



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 12:00 p.m., electronically.

Committee Members Present: Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Barb Hacking, Kimberly Richardson, Carys Wyn Hughes, Councillor Bonnie Henderson

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Cindy Carlson, Mary-Anne Krutila

1. Call to Order

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

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Election of 2023 Chair and Vice-Chair

Staff declared nominations open for the 2023 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 Kimberly Richardson

THAT the nominations for the 2023 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 Kimberly Richardson

THAT Councillor Beatty be elected as the 2023 Chair of the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee. Carried

Staff declared nominations for the 2023 Vice-Chair of the CIB Advisory Committee open. Councillor Henderson nominated Kimberly Richardson.

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

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT nominations for the 2023 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried

Kimberly Richardson indicated that she would allow her name to stand.

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT Kimberly Richardson be elected as the 2023 Vice-Chair of the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee. Carried

4. **Adoption of the Previous Minutes – Deferred to the next meeting**
5. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

5.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking updated the CIB Advisory Committee that the lights are now working again on the Bridge in Confederation Park. However, they are not controllable remotely anymore. A router can be installed under the bridge and Rhyzome will put an antenna across the street on a street light pole for Wi-Fi. The router will be caged to deter vandalism. Councillor Henderson also inquired if the globe that was stolen from under the bridge could be replaced. Ms. Hacking stated that it is possible, and they have dropped a little in price. She will inquire on pricing.

Motion by Kimberly Richardson
Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$500.00 to purchase a new router and antenna to assist in remotely running the lights on Confederation Bridge, including installation. Carried

Barb Hacking advised she also has an invoice to repair the lights on Confederation Bridge. They stopped working prior to the Lights On event and a service call was required.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends \$180.30 to pay the Unitec invoice for a service call to repair the lights on Confederation Bridge. Carried

Barb Hacking reported that she and Bernie VanHerk have removed a large amount of golden rod that was overtaking the garden. Some additional annuals will be required to fill in the areas. Last year, two of the wings had extra soil added to them, this year they would like to do the other two wings. Ms. Hacking noted that this will mark the tenth anniversary of Ted Blowes passing. It might be fitting to do a small event at the garden in his honour.

Motion by Barb Hacking

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 for the 2023 upkeep, maintenance and materials for the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden. Carried

Kimberly Richardson inquired if in the future the maintenance of the Ted Blowes Garden will be taken over by the Community Services Department. Ms. Hacking stated that they would consider maintaining in the future, however it is a lot of work for staff and she and Mr. VanHerk are happy taking care of it for now. Ms. Richardson also suggested the Horticultural Society could also be approached to look after it in the future.

5.2 Update on CIB Webpage – Kimberly Richardson

No new updates.

6. New Business

6.1 2023 CIB National

Councillor Beatty suggested to members that Stratford participate in the Circle of Excellence Category as a non-evaluated community and focus this year on their own projects and recommendations they received last year from the judges.

Motion by Kimberly Richardson

Seconded by Barb Hacking

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends \$600.00 for the 2023 registration fee for the Circle of Excellence Non-Evaluated Category. Carried

6.2 Scotts Canada 2023 Gro for Good Grant Initiative – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty advised he received information regarding this program through CIB National for the Committee's consideration. Kimberly Richardson suggested that members review this idea, as well as all the recommendations from the judges last year and have a discussion at the next meeting on where the CIB Advisory Committee's priorities should be. A lot of the Gro for Good initiative may be applicable to some of the judges' recommendations. Barb Hacking suggested that doing something in the Ted Blowes Garden may fall within the Gro for Good Initiative.

6.3 Spring Market Day – Saturday, May 27, 2023

Members advised they are planning to have a table at the Stratford Farmer's Market. Bernie VanHerk is already growing the Canna Lilies in preparation to give away at the Spring Market Day. Kimberly Richardson suggested that in addition to the sunflower seeds, they could give away seeds to grow vegetables. Ms. Richardson will inquire with the Library for a contact for seeds. Councillor Beatty advised he would contact the Ag Society to inquire about reserving a table for May 27, 2023.

7. Upcoming Events

- SLAAA Planting Workshop - Thursday, April 13, 2023 – Agriplex (1-4 p.m.)
- Spring Market Day – Saturday, May 27, 2023
- Pumpkin Parade – Wednesday, November 1, 2023

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road, Stratford.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes
Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

THAT the February 2, 2023, Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:43 P.M.