



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 2, 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, Mary-Anne Krutila, Carys Wyn Hughes, Kimberly Richardson, Cindy Carlson

Staff Present: Christa Robinson, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Community Services, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Absent: Councillor Bonnie Henderson

1. Call to Order

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

Land Acknowledgment

Moment of Silent Reflection

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes – October 5, 2023

Motion by Mary-Anne Krutila

Seconded by Barb Hacking

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated October 5, 2023, be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Pumpkin Parade – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty thanked CIB Committee members, volunteers, Scouts and Air Cadets for all their help with this event. Market Square was filled with pumpkins, with a lot showing up between 4-5:00 p.m. The farm trucks could not take all the pumpkins with them that night, so City of Stratford trucks delivered two truckloads of pumpkins to the hog farm early the next morning. The drive-in drop-off lane worked well. Councillor Beatty suggested that some additional signage and arrows indicating where to pull in might help next year. Kimberly Richardson suggested a large map could be posted, so people know where they can place their pumpkins if someone is not right there to direct them.

4.2 Update on Ted Blowes Garden – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking reported that the new lights are currently being installed on the waterfall. She will be stopping by after the meeting to sync the lights with her phone so that the colours can be changed.

There is now a new accessible walkway from the Art Gallery up to the Ted Blowes Garden. There was a small section along the pathway that would be required to have the grass cut, so Community Services staff made it into a garden. Barb Hacking and Bernie VanHerk planted tulip bulbs from the Shakespearean Garden and will move Ted Blowes marker to that area to be more visible. Kimberly Richardson suggested that CIB could inquire if some of the donated peonies for the Shakespearean Garden could be shared with the Ted Blowes Garden. Ms. Hacking noted that they moved all of the verbena from downtown to the Ted Blowes Garden to go to seed. There were two monarchs on the verbena last Friday.

4.3 2023 CIB National Update/CIB Initiatives – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty inquired if there were any outstanding 2023 CIB projects that were still being worked on and have not been included in the budget figures to date. Kimberly Richardson suggested using the remaining 2023 funds and inquire if the company who originally did the wayfinding project could assist with a design for gateways. Councillor Beatty suggested that trees could be purchased for the new landscape design concept from Scott Wentworth. He noted that with it being late in the year, some plans for projects may not be

realistic to be completed by the end of December. If plans for the other projects cannot be completed before the end of the year, CIB could once again use the budget to continue with the porous pave project for under benches in the park. Kimberly Richardson suggested she and Carys Wyn Hughes could meet with staff to inquire on what the proper process is to move the gateway project forward and what the CIB Committee can work towards with their budget funds and what regulations apply to the CIB Committee regarding fundraising. The Committee will discuss the remaining funds in their budget at the December meeting for allocation either to the gateways or to the landscape design concept.

4.4 2024 Judging Plans – Video Component/Reviewing Judges Evaluations

Councillor Beatty asked members to continue to reach out to content creators to inquire if their videos can be obtained by CIB for use when the judges attend next year.

4.5 Hosting the 2025 National Symposium – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty shared a letter from the Executive Director of Communities in Bloom National. They have inquired if Stratford is still interested in hosting in 2025 or any subsequent years. Councillor Beatty noted that it is a great deal of work to organize an event such as this. Stratford will be a desirable City to visit for this event, so numbers will likely be high. It would require dedicated City staff to help organize, as well as CIB members and volunteers. Carys Wyn Hughes noted that the City now has an Events Co-ordinator that could possibly assist with an event such as this. Councillor Beatty stated that there is an RFP that is required to be submitted and the CIB Committee would need support from staff to complete the paperwork.

Christa Robinson, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Community Services is now present at the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Christa Robinson, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Community Services, advised she was the staff member appointed in 2002 to assist with planning the last National Symposium that Stratford hosted. She reviewed some of the activities and events that were organized, such as yent rentals, shuttles, accommodations, dinners, dance, etc. and that they prepared and promoted the symposium the year leading up to it.

Christa Robinson left the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Councillor Beatty will also inquire with staff as to the process and how best to move forward if CIB does decide to put forth an RFP to host. He will also share a digital copy of the RFP with the CIB Committee members. Councillor Beatty will contact CIB National and inform them that Stratford is still interested in the possibility of hosting and request additional information on the details of the RFP.

4.6 Landscape Design Plan Update – Councillor Beatty

As discussed above in item 4.3.

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

As discussed above in item 4.3.

5. New Business

5.1 Canna Lily Storage – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty reported that the Manager of Parks, Forestry and Cemetery may have space in the City's nursery to store the canna lilies over winter and then decide what to do with them in the spring.

6. Upcoming Events

None noted.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Mary-Anne Krutila

Seconded by Barb Hacking

THAT the November 2, 2023 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:12 P.M.