



## Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

**Committee Members:** Councillor Brad Beatty – Chair Presiding, Mary-Anne Krutila, Carys Wyn Hughes, Cindy Carlson, Councilor Bonnie Henderson, Barb Hacking

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

**Also Present:** Lucy Chung, Lucas Tingle

**Absent:** Kimberly Richardson

#### 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. Delegation: Stratford District Secondary School Eco Club Urban Farming Project – Presentation by Lucy Chung

Lucy Chung, from the SDSS Eco Club presented an outline and plan for the new urban farming project that the students are working on. The location is near the end of Smith Street at O'Loane Avenue. They presented a letter of intent to the City and the residents in the area and followed up with a petition for them to sign in support of the

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garden. In August 2023, students tarped the area to kill off the grass to start preparing the garden. They have received \$1,000.00 from a Youth in Action grant to help fund the garden and have also received a donation of all the seeds they will need to start the project. They will be starting seeds in the greenhouse in March and April and then begin planting in the garden in May and June.

Some of the planting practices they are using are sustainable and regenerative farming, two different planting times with two harvest cycles, netting in lieu of pesticides and they plan to purchase a large water tote to water the garden and the City's Community Services Department has agreed to fill the tote with water as needed.

Some plants that they hope to plant and harvest are spinach, carrots, beets, lettuce, kale, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, swiss chard and onions. They plan to donate a large portion of the fresh produce to the SDSS student run kitchen, the Screaming Avocado, to use for classes and community meal events that they organize.

They will be planting trees that have been donated along O'Loane Avenue and also some pollinators to protect the garden from debris and dust from the road.

The Eco Club would like to put up an educational sign at the garden explaining what it is they are doing and how they can contact them if they are interested in getting involved. They are looking into one of the trades classes at SDSS to possibly make the sign for them.

Councillor Beatty inquired if the students were available this summer to share their presentation with the CIB National judges that will be visiting Stratford in July. Lucy Chung stated that they look forward to doing a presentation for them.

Councillor Beatty stated that CIB has a relationship with an organization called Nutrition for Life and they currently have a grant application available for community groups. Cindy Carlson will forward the information to Christine Ritsma. Barb Hacking suggested the TD Friends of the Environment grants might be a good option also.

Mary-Anne Krutila suggested that the students could partner with CIB for their annual plant sale at the Stratford market in the spring. The students also have a spring plant sale and Lucy Chung suggested that they could bring any plants that are left from their sale.

Cindy Carlson reported that there is a great interest in the garden with local residents and there should be no problem getting volunteers to help with the garden over the summer.

**4. Adoption of the Previous Minutes – January 25, 2024**

**Motion by** Barb Hacking

**Seconded by** Mary-Anne Krutila

**THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated January 25, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried**

**5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

5.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden – Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking provided the following update on the Ted Blowes Garden:

- There is a lot of dog waste bags being thrown into the garden. She will contact the Parks & Forestry Manager to inquire if extra garbage cans can be placed there.
- Cleanup has not started in the garden yet as they are waiting until the weather gets consistently warmer for the pollinators.
- The lights on the bridge and the lights on the waterfall are now coordinated. There has not been any vandalism lately, however one bench will require repainting in the spring.

5.2 2024 CIB National Update/CIB Initiatives/Judging Plans – Councillor Beatty

Councillor Beatty has received the registration form for Stratford to register for the International Challenge Category for 2024. On the application, Stratford has requested dates in early July for the judges to visit.

Staff will forward a copy of the 2022 profile book to CIB members for their reference working on this year's book.

**Motion by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**Seconded by** Mary-Anne Krutila

**THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends \$1,975.00 from their 2024 Budget to register for the 2024 CIB National Judging in the International Challenge Category. Carried**

- 5.3 Hosting the 2025 National Symposium – Carys Wyn Hughes/Kimberly Richardson/Mary-Anne Krutila

Councillor Beatty reported that the request to host the 2025 CIB Symposium here in Stratford has gone to Council and they have supported the request. Currently, staff is preparing a management report for this request. Subsequently, CIB National has stated that Stratford does not need to secure a loan, create an Ad-Hoc Committee as originally discussed. CIB National only requires \$5,000.00 in order to be in Charlottetown for the Saturday dinner this year. Stratford will be required to supply support for CIB National when they are here. The Stratford CIB Committee will need to arrange for volunteers to assist during the event.

Councillor Beatty reported that the staff management report will be going to the March 25, 2024 Council meeting. Once the report has gone to Council and they have approved the event, CIB can begin moving forward with plans.

- 5.4 Landscape Design Plan Update – Councillor Beatty/Barb Hacking

Barb Hacking, Councillor Beatty and Quin Malott, Parks & Forestry Manager, will arrange a meeting with Scott Wentworth to discuss continuing plans.

- 5.5 City Gateways Project Update – Carys Wyn Hughes/Kimberly Richardson

Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator, explained the current wayfinding plan is to complete signage in the downtown area and work their way out. Without the funding to support moving ahead with the wayfinding plan, staff is unable to progress through the list. Without securing a grant or alternate funding, this huge multi-million dollar plan is moving at a slow pace. The gateway signs are part of the City's wayfinding plan.

## **6. New Business**

- 6.1 2024 CIB Planter Day – Councillor Beatty

The committee discussed the upcoming CIB planter day at the Stratford Market. As in the past, they will hold the event the first Saturday after the Victory Day long weekend in May. The date for this year will be Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Councillor Beatty will make the arrangements for a booth at the market that day. He also noted that the CIB colour for plantings in 2024 is orange. Carys Wyn Hughes will contact the Corporate Communications Specialist and let him know the date of this year's event and to post some information. Barb Hacking will arrange for flowers to be purchased. Cindy Carlson will contact SDSS to inquire if they would like to participate.

**Motion by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**Seconded by** Mary-Anne Krutila

**THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$300.00 to purchase flowers to give away at the CIB Planter Day on May 25, 2024. Carried**

6.2 Stratford District Secondary School/St. Michael's Secondary School Perimeter

The Eco Club from SDSS has been working at cleaning up around their school. CIB member would like to discuss with the Parks & Forestry Manager the possibility to place additional garbage cans in that area. Further discussion at upcoming meetings to facilitate a change.

**7. Upcoming Events**

- Planter Day - Saturday, May 25, 2024

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., City Hall – Council Chamber, 1 Wellington Street, Stratford.

**9. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Mary-Anne Krutila

**Seconded by** Carys Wyn Hughes

**THAT the March 7, 2024 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 12:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:03 P.M.