



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford ON

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

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

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. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Mary-Anne Krutila

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meetings dated March 7, 2024 and April 4, 2024 be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden

Barb Hacking and Bernie Van Herk have cleaned up the garden and cleared it of debris.

The bridge was lit up with red, green and white to welcome the Welsh Festival visitors to Stratford as the Ted Blowes Garden was included in their bus tour.

Ms. Hacking will purchase flowers for the garden soon and they also have sunflowers left over from a couple of years ago that can be planted on either side of the bridge. The canna lilies will also be replanted and some will be used for the Garden Fling at the Stratford Market.

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Carys Wyn Hughes

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 from their 2024 budget to purchase supplies and flowers for the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden. Carried

4.2 2024 CIB National Update/Judging Plans

Councillor Beatty reported that the dates for the National Judges visiting Stratford has been confirmed and they will be visiting from July 21-23, 2024. Susan Ellis and Bob Ivison will be the judges this year. Mr. Ivison has previously visited Stratford as a judge so members will have to adjust the tours to be mindful that Mr. Ivison has previously toured Stratford.

CIB members will each take a section of the profile book to update and highlight new events or efforts since the last book:

- Itinerary – Councillor Beatty;
- Tidiness – Kimberly Richardson;
- Environment – Councillor Henderson;
- Heritage – Mary-Anne Krutila;
- Landscaping/Urban Forestry – Quin Malott;
- Floral Displays – Barb Hacking;
- Community Involvement – Cindy Carlson/Carys Wyn Hughes.

Councillor Beatty will send the 2022 profile book to Vicky Trotter to download as a working document. Kimberly Richardson suggested having one working

document on Microsoft Teams that members can add to and update. Ms. Trotter will work on setting up the Teams document. Alternatively, members can update their section and send it to Ms. Trotter to upload.

Some items that members suggested adding to this year's itinerary are:

- talk about Winterfest;
- tour of Stratford Hospice and new serenity garden;
- visit the Screaming Avocado at SDSS;
- activity at the Stratford Chef School;
- Music in the Park (Sunday evening);
- judges as delegates at Council meeting (Monday evening);
- ghost walk (Monday evening);
- Indigenous talk/event (Falstaff Centre);
- new peony garden;
- visit the Stratford-Perth Archives;
- SDSS eco-garden tour with students or meet for a social or meal.

Kimberly Richardson will also set up a Teams document to collect new pictures. Members can e-mail the pictures to Ms. Richardson and she will upload them.

Members are requested to have their updated section to Brad Beatty no later than June 17, 2024.

Staff will send the 2022 evaluation report that was received from the judges for everyone's information.

4.3 2025 National Symposium

Councillor Beatty reported that Sonia Parrino will be in Stratford on June 5, 2024 to tour venues, discuss tour options, view gardens, tour accommodations and discuss plans and sponsorship opportunities for the symposium. A block of time has been booked from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to take her on a tour. Kimberly Richardson, Carys Wyn Hughes and Vicky Trotter will create an itinerary for the day. Councillor Beatty will contact Mike Mousley, Transit Manager to arrange for transportation, Tim Wolfe, Director of Community Services, to discuss the Rotary Complex, and Quin Malott, Cemetery Manager, Parks & Forestry Manager for tours of the City parks and gardens.

Kimberly Richardson suggested stopping at Destination Stratford to meet with their Director to discuss options.

Councillor Beatty has contacted all local hotels and booked all available rooms for the symposium. Currently, there are 184 rooms reserved, however this is not an adequate number of rooms that will be required to accommodate all the visitors.

4.4 Landscape Design Plan Update

Barb Hacking spoke with Scott Wentworth regarding the design plan and they will meet to discuss an updated plan. Ms. Hacking will provide an update for the June CIB meeting.

4.5 SDSS Eco-Club Community Garden

Vicky Trotter discussed with CIB members the process required if they wish to make a donation to the SDSS Eco Club for their community garden. As an Advisory Committee, they are not permitted to make donations with their budget funds, nor purchase items as a donation. If CIB members would like to proceed with a donation, they would be required to make a motion requesting that Council consider re-allocating the funds specifically for a donation to the Eco Club. When setting their budget request in the future, the committee can outline the purchase of materials for community projects.

Members discussed purchasing signage for the garden in lieu of a donation. This could be CIB's 30th Anniversary project in partnership with SDSS. Cindy Carlson will contact Christine Ritsma at SDSS and request a budget breakdown of specific items that the students require for the garden. Ms. Carlson will also inquire if a partnership is something that SDSS would be interested in and if the partnership would be a one-time financial obligation with signage or would it be ongoing financial support.

Kimberly Richardson is no longer present at the meeting (1:04 p.m.)

5. New Business

None noted.

6. Upcoming Events

- CIB Garden Fling (Stratford Farmer's Market) - Saturday, May 25, 2024

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- Meeting with CIB National - Wednesday, June 5, 2024 (10-3 p.m.)
- National Judges Visiting Stratford – July 21-23, 2024

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Carys Wyn Hughes

THAT the May 9, 2024 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:12 P.M.