



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., City Hall Auditorium, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford ON

Committee Members: Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Kimberly Richardson, Barb Hacking, Yvonne O'Reilly, Linda Wakenhut, Cindy Carlson, Mary-Anne Krutila

Staff: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Carys Wyn Hughes, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and a Moment of Silent Reflection

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Conduct Statement

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Kimberly Richardson

Seconded by Linda Wakenhut

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated March 6, 2025 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 2025 National Symposium – Planning Update

The following updates were provided at the meeting:

- Committee members met virtually with CIB National representatives on March 26, 2025;
- CIB National will take over confirming the catering contracts and liquor license;
- Committee members will confirm entertainment for CIB National;
- Members will work on the volunteer component. CIB National has provided a spreadsheet that can be filled in closer to the event date;
- Committee members reach out to the Horticultural Society for support with the walking tours. CIB members will walk the walking tour route to confirm exact route and timing. Linda Wakenhut stated she would like to continue the collaboration between the Master Gardeners and CIB;
- Mary-Anne Krutila will contact the Stratford Festival head gardener to confirm details;
- MC's and speakers have been confirmed. Kimberly Richardson will send CIB National a list of the speakers and a brief description of their presentations;
- The International Town Hall will now be held on Saturday. The schedule will be updated to accommodate this, including bus timing;
- CIB National is looking after all audio/visual;
- Ted Blowes celebration will be held on Friday, cupcakes will need to be ordered;
- Mary-Anne Krutila will reach out to a local Native Elder and inquire if they would be available to participate;
- Cindy Carlson stated that the floral urns in Charlottetown were borrowed from local nurseries and suggested that Stratford should look into doing the same;

- Kimberly Richardson will contact a local nursery to inquire if they would be willing to be a 2025 sponsor for CIB and support them with plants, décor, soil and collaborate for items required for the Symposium;
- Yvonne O'Reilly stated that now that CIB members have provided background work, the key aspects of the Symposium now fall under CIB National's responsibilities. CIB members should look for direction from National representatives on any next steps. Councillor Beatty stated that once the key items have been finalized, then CIB members can work on the extra details. Councillor Beatty suggested that members could begin compiling a list of extras that they would like to consider incorporating into the event;
- Mary-Anne Krutila stated she was happy to hear that National representatives were open to sharing the catering between local businesses and not to just one, it is important to support the community as whole;
- Mary-Anne Krutila inquired about inviting representatives from Destination Stratford to attend the next CIB meeting to discuss sponsorship opportunities, how CIB can recognize vendors for the Symposium, and how best to promote Stratford and the Symposium.

Councillor Beatty suggested that if CIB members could compile a list of desired businesses that could be potential sponsors, that the list could be provided to CIB National. CIB National most likely has a sponsorship request form letter that they will send out. Yvonne O'Reilly stated that a list was previously provided to National, Mary-Anne Krutila will refine the list down to 5-6 businesses for specific items and re-submit it to National. Ms. O'Reilly inquired if National already takes the initiative to contact Destination Stratford to work together.

Kimberly Richardson has provided CIB National with the link to Destination Stratford that they can include in the invitation. Ms. Richardson volunteered to put together the contact information for the representatives at Destination Stratford and send it to CIB National and strongly suggested they reach out to them in order to help promote the event. Mary-Anne Krutila will provide the sponsorship list to Kimberly Richardson to include.

Kimberly Richardson stated that by the May CIB meeting the walking tour should be finalized.

4.2 Update on Ted Blowes Garden

Barb Hacking reported that the recent wind has blown a lot of debris out of the gardens already. Some of the bulbs will be coming up soon. Once the weather has warmed up and the pollinators have found other homes, volunteers will begin working in the garden.

4.3 Landscape Design Plan Update

Councillor Beatty will request Vicky Trotter contact Community Services staff to inquire if they have notes or updates regarding the plans for the Indigenous medicine wheel and fire pit project planned for this year and will update the committee.

4.4 Update on Spring Fling Event

Linda Wakenhut reported on the joint venture with Garden Stratford and the CIB Committee. CIB will be provided with a table at the event to display and hand out information. CIB members attending the event will each be required to purchase a Garden Stratford membership (\$15.00) in order to participate, due to insurance purposes. Mary-Anne Krutila suggested deferring purchasing plants to give away at this year's event and instead use the funds towards the Symposium. Barb Hacking inquired if CIB should find out if they should be giving plants away at the event, as the other plants are being sold by donation. Could CIB give away seeds instead.

Yvonne O'Reilly questioned whether it makes sense to partner with Garden Stratford this year or stay with their own CIB Spring Fling at the Farmer's Market. Councillor Beatty agreed that perhaps this way the committee can give away plants and seeds and promote CIB. Kimberly Richardson suggested that the committee could also consider attending the slow food market on a Sunday as an option.

Mary-Anne Krutila noted that this year it is very important to make connections with organizations such as Garden Stratford to look for support when it comes time for the Symposium. Even if the two groups do not align this year for the sale, members will be valuable assets when it comes to assisting with Symposium tours and other events. Ms. Krutila will be at the sale and can distribute some CIB information and seeds.

Yvonne O'Reilly suggested CIB could present at a future Garden Stratford meeting and start building a valuable relationship with them.

Motion by Kimberly Richardson

Seconded by Cindy Carlson

That the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee continue with the Spring Fling event at the Stratford Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 24, 2025. Carried

Councillor Beatty will contact the Agricultural Society and book a table for May 24, 2025.

4.5 Update on Gateways Project

Deferred to next meeting.

4.6 Update on Scott's Miracle Grow Garden Contest

Barb Hacking reported that Stratford has been accepted for the 2025 contest and will be provided with (12) signs and prizes. Members suggested that this year perhaps there could be (6) residential winners and (6) commercial winners. Members will aim for the end of July to begin the contest to give the gardens a chance to grow. Members noted that it would be nice to leave the signs up for the Symposium or ask winners to put the signs back up for the event.

5. New Business

None noted.

6. Upcoming Events

- Spring Fling Event – May 24, 2025 – Stratford Farmer's Market
- Scott's Miracle Grow Contest – July/August 2025
- 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, May 1, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex (Mansbridge Room), 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

8. Adjournment

Motion by Barb Hacking

Seconded by Cindy Carlson

THAT the March 6, 2025 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:05 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:22 P.M.