



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 4, 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, Councilor Bonnie Henderson, Kimberly Richardson, Barb Hacking, Cindy Carlson

Staff: Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Carys Wyn Hughes, Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and a Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

3. Adoption of the Previous Minutes

Motion by Councillor Henderson

Seconded by Barb Hacking

THAT the minutes from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting dated June 5, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden

Barb Hacking reported that a local grocery store donated \$300.00 worth of plants for the Ted Blowes Garden.

A replacement chatter bench has been discussed for the garden as the CIB 30th Anniversary project. Councillor Beatty has spoken to the Cemetery Manager, Parks & Forestry Manager about purchasing a new bench. Councillor Beatty was informed that if CIB wishes to purchase another yellow bench, they would be required to get approval from the Parks Board. Barb Hacking noted that City would replace the existing bench with another wooden bench, however a metal one would be \$5,000.00. The estimate for a recycled plastic one would also be approximately \$5,000.00.

Mary-Anne Krutila volunteered to inquire if the recycled plastic bench could be easily cleaned if it gets vandalized.

Motion by Mary-Anne Krutila

Seconded by Kimberly Richardson

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee requests that the Parks Board consider giving CIB permission to purchase a new yellow recycled plastic chatter bench to be installed at the Ted Blowes Memorial Garden to replace the current yellow wooden one in recognition of CIB's 30th Anniversary. Carried

4.2 CIB Judging Plans (July 21-23, 2024)

Councillor Beatty thanked Vicky Trotter for doing an amazing job at updating and fine-tuning the profile book that will go to the judges and thanked Mary-Anne Krutila for helping with this project. The orange stars in the profile book indicate what is new since the last judges visited Stratford, which is a great addition to the book.

Councillor Beatty will ask Vicky Trotter to send a copy of the profile book to CIB members once she has completed the final details and the itinerary has been added.

Councillor Beatty reviewed the draft itinerary with members to finalize the last details and also asked what members availability is during the days the judges

are here. Councillor Beatty asked members to email him the days they will be available to assist. The judges fly into Toronto on Saturday evening and Councillor Beatty hopes they can pick them up at 11:00 a.m. as opposed to the proposed time of 1:00 p.m.

4.3 2025 National Symposium

Mary-Anne Krutila reported that they have had an organizing meeting with CIB National. National representatives are finalizing contracts for accommodations. Ms. Krutila has also contacted the Stratford Chef School to inquire if they are available to possibly cater during the symposium.

Kimberly Richardson noted that they need to brainstorm on various speakers that could be invited to be involved with the symposium. Mary-Anne Krutila has started a short list of possibilities. Members are continuing to work on the details for the itinerary and locations for meals.

Mary-Anne Krutila noted that the National representatives reiterated how happy they are with all the plans Stratford has already made for the 2025 Symposium.

4.4 Landscape Design Plan Update

Deferred to the September meeting.

4.5 Update on SDSS Eco Club Community Garden

Cindy Carlson reported that the plants were all planted in May and the vegetables are growing. The water tanks are now on site for watering the garden.

Christine Ritsma has confirmed that students will be available on July 22, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. to meet with the judges. Students will be going prior to the visit to do some extra weeding. Councillor Beatty has requested that the students are at the site by 1:45, in case the tour is running ahead of schedule. Councillor Beatty also requested if the students could have a laptop with them to highlight the website they have created for the garden. Cindy Carlson will confirm who will be at the site and if they will be prepared to share the website with the judges.

At the last meeting, Vicky Trotter volunteered to contact Christine Ritsma to confirm what items still needed to be purchased. Councillor Beatty also suggested that perhaps they could have a discussion this fall with the students

and inquire if there are any items or supplies that they could use this fall, such as soil. Further discussion will take place at the next CIB meeting.

5. New Business

5.1 Best Downtown Award

When the National representatives recently visited Stratford, they recommended CIB members consider applying for the Best Downtown Award for this year's Symposium. Barb Hacking has met with Zac Gribble and Jamie Pritchard to discuss the application. The deadline for submissions is September 9, 2024.

6. Upcoming Events

- CIB National Judges Visiting Stratford – July 21-23, 2024
- 2024 National Symposium (Charlottetown, PEI) – October 17-20, 2024

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Kimberly Richardson

Seconded by Mary-Anne Krutila

THAT the July 4, 2024 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried

Meeting Start Time: 12:00 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:57 P.M.