



## Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

**Committee Members:** Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Kimberly Richardson, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Barb Hacking, Yvonne O'Reilly, Linda Wakenhut

**Staff:** Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Cindy Carlson, Carys Wyn Hughes, Mary-Anne Krutila

#### 1. Call to Order

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

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and a Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

#### 2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

#### 3. Welcome New Members

Councillor Beatty welcomed new members Yvonne O'Reilly and Linda Wakenhut to the committee and members introduced themselves.

**4. Election of 2024/25 Committee Chair & Vice Chair**

Staff declared nominations open for the 2024/25 Chair of the CIB Advisory Committee. Councillor Henderson nominated Councillor Brad Beatty.

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

**Motion by** Councillor Henderson

**Seconded by** Barb Hacking

**THAT the nominations for the 2024/25 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee Chair be closed. Carried**

Councillor Beatty indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.

**Motion by** Councillor Henderson

**Seconded by** Linda Wakenhut

**THAT Councillor Beatty be elected as the 2024/25 Chair of the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee. Carried**

Staff declared nominations for the 2024/25 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** Barb Hacking

**Seconded by** Yvonne O'Reilly

**THAT nominations for the 2024/25 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried**

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

**Motion by** Linda Wakenhut

**Seconded by** Barb Hacking

**THAT Kimberly Richardson be elected as the 2024/25 Vice-Chair of the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee. Carried**

**5. Adoption of the Previous Minutes**

**Motion by** Councillor Henderson

**Seconded by** Barb Hacking

**THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated November 7, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried**

## **6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

### **6.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden**

Barb Hacking provided some background information on the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden for the new members.

The new yellow chatter bench will be delivered soon but will be installed in the spring once the weather allows.

### **6.2 2025 National Symposium Update**

Councillor Beatty reported that the block of hotel rooms have been reserved and once they receive a booking code, the information will be uploaded to the CIB National website for delegates to start booking.

Kimberly Richardson provided an overview of the draft 4-day itinerary and timing to members for feedback and comments.

- anticipate there may be 150-200 delegates plus spouses;
- will inquire about getting a Stratford Festival Theater ticket code to include on the website;
- 2025 theme is "Plants" and will try to incorporate a Perth County agricultural component;
- Ted Blowes Award to be awarded at the Saturday night event;
- anticipate lunches will be eaten at the Rotary/Agriplex and box lunches will not be taken on the bus;
- vegan/vegetarian/gluten-free/dairy-free options available for all meals;
- plan to use a variety of local caterers/restaurants for meals;
- plan for certain speakers depending on if they will be doing a lecture or a panel discussion. Topics to be covered: heritage, plant/floral, trees, community involvement, environment, landscaping and indigenous collaboration. Ms. Richardson will send out a draft list of possible people to contact to speak. Councillor Beatty suggested talking to CIB National to inquire about how much time should be allotted for each speaker;

- entertainment at events and also additional entertainment for in between sessions. Suggestions for jazz band, fanfare or pipe band to welcome delegates;
- plan to offer two technical tours each day – one walking and one bus tour. Delegates can choose to do one on one day and the other the next day. Keep in mind accessibility needs, washroom availability and length of tours. Tours will both end at destination. Suggestion to add City Hall to tour, including Council Chambers and the Auditorium (designated properties pictures can be viewed);
- suggestion to coordinate the options for extra activities/events for delegates or spouses outside of the symposium schedule be added to the CIB National website so they can all be viewed and booked at the same time;
- welcome package in hotel rooms – fruit/snack basket, maps (driving and walking options), downtown dollars, QR codes;

Kimberly Richardson no longer present at the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

### **6.3 Landscape Design Plan Update**

Barb Hacking reported that she has met with Kevin Bonnell, Manager of Inclusion, Equity & Indigenous Initiatives and has provided the members with the workplan for the Indigenous medicine wheel and fire pit. The pollinator trees have now been planted according to the landscape design. There will be further discussions and planning for the design at upcoming meetings.

Yvonne O'Reilly inquired if there is a plan moving forward for the use of the garden area. Ms. Hacking stated that the use of the area will be part of the plan for schools, community, etc. to use and make connections. Once the project is completed, the City will maintain the area.

### **6.4 Chatter Bench Update**

Vicky Trotter reported that a yellow metal bench has been ordered and will be delivered later this month. It will have the CIB logo, the year 2024 on it marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Chatter Bench and butterflies on it. Once the bench arrives Ms. Trotter will take a picture to send to CIB members.

Porous pave will be installed for the bench to be placed on and will be installed in the spring.

## **6.5 Review of 2024 Projects and Budget**

Vicky Trotter reported that the last project for 2024 was the purchase of the pollinator trees and the invoice has been submitted to the Finance Department. The final invoice to be submitted will be for the chatter bench and will be submitted by Ms. Trotter by the end of December.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 Gateway Discussion**

Deferred to the January 2, 2024 meeting.

## **8. Upcoming Events**

- 2025 CIB National Symposium (Stratford, ON) – October 16-19, 2025

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

## **10. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Yvonne O'Reilly

**Seconded by** Linda Wakenhut

**THAT the December 5, 2024 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 12:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:49 P.M.