



A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom Committee (CIB) was held on May 6, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., electronically.

Present: Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Linda Hawken, Kimberly Richardson, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Barb Hacking, Cindy Carlson, Carys Wyn Hughes, Paul Smith

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Quin Malott – Manager of Parks, Forestry & Cemetery, George Keirstead

Minutes

1.0 Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3.0 Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion by Kimberly Richardson, seconded by Linda Hawken

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated April 1, 2021 be adopted as printed. Carried

4.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a) 2021 Spring Events – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty advised he has confirmed that the Ag Society will provide a spot at the Saturday, May 29, 2021 Farmer's Market for the CIB Committee to hand out seeds, flowers and CIB information. Barb Hacking has received the sunflower seeds from Miracle Max's Minions. There will be a donation box located at the Farmer's Market for Miracle Max's Minions, should anyone wish to donate. Ms. Hacking will be packaging the seeds in biodegradable cups.

The Committee agreed that they would like to continue to give away pollinator plants again this year. Carys Wyn Hughes suggested CIB could purchase plants from the upcoming SDSS plant sale. Cindy Carlson will contact SDSS to inquire about purchasing plants and will inquire if they have yellow flowers available.

It was confirmed that members will pick up the CIB flags and banner from the Clerk's Office prior to May 29th. Councillor Henderson will circulate a google schedule for members to sign up to work at the market.

Barb Hacking will send the CIB National information on Growing Hope to Mike Beitz, Corporate Communications Lead to post on social media to encourage residents to plant yellow and let them know that the CIB Committee will be at the Farmer's Market on May 29th.

Motion by Kimberly Richardson, seconded by Cindy Carlson
THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$500.00 to purchase plants and cover various expenses related to the May 29, 2021 Farmer's Market event. Carried

b) Anti-Littering Campaign Update – Kimberly Richardson

The information has been posted and distributed.

c) CIB Website Update – Councillor Beatty/Kimberly Richardson

No new updates were provided.

d) 2021 Miracle Grow Garden Selection Program – Barb Hacking

No new updates were provided. Barb Hacking will let the Committee know when the prize packages have arrived and work with Mike Beitz to do a media release and post on social media.

e) Update from CIB National – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty reported that this week is Communities in Bloom Week. He reminded members that there are webinars starting today, May 6 and again on June 3, July 8 and August 5, 2021 on various topics.

May 15, 2021 is the deadline for community information to be submitted to CIB National for judging this year. Councillor Beatty will send the information in. Members will continue to take and collect pictures for the Stratford book to submit for judging. Councillor Beatty will contact Destination Stratford to inquire about winter lights photos. Carys Wyn Hughes will contact a local photographer who has helped CIB other years to see what he has available to contribute.

f) Gardens of Hope Project (Confederation Park) – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking reported that the artists workshops originally scheduled in April were cancelled due to the recent lockdown. Two workshops were held virtually for participants. No update on plans for the bridge have been provided. The deadline for grant submissions for this project has been extended and Ms. Hacking is hoping the announcement will be made soon if they have been successful. As a single artist is painting the wall in the park, this project may be able to proceed soon.

Councillor Beatty reported that the porous pave project has been completed. The Ted Blowes bench has been done, as well as a grouping of benches at Confederation Park.

g) Beehives in Stratford – Cindy Carlson

Cindy Carlson consulted with a local beekeeper regarding options for locating hives in and around Stratford, i.e. parks. The beekeeper suggested any areas that would be visited by people would not be advised. The issues of people getting stung and vandalism are a concern. An area hidden away and protected is much more suitable.

h) CIB 25th Anniversary Garden Planting

Councillor Beatty will follow up with the Manager of Parks, Forestry & Cemetery on timing and when the garden will be available for planting. Members were advised the Community Services Department does not have extra plants for this garden and that the CIB will have to supply all plantings.

Motion by Kimberly Richardson, seconded by Carys Wyn Hughes

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$500.00 to purchase plants and supplies for the 2021 CIB garden planting. Carried

5.0 New Business

a) Butterfly Magnolia Trees at Ted Blowes Memorial Garden

Three butterfly magnolia trees have been donated to CIB by Barb Hacking, Cindy Carlson and the third in memory of a friend. The trees will be planted beside the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden. They are pollinator trees that bloom yellow in the spring. Councillor Beatty thanked Ms. Hacking and Ms. Carlson for their generous donation.

b) Hope is Growing Plantings – Cindy Carlson

Cindy Carlson reported that she mentioned the "hope is growing" initiative that CIB is promoting this year to residents in her neighbourhood and she has just received a flyer for everyone in the community to plant yellow.

She has also heard from retired teachers at their AGM that they have started a contest to grow sunflowers.

6.0 Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 29, 2021 – Stratford Farmer's Market

7.0 NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., electronically.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Paul Smith, seconded by Carys Wyn Hughes

THAT the May 6, 2021 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:51 P.M.