



A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom Committee (CIB) was held on April 1, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., electronically.

Present: Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Linda Hawken, Kimberly Richardson, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Barb Hacking, George Keirstead, Cindy Carlson

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Quin Malott – Cemetery, Parks & Forestry Manager, Carys Wyn Hughes, Paul Smith

Minutes

1.0 Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3.0 Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion by Kimberly Richardson, seconded by Cindy Carlson

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated March 4, 2021 be adopted as printed. Carried

4.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) 2021 Spring Events – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty has contacted the Stratford Agricultural Society to inquire about CIB having a table at the Stratford farmer's market to hand out flowers, seeds, and information in lieu of the annual planter day. Barb Hacking reported that the seeds are being shipped and she should receive them soon. They will need to be individually packaged prior to going to the farmer's market.

b) Anti-Littering Campaign Update – Kimberly Richardson

Kimberly Richardson shared with the Committee the poster that Mike Beitz designed to promote anti-littering. The information will be posted online intermittently throughout March and April, including some additional information encouraging residents to take 20 minutes and do a clean-up around their residence during Earth Week. Cindy Carlson suggested sending the information to SDSS to encourage staff and students to do a clean up around the high school. Kimberly Richardson suggested forwarding the poster to the Chamber of Commerce to encourage businesses to participate in the clean-up.

c) CIB Website Update – Councillor Beatty/Kimberly Richardson

Kimberly Richardson reported that Mike Beitz agreed to work with the Committee on an ongoing basis to add and update content on the CIB webpage.

d) 2021 Miracle Grow Garden Selection Program – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking reported that Stratford was selected to participate in the program once again. Organizers will be sending the prizes for the winners. Ms. Hacking will work with Mike Beitz to promote nominations for the gardens.

e) Update from CIB National – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty forwarded Committee members an e-mail outlining some dates for workshops/seminars that CIB National is holding. There is also a list of awards that are due for submission in August.

5.0 New Business

a) Gardens of Hope Community Project at Confederation Park – B. Hacking

Barb Hacking discussed a possible partnership for CIB with Gallery Stratford and Destination Stratford at Confederation Park and the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden. There is a brick wall in the park that previously had Confederation Park written in metal letters on it, which have since fallen off. The idea would be to paint "Confederation Park" back on the wall along with butterflies on the front and back.

This would be a great spot for people to take pictures and post online to encourage visitors to the park and garden. The second part of the project will be to paint a mural on the sides of the bridge and two large metal electrical boxes that have previously been painted. The project is going to the Parks Board on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 for their approval prior to moving ahead with plans. Ms. Hacking has been working with Gallery Stratford and Destination Stratford on funding opportunities. Cindy Carlson inquired if CIB would be permitted to seek corporate donors or families who want to help with the project. Councillor Henderson noted the only draw-back is that donors would not be permitted to have their names posted due to restrictions in the park. Ms. Hacking suggested that any donations to the project would be better handled by the Gallery.

Motion by Barb Hacking, seconded by Cindy Carlson

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$4,000.00 to partner with Gallery Stratford and Destination Stratford on the painting of the Confederation Park wall and Bridge to Nowhere as part of the Gardens of Hope initiative with CIB National, pending approval from the Stratford Parks Board. Carried

b) Beehives – George Keirstead

George Keirstead inquired if he could contact an apiarist about putting some hives in Stratford. Barb Hacking supported possibly putting some in the pollinator garden. The hives need to be far enough away from where people may be. Councillor Henderson suggested contacting local apiarist, Stuart Arkett, to inquire about the possibility of placing some hives. Cindy Carlson will contact Mr. Arkett and report back.

6.0 Upcoming Events

No new events to report.

7.0 NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., electronically.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councillor Bonnie Henderson, seconded by Barb Hacking

THAT the April 1, 2021 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:55 P.M.