



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

Also Present: Bernie VanHerk

Absent: Cindy Carlson, Mary-Anne Krutila

1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes – September 1, 2022 & February 2, 2023

Motion by Barb Hacking

Seconded by Carys Wyn Hughes

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meetings dated September 1, 2022 and February 2, 2023, be adopted as presented. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking reported that when the weather improves, they will ensure that the lights on the bridge are working properly. She will research a possible replacement for the hanging globe that was stolen from under the bridge.

4.2 2023 CIB National Update – Councillor Beatty

The Chair reported that Stratford has been registered for the Circle of Excellence – Non-Evaluated Category for 2023.

4.3 2023 Spring Market Day – Councillor Beatty

The Chair advised he would contact the Ag Society and book a table for the CIB Advisory Committee for May 27, 2023. Barb Hacking reported that Bernie VanHerk has all the canna lilies started and they will be ready to hand out at the market. Ms. Hacking has some seeds left from last year to also hand out. Kimberly Richardson will reach out to the Stratford Library to inquire about their seed library.

4.4 CIB National Initiatives – Councillor Beatty

No new items to report.

5. New Business

5.1 SLAAA Planting Workshop

Carys Wyn Hughes will arrange for the CIB Advisory Committee to have a table at the event. Barb Hacking and Carys Wyn Hughes volunteered to be at the event. Staff will check the stock of their items and bring the banner to the next meeting.

5.2 Annual Miracle Grow Garden Contest

Barb Hacking requested six signs for this year's event. As it is a lottery, she noted she would wait to see how many they receive.

5.3 Municipal Winter Life Award & Live the Garden Life Award – Councillor Beatty

The Chair reported that these two awards will be presented in 2023 by CIB National recognizing efforts for involvement in projects and initiatives which engage the community with indoor and outdoor activities from November 2022 through March 2023. This is open to all Canadian Communities. Submissions will be evaluated under three primary criteria, which are holiday celebrations, visual programs/holiday events, and public programming. Deadline for submissions for the Winter Life Award is August 4, 2023. The Chair advised he would keep the CIB Advisory Committee updated with any additional awards and deadlines.

5.4 Design Plan (Scott Wentworth) – Councillor Beatty

The Chair and Barb Hacking advised they would contact Scott Wentworth to arrange a time this spring for Mr. Wentworth to visit Stratford and design a plan that the CIB Advisory Committee and Community Services staff can work on as

funds become available. The Manager of Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery suggested the area from the Ted Blowes Garden down towards the Gallery and the Meadow Rue area.

5.5 Wayfinding Project/City Entrance Signs – Councillor Beatty

Kimberly Richardson advised she would follow-up with Zac Gribble at Destination Stratford about their plans for entrance signs and to inquire about a potential opportunity to partner with them to help move this project forward.

5.6 St. David Street Tree Plantings and Porous Pave for Benches

The Manager of Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery reported that all the trees and porous pave under park benches that were earmarked for 2022 have been completed. The CIB Advisory Committee will aim to continue forward with both of these projects with any funds available closer to the end of 2023.

5.7 Stratford District Secondary School (SDSS) Eco Club – Kimberly Richardson

Kimberly Richardson suggested the CIB Advisory Committee could contact the SDSS to inquire if there would be students in the Eco Club that would be interested in earning their community hours by helping with CIB events/initiatives.

6. Upcoming Events

- SLAAA Planting Workshop - Thursday, April 13, 2023 – Agriplex (1-3 p.m.)
- Spring Market Day – Saturday, May 27, 2023
- Pumpkin Parade – Wednesday, November 1, 2023

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., in the Falstaff Room (2nd Floor) at the City Hall Annex, 82 Erie Street, Stratford.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

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

Meeting Start Time: 12:10 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:51 P.M.