



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, January 2, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

Committee Members: Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Kimberly Richardson, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Barb Hacking, Yvonne O'Reilly, Linda Wakenhut, Mary-Anne Krutila, Carys Wyn Hughes

Staff: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Cindy Carlson, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator

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 Mary-Anne Krutila

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated December 5, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden

Barb Hacking reported that the holiday lights are lighting up the bridge. The trees CIB purchased have been planted and the new yellow chatter bench will be installed in the spring. Community Services will have porous pave installed in the location (to be determined) and the bench will be secured to the ground. Members will consult with Quin Malott, Parks & Forestry Manager to discuss the location. Councillor Henderson suggested a picture of the new bench could be provided to the Parks Board for their information.

4.2 2025 National Symposium Update

Councillor Beatty reminded members that there is a virtual meeting scheduled on January 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. with CIB National to kick off planning for the 2025 Symposium.

Items discussed regarding planning:

- Kimberly Richardson inquired if there was an update from Vicky Trotter regarding the Festival ticket code that can be included in the registration;
- Mary-Anne Krutila will draft a list of potential speakers for discussion at the January 24, 2025 meeting;
- Will discuss all promo deals that can possibly be offered to delegates when they are registering;
- Kimberly Richardson will confirm with caterers that they will hold the dates until after the meeting on January 24;
- Kimberly Richardson confirmed that UTRCA staff will participate in the Symposium;
- Mary-Anne Krutila suggested reaching out to the other Advisory Committees to inquire if they would be willing to volunteer. Brad Beatty noted that it would be helpful to let any organizations know about the Symposium and inquire about their availability to assist. Kimberly Richardson also suggested contacting students to volunteer;

- Vicky Trotter is inquiring about audio equipment that can be used for the duration of the Symposium;
- Mary-Anne Krutila stated that CIB National provided notes from their previous meeting, so will most likely do the same for the January 24 meeting. Notes will be provided to the entire committee to keep those who cannot attend up to date.

4.3 Landscape Design Plan Update

Barb Hacking has spoken to Kevin Bonnell, Manager of Inclusion, Equity & Indigenous Initiatives for the City of Stratford regarding the landscape plans. Councillor Beatty inquired if Vicky Trotter could contact Mr. Bonnell to attend the next CIB meeting to discuss the project further.

Barb Hacking will contact Scott Wentworth to inquire about a meeting closer to the Spring.

5. New Business

5.1 Gateway Discussion

Carys Wyn Hughes reported that she has been in discussions with Mayor Ritsma regarding the gateways project. The Mayor stated that he would be contacting the Director or Community Services for some further information. Ms. Wyn Hughes will follow up with the Mayor for an update.

Carys Wyn Hughes will provide an update at the February CIB meeting.

5.2 CIB Spring Fling

The 2025 Spring Fling will be held on Saturday, May 24, 2025. Linda Wakenhut will contact the Local Community Food Centre to inquire about possibly collaborating with them this year. Further discussion at the February meeting regarding a collaboration or remaining at the Stratford Market.

5.3 Scott's Miracle Grow Annual Garden Contest

CIB members would like to participate in this program again in 2025. Barb Hacking stated that the application form usually gets posted in February. She will share the application with members once it is available and confirm that the committee is on board to participate. You can either participate with (6) or (12)

winners. Members discussed also investigating the possibility of choosing a winner/runner up in each Ward and one commercial winner/runner up.

The City's Communications Specialist posts that the nominations are open for local gardens. A working group of CIB members then reviews the nominations and signs and prizes are distributed.

6. Upcoming Events

- Spring Fling – May 24, 2025
- Scott's Miracle Grow Contest
- 2025 CIB National Symposium (Stratford, ON) – October 16-19, 2025
- Pumpkin Parade – November 1, 2025

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025, 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 January 2, 2025 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:04 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:53 P.M.