat Cross will research this and report on her progress at the next meeting.

Pat Cross also announced that the Patriot Academy will join with the Beautification & Tree Board in the fall to plant knockout roses along the Eastview Extension just west of the bridge in the area between the sidewalk and street.

PROGRAMS:

In the absence of Liz Cuneo, Pat read a report from Liz on the progress of the Yards of Madison (YOM) program. All the regular participants from last year have been emailed, reminding them that Yards of Madison has resumed. She has received one nominee from that email. Ed Collins, of the Madison HOA group, has sent YOM information to all HOAs in the area. Liz has submitted an article on the program to Madison Magazine, which has run it twice. She also submitted an article to Madison Spirit, but there is a two-week hold on articles right now. There are three nominations so far this month, one of which is a carry-over from last winter. Liz also encourages Board members to nominate any yard they feel is worthy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Carol Umstaedter reported on plans she has for the north parking area of the Mill Creek Greenway in the fall. She stated that she would like to begin tree plantings on the greenway this fall for Arbor Week, taking advantage of the cooler fall weather, with a dedication in the spring to coincide with Arbor Week activities. Carol would like to continue the instruction program during Arbor Week, repeating the tree workshop. She will also encourage elementary school participation in the Arbor Week poster contest.

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pat Cross reported that the Board banner is missing. She asked that all members check their garages/storage areas to see if it has been misplaced. If it cannot be found, we will have to purchase a new one.

Pat Cross also recommends that work continue on the office and storage buildings in the next two weeks, time permitting.

Carol Umstaedter reported on the Huntsville Tree Board's meeting and discussion on the pending EPA legislation and its effect on air quality ozone limits which have a good possibility to be lowered. One helpful idea is to plant more trees. However, tree plantings alone will not offset the air quality problems nor solve the ozone limits. Carol stressed that no decision or plans have been made at this time to deal with this very complex problem. More information will be forthcoming.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Cuneo
Secretary