



## Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CiB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

**Committee Members:** Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Carys Wyn Hughes, Barb Hacking, Jenn Mitchell

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

**Regrets:** Cindy Carlson, Councillor Bonnie Henderson

#### 1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:06 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. Welcome New/Returning Members

Councillor Beatty welcomed new member Jenn Mitchell. Members and staff introduced themselves.

Vicky Trotter reviewed some of the 2025 projects that CiB has worked on, how to request an item be included on an upcoming agenda and how to contact staff if you are unable to attend a meeting or have any questions. Ms. Trotter will forward this document to all members for their information.

#### **4. Election of 2025/26 Chair & Vice-Chair**

Staff declared nominations open for the 2025/26 Chair of the CiB Advisory Committee. Barb Hacking nominated Councillor Brad Beatty.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

**Motion by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**Seconded by** Barb Hacking

**THAT the nominations for the 2025/26 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee Chair be closed. Carried**

Councillor Beatty indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.

**Motion by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**Seconded by** Jenn Mitchell

**THAT Councillor Beatty be elected as the 2025/26 Chair of the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee. Carried**

Staff declared nominations for the 2025/26 Vice-Chair of the CiB Advisory Committee open. Barb Hacking nominated Carys Wyn Hughes.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

**Motion by** Barb Hacking

**Seconded by** Jenn Mitchell

**THAT nominations for the 2025/26 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried**

Carys Wyn Hughes indicated that she would allow her name to stand.

**Motion by** Barb Hacking

**Seconded by** Jenn Mitchell

**THAT Carys Wyn Hughes be elected as the 2025/26 Vice-Chair of the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee. Carried**

## **5. Adoption of the Previous Minutes**

**Motion by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**Seconded by** Barb Hacking

**THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated October 2, 2025 be adopted as printed. Carried**

## **6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **6.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden**

Barb Hacking reported that the tulip trees have been purchased and will be planted along the path from Ted's garden to the existing circle of trees for the future Indigenous project. Tulip trees are home to Tiger Swallowtail butterflies. Locates will be completed in the area and the trees will be planted in the spring.

There is one autumn blaze maple tree and Councillor Beatty will contact the Parks & Forestry Manager to confirm the location.

A sign has been re-located to the Ted Blowes Garden under the Butterfly Bridge that was previously located in the Hope Garden downtown. The sign is slate and the front is no longer legible. Ms. Hacking inquired if it could be refinished. Carys Wyn Hughes will contact the original supplier and inquire about options.

Ms. Hacking has access to some more tulip bulbs and will pick them up.

### **6.2 Pumpkin Parade Review**

Barb Hacking reported that the event this year was great. Most notably, the decision to have Public Works place bins ahead of time in Market Square for people to directly throw their uncarved pumpkins into was really helpful and cleanup was much quicker. Ms. Hacking suggested that next year, CiB could advertise that the bins will be there to let people know ahead of time. Vicky Trotter also suggested signs could be posted directly on the bins as well.

The two farms who take some of the pumpkins came and picked up the number of pumpkins they wanted and the remaining pumpkins were taken in the bins by Public Works staff to compost at the landfill.

The Pumpkin Parade will be listed early on the CiB agenda to allow for planning discussions, as the Committee will now be taking the lead on this event.

CiB will store the supplies that CBEAC previously had, members and staff will discuss a good storage location for the supplies.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Annual Committee Report to Council**

Councillor Beatty reviewed the draft 2025 Annual Report that is submitted to Council to update them on what the committee has been doing. Committee members were given the opportunity to provide feedback prior to the report being submitted.

### **7.2 2026 CiB Registration Options**

Councillor Beatty reported that CiB National is offering a new program for 2026 that Stratford could register for. It is called "Healthier Livable Cities". There are three options that Stratford can choose from in 2026:

1. Host the judges and be evaluated, as is usually done every two years, at a registration cost of \$2,215.00 + HST;
2. Register in the new "Healthier Livable Cities" category for \$2,650.00 + HST;
3. Register as non-evaluated this year (National is permitting this, as Stratford just hosted the National Symposium in October) for \$725.00 + HST;

Members discussed all three options and feel that registering to be evaluated in the regular category would be the best choice for 2026. Vicky Trotter will inquire if the registration fee can be paid from the 2025 budget or needs to wait for the 2026 budget.

**Motion by** Jenn Mitchell

**Seconded by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends \$2,215.00 + HST to register for the 2026 CiB judging evaluation. Carried**

### **7.3 Symposium Tulips**

Councillor Beatty reported that 2000 tulips bulbs were received as a thank you for hosting the 2025 National Symposium. Community Services staff has already planted the bulbs in the Shakespearean Gardens. Vicky Trotter will send a thank you on behalf of the committee.

#### **7.4 City of Stratford Gateways**

Carys Wyn Hughes reported that in the 2026 budget, there is \$5,000.00 allotted for the gateways project. Vicky Trotter will gather some initial quotes to give the committee an idea of what costs might be. The most economical option would be to partner with other organizations to move this project along. Ms. Hughes will contact Destination Stratford to inquire about grant opportunities once some quotes are received. Vicky Trotter stated that eventually this project will need Council approval for design and cost.

**Motion by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**Seconded by** Barb Hacking

**THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee requests the Council Committee Coordinator procure initial quotes for the design of potential gateway concepts. Carried**

#### **8. Updates on Upcoming Events**

- Annual Scott's Miracle Grow Contest
- Spring Fling Event
- Pumpkin Parade – November 1, 2026

#### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex (Mansbridge Rm), 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford

#### **10. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**Seconded by** Jenn Mitchell

**THAT the December 4, 2025 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 12:06 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:21 P.M.