



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 12:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Committee Members Present: Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Cindy Carlson, Kimberly Richardson, Barb Hacking, Mary-Anne Krutila, Councillor Bonnie Henderson

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Carys Wyn Hughes

1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes – May 4, 2023

Motion by Mary-Anne Krutila

Seconded by Cindy Carlson

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated May 4, 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 new soil has been purchased for the garden and annuals will be planted after June 4, 2023. There are some annuals left from

the CIB Market Day, as well as some supplied by the City. CIB may not have to purchase any this year. Barb Hacking and Bernie VanHerk planted 215 sunflowers to recreate the Hope Garden from two years ago. They will install the sign at the garden to explain the 215 sunflowers represent 215 indigenous children.

The CIB Committee was given permission to put a labyrinth in the Ted Blowes Garden last year. Barb Hacking has made a proposal to the Parks Board requesting if a larger labyrinth could alternatively be located in Arboretum Park, however there is no hydro and water available at this location, so plans for a multi-purpose labyrinth will remain at the Ted Blowes Garden. Ms. Hacking has spoken to the Director of Corporate Services to inquire how CIB could fundraise for this project and is awaiting guidance. There are some grant funds already available from Community Foundations, should other funding be secured and the project moves forward. Ms. Hacking has received a quote for porous pave product to create a platform, as well as a quote from the painter who did the bridge to possibly paint a labyrinth. They are taking into consideration the accessibility of the labyrinth so everyone can enjoy it. She has also applied for Destination Stratford grants for this project. CIB has also been approved to paint butterflies from the washrooms and the playground over to the butterfly wall to entice people to come that way.

4.2 2023 CIB National Update/Circle of Excellence – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty shared the application for the Winter Life Award with CIB members. Councillor Beatty will contact Destination Stratford to inquire about partnering on this application.

4.3 2023 Spring Market Day – Councillor Beatty

Members agreed that keeping the market simple this year worked great. Visitors to the market were happy to just get flowers. The weather cooperated which helped.

Motion by Mary-Anne Krutila

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$300.00 to cover the expense of seed envelopes and additional flowers for the 2023 Spring Market Day. Carried

4.4 CIB National Initiatives – Councillor Beatty

As discussed above in item 4.2.

4.5 Landscape Design Plan Update – Councillor Beatty

Scott Wentworth visited Stratford to do a site visit with Barb Hacking, Councillor Beatty and Quin Malott, Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery Manager. They visited the Ted Blowes Garden, Art Gallery area and Meadow Rue. Mr. Wentworth will provide CIB and Community Services with various project options to be completed in phases. Councillor Beatty will provide Mr. Wentworth with drone footage of the area to assist in the design.

4.6 City Gateways Project

Councillor Henderson has previous CBEAC correspondence, which may contain information on plans for the gateways. Kimberly Richardson will review.

4.7 SDSS Community Garden Project (near Smith Street) – Cindy Carlson

This project is on hold now for 2023. Councillor Beatty is discussing this garden with the Manager of Parks, Forestry, and Cemetery to help move forward with this project. Ms. Carlson will let organizers at SDSS know that this project may still move forward in the future and will keep them updated. Kimberly Richardson suggested a partnership with the Local for a project such as this. Councillor Beatty noted that the “Gro for Good” grant program may also be suitable for this project.

5. New Business

5.1 Annual Garden Contest – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking and Carys Wyn Hughes have started organizing the annual contest. They have the prizes, signs and congratulation letters ready. There will be six winners this year. Barb Hacking will contact the Corporate Communications Specialist to re-issue the media release used last year. A deadline for nominations will be set for July 12, 2023.

Cindy Carlson left the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

5.2 Butterfly Bridge Light – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking reported that the replacement light sphere has been purchased. Councillor Beatty will inquire if Community Services staff would be available to install it under the bridge.

6. Upcoming Events

- Pumpkin Parade – Wednesday, November 1, 2023

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

THAT the June 1, 2023 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:06 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:58 P.M.