



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 12:00 p.m., City Hall Annex – 82 Erie Street, Falstaff Room.

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

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Mary-Anne Krutila, Barb Hacking, Councillor Bonnie Henderson

1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:22 p.m.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

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

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Cindy Carlson

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meetings dated March 2, 2023, be adopted as presented. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden

Councillor Beatty reported that it appears the garden weathered the winter well and there has not been any visible vandalism. He stated that Barb Hacking is looking into the controllers to adjust the lights on the bridge.

Kimberly Richardson reported that she contacted the Stratford Library and they have agreed to harvest the seeds from the Ted Blowes Garden.

4.2 2023 CIB National Update – Councillor Beatty

Stratford is registered for the Circle of Excellence – Non-Evaluated Category for 2023. This year's symposium will be held in Wood Buffalo, Alberta from September 27-30, 2023.

4.3 2023 Spring Market Day – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty confirmed that the CIB Committee is registered for the Stratford Market on Saturday, May 27, 2023 and he has requested an outdoor booth.

Carys Wyn Hughes will leave the CIB items at her office for members to use at the Market on the 27th.

Kimberly Richardson reported that the Stratford Library has resources available to hand out, such as colouring pages and information on how to grow plants. She has also invited representatives to join the CIB booth at the market.

Cindy Carlson will work with Barb Hacking to organize any seed packets that are available to use again this year.

4.4 CIB National Initiatives – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty reviewed the Municipal World Winter Life Award that the CIB Committee could submit an entry for. The due date for submissions is August 4, 2023. Councillor Beatty will contact CIB National for clarification about the online application process. There is no information posted yet for the Live the Garden Life initiative. It was noted the CIB Committee already submitted an entry for the 2023 Best Garden Selection initiative in March.

4.5 City Gateways Project

Kimberly Richardson reported that she has contacted Zac Gribble, Executive Director of Destination Stratford. Progress on the project has slowed due to budget and the lack of funding opportunities. CIB members will research past minutes with the Stratford-Perth Archives and City of Stratford staff to inquire about possible reserves for this project.

5. New Business

5.1 Ping Pong Table (Upper Queen's Park) – Carys Wyn Hughes

Carys Wyn Hughes reported that the Winterfest Committee has funds available to purchase a concrete ping pong table that could be installed in Upper Queen's Park. The Winterfest Committee would utilize the table for their Winterfest events and it would be available for use all year around. Ms. Hughes will contact the Manager of Parks, Forestry & Cemetery to discuss.

5.2 Youth Participation in Communities in Bloom – Carys Wyn Hughes

Carys Wyn Hughes has contacted Christine Ritsma at Stratford District Secondary School to inquire about student involvement with the CIB Committee. Ms. Ritsma stated that students are very busy with Eco Club projects however, asked that CIB reach out when they have events and activities coming up to inquire if students are interested in participating and earning volunteer hours.

Councillor Beatty noted that the Stratford Cadets have always been helpful in the past at events. It was noted they could be contacted to see if they would be interested in assisting.

5.3 Community Garden Project – Cindy Carlson

Cindy Carlson reported that Christine Ritsma, SDSS, contacted her to inquire if CIB Committee would be interested in partnering with the school on a community garden located at Smith and O'Loane Street. The Eco Club and the Urban Green Club will be working together to create the vegetable garden. Ms. Carlson suggested that the CIB Committee could plant pollinators in the garden. In the fall, the students will organize a Fall Fest with all the vegetable they have grown. Ms. Carlson will inquire about more details.

6. Upcoming Events

- SLAAA Planting Workshop - Thursday, April 13, 2023 – Agriplex (1-3 p.m.)
- Spring Market Day – Saturday, May 27, 2023
- CIB National Symposium – Wood Buffalo, AB – September 27-30, 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, May 4, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., in 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 April 6, 2023, Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:22 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:02 P.M.