



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 12:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Committee Members Present: Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Mary-Anne Krutila, Carys Wyn Hughes, Kimberly Richardson

Staff Present: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Cindy Carlson, Barb Hacking

1. Call to Order

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

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes – September 14, 2023

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Mary-Anne Krutila

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated September 14, 2023, be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty updated the CIB that the new lights for the waterfall have been purchased and the installation will be completed soon.

Councillor Beatty reported that a section of pathway near Confederation Park/Gallery Stratford has been resurfaced with porous pave as a trial. This section of the path tends to have issues with flooding.

Barb Hacking has been getting seeds ready for planting in the pollinator garden under the bridge, as well as other pollinator gardens. She will order some additional materials that will be required to top up the garden for the winter in preparation for spring plantings.

4.2 2023 CIB National Update/CIB Initiatives – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty reported that Stratford, Ontario won the Winter Events Award for 2023. Councillor Beatty will announce the award at the next Stratford City Council meeting and present the plaque to Mayor Ritsma. He will also request the Corporate Communications Specialist post it on Facebook and on the CIB page of the website after the Council meeting. He noted that Lights On Stratford has played a large part in enhancing Stratford as a four-season destination.

The National Symposium next year will be the 30th Anniversary of Communities in Bloom. Stratford has participated for the entire 30 years. The 2024 symposium will be held in Charlottetown, PEI. Organizers of the symposiums have reached out to Councillor Beatty to gauge interest in Stratford hosting the event in 2025. Members are open to the idea and Councillor Beatty will inquire about details for further discussions prior to making a commitment.

4.3 Landscape Design Plan Update – Councillor Beatty

No new updates provided.

4.4 City Gateways Project Update – Councillor Beatty/Kimberly Richardson

Kimberly Richardson and Carys Wyn Hughes will reconnect with representatives at Destination Stratford to brainstorm a plan to move the City Gateway project

forward. They will provide an update at the November CIB meeting regarding a proposal.

5. New Business

5.1 2024 Judging – Councillor Beatty

At the November CIB meeting, members will begin discussing adding a video component to their 2024 judging presentation. It was suggested that members take sections of the previous judges' evaluations to make a list of projects that can be addressed.

5.2 Pumpkin Parade Preparations – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty reported that the Civic Beautification Environmental Awareness Committee has most of the plans set for November 1, 2023. The Air Cadets will once again be helping to light the pumpkins and also helping with clean up. Councillor Beatty will contact the Corporate Communications Specialist to inquire if he can be available to take some photos. He will also have a videographer available to document the evening.

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, November 2, 2023, 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 October 5, 2023 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:12 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:58 P.M.