



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

Committee Members: Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Mary-Anne Krutila, Councilor Bonnie Henderson, Kimberly Richardson, Barb Hacking, Carys Wyn Hughes, Cindy Carlson

Staff: Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and a Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Kimberly Richardson

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated August 1, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden

Barb Hacking stated that with all the rain recently, the garden is flourishing. Volunteers are hoping to get into the garden by the end of the week to do some weeding.

4.2 2024 National Symposium Plans – Charlottetown (Oct. 17-20, 2024)

Kimberly Richardson reported that the chocolates are ordered and can be picked up on October 7, 2024. Vicky Trotter stated that payment has been sent for all the chocolates.

Vicky Trotter will work with the Corporate Communications Specialist next week and finalize the design of the 2025 symposium post card and provide a proof to CIB members to review. Arrangements with the printer have been confirmed for a quick turnaround.

Staff will place an order for CIB badges for all members who require one.

4.3 2025 National Symposium Update

Mary-Anne Krutila checked in with Rebecca Doutre and Sonia Parrino to update them that Stratford has the chocolates and cards for the welcome dinner. CIB National is very pleased with the plans that are arranged so far for Stratford hosting in 2025. Ms. Krutila will follow up with the Stratford Chef School to inquire about them participating during the 2025 Symposium. Kimberly Richardson and Mary-Anne Krutila will put a presentation together for the November CIB meeting to keep the committee up to date.

4.4 Landscape Design Plan Update

Barb Hacking suggested that as part of Scott Wentworth's design plan, CIB could purchase trees to be planted near the Ted Blowes Garden as the grove area outlined in the design. This planting could be part of the pollinator pathway program. Ms. Hacking will contact Scott Wentworth later this fall regarding the plan and appropriate trees to plant. Vicky Trotter stated that plans to plant a grove will need to be approved by the Parks & Forestry Manager and the Parks Board at their October meeting.

4.5 Review of 2024 Projects and Budget

Vicky Trotter provided an update on the previously discussed yellow bench to replace the current one at the Ted Blowes Garden. Ms. Trotter stated that the local manufacturer does not make benches in yellow and has a small variety of colours to choose from (black, white, beige or grey).

The request to place a yellow bench at the garden is still proceeding to the Parks Board on September 9, 2024 for approval.

Other options would be to have Community Services replace the wooden bench that is currently there with another wooden bench and paint it yellow. Alternatively, a standard metal bench that is put in the parks could be purchased and have it professionally painted yellow.

Ms. Trotter will research if there are any other manufacturers of recycled plastic benches who make yellow ones and also inquire if the Stratford manufacturer can provide some answers on the final coat and if a plaque can be attached. Kimberly Richardson will inquire if the recycled plastic benches can be painted.

Cindy Carlson will contact Christine Ritsma at SDSS to co-ordinate an event with CIB to add new soil to the SDSS urban garden. CIB could fund up to \$1,000.00 to purchase the soil for students and CIB members to add to the garden at the event.

Motion by Cindy Carlson

Seconded by Carys Wyn Hughes

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee organizes a student engagement eco-event with SDSS to assist students with new soil for their urban garden and spend up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 to purchase soil, supplies and any equipment rental expenses for the event. Carried

Ms. Carlson will let CIB members know as soon as possible the date of the event should SDSS be interested in having the soil added. The goal would be to hold it the end of September or the first week of October.

Cindy Carlson no longer present at the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

5. New Business

5.1 2025 CIB Budget Request for Council

A discussion took place regarding the 2025 budget request and what costs should be considered for the upcoming year.

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes
Seconded by Kimberly Richardson
THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee requests a 2025 budgetary figure of \$15,000.00 from the City of Stratford. Carried

CIB Events	\$1,000.00
Student/Youth Engagement	\$1,000.00
Garden Maintenance/Plantings/Improvement Expenses	\$2,000.00
CIB Symposium Expenses	\$5,000.00
CIB Registration	\$1,000.00
Special Projects – Landscape Design Project Confederation	
North & Indigenous Collaboration	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	\$15,000.00

5.2 Committee Appointments

Vicky Trotter updated the committee that appointments are moving forward and have been added to the September 9, 2024 Council agenda. Anyone who has applied for re-appointment will have their application included. The next round of appointments will take place in November.

Kimberly Richardson no longer present at the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

5.3 CIB Awards

Mary-Anne Krutila inquired with the committee members when CIB took over the annual garden contest from the Civic Beautification and Environmental Awareness Committee. She noted it was not listed in the Profile Book as an event, nor was it shared or discussed at any meetings. Councillor Beatty explained that CBEAC and the CIB Committee, prior to becoming a committee of the City, jointly did this event. When CIB became a city committee this event transitioned to CIB through CIB National. Barb Hacking stated that in the past the signs and the prizes are donated annually and she and Carys Wyn Hughes review the entries. The City’s Corporate Communications Specialist posts nomination information on social media. Ms. Krutila stated that these events

should be communicated, discussed and planned for as a whole committee. Councillor Beatty stated that as a committee they will strive to better communicate all the events and programs to new members as part of onboarding. Vicky Trotter stated that moving forward, when the program information is released, it will be listed on the CIB agenda and members can volunteer to assist. Barb Hacking stated it is usually around April that it opens up.

6. Upcoming Events

- 2024 National Symposium (Charlottetown, PEI) – October 17-20, 2024
- Annual Pumpkin Parade – Friday, November 1, 2024
- 2025 CIB National Symposium (Stratford, ON) – October 16-19, 2025

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the September 5, 2024 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:04 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:37 P.M.