



## Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, October 3, 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, Kimberly Richardson, Cindy Carlson

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

**Regrets:** Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Barb Hacking, Carys Wyn Hughes

#### 1. Call to Order

Councillor Beatty, Chair presiding, called the meeting to order at 12:03 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** Kimberly Richardson

**Seconded by** Mary-Anne Krutila

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

#### **4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

##### **4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden**

Barb Hacking provided the Chair with the following written update:

- tulips, irises and hyacinths have been purchased and will be planted in October for spring blooming;
- 3 Dutchman Pipe vines have been planted. They are a host plant for the rare Pipevine Swallowtails that have been seen in Ted's garden recently;
- volunteers have been helping clear out excess plants and weed the gardens;
- canna lilies will be removed for the winter and planted again in the spring.

Councillor Beatty added that Bernie Van Herk was recently the recipient of the King Charles Award.

##### **4.2 2024 National Symposium Plans – Charlottetown (Oct. 17-20, 2024)**

Councillor Beatty reported that members have finalized arrangements for the Symposium. Members Barb Hacking, Mary-Anne Krutila and Cindy Carlson will be attending. Brad Beatty, Quin Malott and Vicky Trotter will also be attending.

Mary-Anne Krutila inquired if CIB National would have stats on attendees who have attended the symposiums in the past. It would be interesting to know numbers from previous symposiums and if Stratford could somehow strive to exceed those number. Vicky Trotter will contact Sonia Parrino to inquire.

Kimberly Richardson will go next week and pick up the chocolates for Charlottetown. Vicky Trotter will confirm that the invoices for the chocolates have been paid. Mary-Anne Krutila suggested it might make sense to have the chocolates couriered to Charlottetown instead of taking them on the plane. Vicky Trotter will inquire if the chocolates could be sent via courier.

##### **4.3 2025 National Symposium Update**

Kimberly Richardson suggested that attendees keep notes on what they liked about the symposium in Charlottetown and also items they might change. This will be helpful to have a discussion later in October or November to assist in planning for 2025 in Stratford.

#### **4.4 Landscape Design Plan Update**

Barb Hacking provided the Chair with the following written update:

- Contacted Scott Wentworth about the grove of trees on the design and confirmed that the recommended species are rated well for pollinator habitat. CIB set a budget to purchase trees for it in 2025.
- Kimberly Richardson suggested incorporating Indigenous peoples into the creation of the grove. Ms. Hacking has some names of Indigenous contacts who she talked to at their booth at the Wellness Fair in early September and we can discuss more in November.

Vicky Trotter has discussed this project with Quin Malott, Parks & Forestry Manager. Tree planting is operational, therefore CIB would not be required to obtain approval from the Parks Board. However, the committee will have to work with Mr. Malott on placement and planting. Locates will also be required.

Ms. Trotter also recommends that the committee work with the City's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Department for an Indigenous perspective as a starting point. Kimberly Richardson inquired if members should meet with staff closer to the time of planting, or would they attend an upcoming meeting? Councillor Beatty noted that this will be a 2025 project and that trees will not be planted until the spring at the earliest. Vicky Trotter will contact Kevin Bonnell, Manager of Inclusion, Equity & Indigenous Initiatives, to discuss the project with him. Kimberly Richardson and Councillor Beatty will also give an update on the project at the November Parks Board meeting.

#### **4.5 Review of 2024 Projects and Budget**

Vicky Trotter provided an update on the previously discussed yellow bench. There is not an option available for a yellow bench and after a discussion with a recycled plastic supplier, all warranty is invalid if the bench gets painted. Ms. Trotter contacted a second supplier and they also do not have benches in yellow. However, they do have memorial benches with an inlay text.

Kimberly Richardson inquired if the first supplier would void the warranty if the committee had etching done on the back of the bench. Ms. Trotter explained that the company stated if the product is changed in any way from its original receipt, all warranty will be invalid. Ms. Richardson inquired if possibly putting signage near the bench would work rather than engraving the bench. Councillor Beatty suggested putting a historical board near the butterfly wall explaining the chatter/friendship bench.

Ms. Richardson and Councillor Beatty will discuss the possibility of placing a sign near the bench at the next Parks Board meeting. Vicky Trotter noted that if CIB wishes to proceed they will need to pass a motion at their November meeting regarding the bench and two-sided sign. If someone works to design the sign prior to the November meeting, the committee can pass motion on November 7, 2024 and then it can go to Parks Board for approval and Ms. Trotter can place the orders. Councillor Beatty and Kimberly Richardson will inquire at the October Parks Board meeting if the Board will approve in principle the idea of having a sign in Confederation Park near the bench.

Ms. Trotter will inquire about the cost of the sign. The bench is approximately \$600.00 to purchase. Then the committee will know if the total of the project still falls within their budget.

Kimberly Richardson will contact the Stratford-Perth Archives to confirm information for the sign. Vicky Trotter suggested some history on the first chatter bench and a photo of the original yellow one.

Cindy Carlson will work with Barb Hacking to provide a write up on the history of the chatter bench to be included on the sign.

CIB will not be partnering with the SDSS Eco-Club this year on the project to add soil to their new urban garden. Cindy Carlson suggested that CIB members could assist the students at their annual plant sale in May.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 2024 Pumpkin Parade – November 1, 2024**

Communities in Bloom will be assisting the Civic Beautification and Environmental Awareness Committee with the annual Pumpkin Parade. It will be held in Market Square behind City Hall. The Stratford Cadets will once again be assisting. Councillor Beatty will reach out to the local secondary schools to make them aware of the volunteer opportunity. Cindy Carlson will also contact the Eco Club members at SDSS. Members are asked to be at Market Square by 4:00 p.m. CIB members will need to bring lighters and CBEAC will be providing the candles.

**6. Upcoming Events**

- 2024 National Symposium (Charlottetown, PEI) – October 17-20, 2024
- Annual Pumpkin Parade – Friday, November 1, 2024
- 2025 CIB National Symposium (Stratford, ON) – October 16-19, 2025

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the CIB Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

**8. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Kimberly Richardson

**Seconded by** Cindy Carlson

**THAT the October 3, 2024 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting adjourn. Carried**

Meeting Start Time: 12:03 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 12:54 P.M.