

MINUTES
BEAUTIFICATION AND TREE BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2010

Those attending:

Debbie Overcash, VP Beautification
Carol Umstaedter, VP Tree Board
Liz Cuneo, Secretary
Karen Jernigan, Treasurer
Sue Bish
Kristin Kulavich, Advisor

Those absent:

Pat Cross, President
Rose Berry
Betty Hall
Shrail Heinrich
Darla Maleug
Stephen Simpson
Jeanne Steadman
Gigi Bullman, Advisor
Bill Holtzclaw, Council Rep

OPENING BUSINESS:

Carol Umstaedter, in the absence of president Pat Cross, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. As there were no objections to the August minutes, Debbie Overcash moved for approval with Sue Bish seconding.

Karen Jernigan reported that the Beautification Board had monies on account in the amount of \$6,606.69 and the Tree Board had \$8,945.86.

UPDATES:

Debbie Overcash briefed the Board on the Beautification Awards luncheon. There were 60 people in attendance. As of the meeting date, the Board was still awaiting the invoice for the luncheon from the Madison Chamber of Commerce. Sue Bish commented that Debbie did an outstanding job with the luncheon and that the table centerpieces were outstanding. It is Debbie's recommendation that next year the luncheon be moved from the Chamber of Commerce meeting. It has outgrown the space and we need to explore other options and locations.

Sue Bish informed the Board that the signature benches ordered by Greenways and Trails would be ready by the end of this week. Carol Umstaedter suggested that Allison Wheeler of Greenways discuss placement of the benches with the city engineering office to make sure they are not placed near the trees which will be planted in November at Mill Creek Greenway North.

Sue also said that she is working with Madison Hospital on the purchase of several of the signature benches for their campus and that it is also hoped that said benches will be placed in the historical district as well. Sue is in contact with Amy Furfori to further that goal.

The mayor's office has agreed to purchase three of the signature benches and they will be placed outside the front of city hall. Sue is working with the mayor's office to insure funding of said benches before the end of the fiscal year.

Carol Umstaedter passed out a schedule for the Arbor Day 2011 activities beginning with the tree planting at Mill Creek Greenway North. Carol is also doing preliminary work to make contact with the lead fifth grade teacher in each elementary school to insure that fifth graders in the Madison City schools are able to compete in the state Arbor Week poster contest. Carol also asked for Board volunteers to assist with all the Arbor Day/Week activities that will be coming up.

Carol also briefed the board on the tree damage from a contractor at Wall Triana and Highway 72. The damage is so extensive that the trees will have to be removed and new trees planted in their place. Carol is working with the city engineer to ascertain which contractor is responsible and solicit their participation in removal and funding of the new trees.

Carol reported on her research on Heritage tree designation for trees in the city of Madison. As extensive research and coordination will be required and the Beautification and Tree Board city ordinance will have to be amended, it was agreed by those present that the Board would take a long term view of this effort.

Rose Berry emailed Debbie Overcash concerning the Signature Plant celebration with an excellent idea concerning the southeast corner of Hughes and Mill Road. Debbie has encouraged Rose to chair the event and Rose has agreed to move forward with her idea. The Board looks forward to the fruition of Rose's plan.

PROGRAMS:

Liz Cuneo briefed the Board on Yards of Madison activity. It is believed that due to the intense heat our city has experienced that people are not as interested in working in their yards and/or nominating outstanding yards they may see. Liz continues to send articles about the honorees and the program to the Madison Spirit, Madison County Record and Madison Weekly.

Debbie Overcash stated that she is working with Kory Alfred, the new head of Parks and Recreation to streamline and re-vamp the Pride of Madison program to insure it is more efficient.

NEW BUSINESS:

Karen Jernigan announced that the budget is due shortly to the mayor's office. She, Debbie Overcash and Liz Cuneo, in the absence of Pat Cross, will be working on the budget and should have it ready for submission in the next few days.

Kristen Kulavich briefed the Board on GreenU, which will be held August 28th at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. Liz Cuneo contributed several different handouts the Board had available for Kristen to use at the Madison booth.

OPEN FORUM/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kristen stated that the two trees the Board has contributed to the Children's Garden at the Madison Public Library should be planted the last of September.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Cuneo
Secretary