

Madison Beautification and Tree Board

Board Meeting Minutes: Feb. 22, 2011

Madison Municipal Building

Board Members Present: Liz Cuneo, Carol Umstaedter, Debbie Overcash, Shrail Heinrich, Sue Bish, Pat Cross, Gigi Bullman, Jeanne Steadman, Chad Hunter and Councilwoman Ronica Ondocsin. **Guest:** Julie Ray

Board Members Absent: Rose Berry, Amy Robison, Lisa Thomas, and Eric St. John

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm by President Liz Cuneo.

Finance report was provided by Sue Bish, Treasurer:

- \$ 12,804.29 (Beautification Board)
- \$ 6,697.03 (Tree Board)

The City's contribution was received and reflected in the submitted balances. Liz Cuneo asked that all committee chairmen consult with Sue Bish to be sure they are within their budget allocation as they proceed with their projects.

President's Report:

Liz Cuneo reported that roses have now been removed from Madison Elementary, Madison Library, and along Gillespie. Parks and Rec is waiting for Public Works to finish with the removal of the roses at the Hughes Cemetery. Target date for completion is the end of February. Due to concerns of future infestations, she and Gigi Bullman will continue to monitor roses throughout the year.

It was also noted that the board will purchase a signature bench for the new police station entrance once construction and landscaping is complete.

Tree Board Reports:

Carol Umstaedter, Vice President, provided the below updates.

As part of our Arbor Day events, a workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 24th. Guest speakers and topics are as follows:

- Stoney Gray (Certified Arborist) on how to select an arborist
- Mark Byers on how to select a tree
- Carol Umstaedter on the proper way to plant a tree.

The display case at the Madison Library is being sponsored by the Tree Board for Arbor Week. Rose Berry and Chad Hunter were commended on the excellent design.

At the Feb. 14th City Council meeting, Elisa Castaneda (1st place), Sophie Guo (2nd place), Gautham Gorti (3rd place) and Zain Sultain (Honorable Mention) were recognized for their Madison Arbor Day poster entries. Elisa's poster placed third in the State of Alabama competition, which also provided her the opportunity to plant a tree with the State's First Lady. In addition to this honor, copies of her poster will be on display at City Hall and the Botanical Gardens.

The board congratulated Carol for overseeing such a successful program and expressed their support for expanding the poster contest in 2012. Carol plans to contact teachers in the fall to encourage participation for next year's contest and will begin soliciting sponsorship to help underwrite poster expense.

Beautification Board Reports:

Gigi Bullman updated the board on the knock out rose companion plant project. She is creating an information packet that will outline a set criterion for our plantings. She is asking that board members provide suggestions on which plants have grown well in their personal yards with little help. The list will include trees, shrubs, perennials, and ground covers. The goal of the companion plant is to provide diversity in the knock out replanting to lessen the chance of the virus spreading.

Sue Bish is working with New Market Iron Works on a trash receptacle design to compliment the benches.

A Pride of Madison update was provided by Shrail Heinrich. This year's program umbrella will include Adopt-a- Park, Adopt-a-Mile, and the new Art Trail. The Art Trail Steering Committee met on February 8th and agreed to call the trail "Madison in Motion".

Jeanne Steadman reported that the new road plan for Main Street will include 20' concrete islands that have a tree with a small plant bed around each base. She proposed the board consider adopting these beds. Discussion on that was tabled until construction was completed so the board could review the final design.

Pat Cross announced that Beautification Awards judging will take place on June 9th. Light refreshments will be served that morning and Jeanne Steadman will arrange for small gifts (around \$5 each) and lunch at Main Street Café. Drivers will be taking pictures of each nominated site, with the photos being used in a power point presentation during the Awards luncheon.

Liz Cuneo has submitted a Press Release regarding the new fee and submission requirements for all nominations and has had the 2011 nomination form placed on our webpage.

Debbie Overcash shared details of the upcoming Awards Luncheon, which is scheduled for June 30th at the Holiday Inn. She and Pat Cross met with Chef Michael to select a menu and were able to secure the meal for \$15 per person. Chad Hunter will assist Overcash with creating centerpieces, which will also serve as our door prizes. Sue Bish will handle finances. Redstone Federal Credit Union has agreed to provide all printing and Liz Cuneo will work with Redstone Recognition for plaques.

A short discussion on whether to invest in a new Beautification/Tree Board banner took place. Pat Cross made the motion to purchase one; Shrail Heinrich seconded; and the motion was approved by all in attendance.

Cuneo asked that all committee chairmen present an after action report at the end of their project or by the end of the Board year. These reports will be kept on file for future member information and assistance.

Cuneo also noted that the office would need to be cleaned up and organized. She will ask for assistance in March.

Prior to concluding the meeting, Liz Cuneo asked those present for suggestions on what projects should be listed on the webpage. The following were noted: Arbor Day Poster Contest, Yard of the Race, Seminars, Tree Plantings, and Signature Benches.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Shrail Heinrich