



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

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

Staff Present: Quin Malott – Cemetery, Parks & Forestry Manager, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Mary Anne Krutila

1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes – November 2, 2023

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated November 2, 2023, be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking reported that the lights are up and running on the waterfall in the park and look great. The light ball hanging from the bridge has a few lights out. It appears that people can reach it if they stand on the bird bath and use a stick to knock lights off. The Manager of Cemetery, Parks & Forestry will inquire about options to move the bird bath out from under the bridge. Members also suggested a cage around the ball could be installed to protect the lights.

4.2 2023 CIB National Update/CIB Initiatives – Councillor Beatty

The colour for 2024 is orange and Stratford will be focusing on orange in their plantings.

4.3 2024 Judging (Video Component/Reviewing Evaluations) – Councillor Beatty

There were videos and pictures taken of the Pumpkin Parade, as well as some drone footage. Kimberly Richardson volunteered to curate all the videos and pictures in preparation for the judges' visit.

4.4 Hosting the 2025 National Symposium – Councillor Beatty

Carys Wyn Hughes reported that CIB members met with staff to discuss the possibility of Stratford hosting the 2025 National Symposium. Would CIB members and staff have the capacity to handle organizing such an event? Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services, cannot commit staff at this time to work on organizing the event. Destination Stratford is on board to assist with the event and help support from a promotional perspective. A mandate of Destination Stratford is to bring more tourism to Stratford during the off-season. Councillor Beatty will contact CIB National to inquire about what support is offered to the hosting community. The next step in the process will be for CIB to submit a proposal to Council for their support to move forward with the event.

4.5 Landscape Design Plan Update – Councillor Beatty

Barb Hacking reported that Scott Wentworth will be forwarding the drawings to her on Friday, December 8, 2023. Ms. Hacking will forward it to staff to share with CIB members.

4.6 City Gateways Project Update – Kimberly Richardson/Carys Wyn Hughes

Kimberly Richardson reported that in discussions with City staff, there are no funds available for new gateways into Stratford. The City Clerk has recommended that CIB put together a proposal on how this project can be completed and community partners that would help financially support the project.

5. New Business

5.1 SDSS Eco Garden

Quin Malott reported that the garden is moving ahead. The Eco Club was able to secure insurance and the area has plastic down in preparation for planting. Cindy Carlson will take some pictures of the site to include for the judges' visit. Ms. Carlson will invite the SDSS Eco Club to attend a future CIB meeting to do a presentation on their garden plans.

5.2 Indigenous Garden – Parks Board

The Manager of Inclusion Equity & Indigenous Initiatives is completing some additional research on moving forward with the Indigenous garden.

6. Upcoming Events

None noted.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

THAT the December 7, 2023 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:05 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:08 P.M.