



## Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on February 3, 2022 at 12:00 p.m., electronically.

**Committee Members Present:** Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Barb Hacking, Kimberly Richardson, Linda Hawken, Mary-Anne Krutilla

**Staff Present:** Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Absent:** Carys Wyn Hughes, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Cindy Carlson, Quin Malott – Manager of Parks, Forestry & Cemetery

#### 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 Introduction of New Committee Member

Councillor Beatty welcomed Mary-Anne Krutilla to the Committee. Ms. Krutilla and Committee members introduced themselves.

#### 4.0 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Kimberly Richardson

Seconded by Linda Hawken

**THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated January 6, 2022 be adopted as printed. Carried**

#### 5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

##### a) Update on CIB Webpage – Kimberly Richardson

Kimberly Richardson reported that the City's Corporate Communication Lead has continued to update and make corrections to the CIB webpage. Ms. Richardson has

contacted the Stratford-Perth Archives regarding information for the history of CIB and anticipates receiving the information in a few weeks. Ms. Richardson and Linda Hawken will review the information and provide it for the website. Barb Hacking reported that there is a QR code on the sign at the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden with the history of the garden since it was created in 2017. Ms. Richardson will also forward Winter Lights and the annual spring event information for the website.

**b) Update from CIB National – Councillor Beatty**

Councillor Beatty has contacted CIB National to discuss the upcoming judging categories and Stratford's participation. CIB National reported that there has been an increase of communities registering to participate, which is great news. They are moving forward with the regular judging format and full schedules. The recommendation is that Stratford registers for the "International Challenge" and once registrations are closed, a final decision on the category can be made. Judges will visit Stratford in late June or early July. Staff will inquire on the "Year of the Garden" resolution that was previously submitted for Council's consideration.

**c) Garden of Hope (Confederation Park) Update – Barb Hacking**

Barb Hacking reported that the bridge was lit up during Lights On Stratford and will continue to have the lights on each evening indefinitely. The artist who painted the bridge may assist in coordinating the colours of the lights with the colours painted on the bridge. Ms. Hacking has suggested that part of the underside of the bridge be painted black to tidy it up. Ms. Hacking will contact Destination Stratford to discuss. She also inquired if a budget could be set for annual maintenance and supplies required for the upkeep of the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden, which CIB is responsible for. Members agreed that there is an ongoing cost involved with the project.

Motion by Barb Hacking

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

**THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$500.00 for maintenance and supplies required for the 2022 upkeep of the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden. Carried**

**d) Clean Up of Forman Avenue – Cindy Carlson/Kimberly Richardson**

Kimberly Richardson noted that the litter on Foreman Avenue appears to have improved. Kids are just back to school and City staff has relocated some of the garbage cans, which may improve the garbage around the school.

**6.0 New Business**

**a) 2022 CIB Projects Ideas – Councillor Beatty**

- **Garden Fling (May 28/29, 2022)**

Kimberly Richardson inquired if the Committee wanted to name the spring event the same each year or coordinate the name each year with the CIB National

theme, Members have chosen "Garden Fling" as the name for the annual event. Members agreed they liked holding the event at the market and eliminating the distribution of compost. Members can direct people to visit the Stratford Landfill to get compost. Kimberly Richardson inquired if the Committee was interested in planning for a two-day event. They could attend the Farmer's Market on Saturday and the Slow Food Market on Sunday. Councillor Beatty advised he would contact the Stratford Agriplex to make arrangements for May 28, 2022 at the Farmer's Market and Mary-Anne Krutila advised she would contact organizers of the Slow Food Market to discuss arrangements for the May 29<sup>th</sup> market.

- **CIB Judging (Late June/Early July)**

The judges will visit Stratford for two days (a half day, a full day, and then another half day) before their departure if the judging itinerary runs as it has in the past. Councillor Beatty will keep the members up to date with any information from CIB National. Kimberly Richardson inquired if submitting the photo book will be a requirement again this year. Councillor Beatty will inquire and provide an update at the March meeting.

- **David Suzuki – Butterfly Rangers Program**

Kimberly Richardson shared information with the Committee with regards to becoming a butterfly ambassador and inquired if the Committee would be interested in joining. It would tie into CIB's work with the Ted Blowes Memorial Pollinator Garden. Barb Hacking stated that she is already a Butterfly Ambassador and there was a sign in the Ted Blowes garden this past summer. CIB could procure additional signs to share with citizens as part of this year's theme of "Year of the Garden". Ms. Hacking noted that she has already applied for the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden and that CIB would not need to apply separately as a Committee. Mary-Anne Krutila inquired if during Garden Fling, CIB would have seeds and plants to hand out to attract butterflies. Ms. Hacking noted that the Committee has tried to always hand out pollinator friendly plants and seeds in the past.

- **"Three Sisters" Indigenous Garden**

Kimberly Richardson inquired if members had reviewed the article Cindy Carlson had shared with CIB members. The idea would be to plant a garden at a local school or in one of the City's gardens. Barb Hacking noted that it is difficult to maintain a school garden, as the children are not there during the summer months. The Local has planted Three Sisters gardens in the past also. Councillor Beatty will inquire with the Manager of Parks, Forestry & Cemetery about using the CIB garden to plant a Three Sisters garden this year. It is a well-visited spot each year and a sign providing some background on indigenous culture could be added.

- **Winter Lights**

Kimberly Richardson inquired if the Winter Lights event is going to be taken over by Destination Stratford. Councillor Beatty will contact Zac Gribble to discuss maintenance of the snowflakes and CIB's role moving forward.

- **Grant for 2022 Garden Design**

Councillor Beatty and Barb Hacking will revisit plans regarding the grant received for the garden design. They will report back at the next CIB meeting.

- **Pollinator Pathway**

In past years, CIB uses the balance of their yearly budget to fund additional trees along the pollinator pathway. Kimberly Richardson inquired if CIB would be moving ahead with additional plantings this year. There are various programs offering discounted trees and she suggested CIB could inquire. Barb Hacking noted that the Manager of Parks, Forestry and Cemetery usually looks to plant a tree of a certain size.

- **Year of the Garden – Stratford Horticultural Society**

Kimberly Richardson inquired if there was an update on partnering with the Stratford Horticultural Society on a garden for the Year of the Garden. Barb Hacking reported that they reached out in September to inquire if CIB would be interested. Ms. Hacking will contact them to discuss a partnership or each working on their own projects with the same theme.

## **7.0 Upcoming Events**

- Garden Fling (Stratford Farmer's Market) – Saturday, May 28, 2022
- Garden Fling (Slow Food Market) – Sunday, May 29, 2022

## **8.0 Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 12:00 p.m., electronically.**

## **9.0 Adjournment**

Motion by Kimberly Richardson

Seconded by Mary-Anne Krutila

**THAT the February 3, 2022 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 12:03 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:00 P.M.