



Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Stratford Communities in Bloom (CIB) Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, November 7, 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, Councillor Bonnie Henderson, Barb Hacking, Carys Wyn Hughes

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. 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 October 3, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Update on Ted Blowes Garden

Barb Hacking provided the following update:

- the yellow chatter bench has been vandalized and the back has been taken off;
- the garden has all been cleaned up for the winter and they have moved some purple verbena from one of the medians into the garden;

4.2 2024 National Symposium Review – Charlottetown (Oct. 17-20, 2024)

Members who attended the symposium provided written feedback on their experience in Charlottetown and discussed their highlights that can be taken into consideration for next year's symposium in Stratford. There are some items that Stratford can try and improve upon to help give delegates a great experience visiting the city. Some suggestions were to have the BIA and CIB networking and working closely together to have the whole city on board with events, activities, restaurants, decorations. Also to incorporate the CIB pillars throughout the symposium.

4.3 2025 National Symposium Update

There will be a virtual meeting held on November 18, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. with CIB National. Some items to be discussed are:

- possibly collapsing the Sunday Town Hall program and trying to do it Friday. The Sunday event is usually not well attended as delegates are leaving to catch flights home. It is valuable information about the communities that might be better shared at the beginning of the symposium;
- Culinary and Agriculture theme for 2025;
- Early-bird registration for Stratford hotels, promo codes for events.

4.4 Landscape Design Plan Update

Barb Hacking has contacted Scott Wentworth and discussed doing an Indigenous circle as part of the pollinator tree planting. Ms. Hacking will seek guidance from contacts she has made, as well as work with the City's D.E.I. staff.

4.5 2024 Pumpkin Parade Review

Councillor Beatty thanked members for all their hard work volunteering at this year's event, which was well attended. Members noted that advertising on social media and contacting the guidance department at local schools for youth volunteers would be helpful for future events. Councillor Beatty suggested confirming with the farmer's picking up pumpkins the night before or the day of the event.

Kimberly Richardson no longer present at the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

4.6 Chatter Bench Update

Vicky Trotter reported that a new supplier for a yellow metal chatter bench has been secured. Porous pave will be installed under the bench and the bench will be screwed down to the ground.

Motion by Barb Hacking

Seconded by Carys Wyn Hughes

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$2,000.00 to purchase a new yellow metal Chatter Bench to be placed in Confederation Park and Porous Pave be installed under the bench. Carried

Vicky Trotter will provide a mock-up of the bench with logos and butterflies prior to placing the order.

Mary-Anne Krutila no longer present at the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

4.7 Review of 2024 Projects and Budget

Members discussed the CIB 30th Anniversary Project for this year and doing a tree planting. The planting could be a continuation of the Pollinator Pathway or it could be an entirely different planting in a different area. Councillor Beatty will contact the Parks & Forestry Manager regarding planting options. Barb Hacking will secure quotes for trees.

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Councillor Henderson

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$3,000.00 for the 30th Anniversary Communities in Bloom tree planting. Carried

5. **New Business**

5.1 **Annual Ted Blowes Award**

Carys Wyn Hughes reported that the Annual Ted Blowes Award is an award that was created in his honour after Ted Blowes passed away. The award was previously administered by St. John Ambulance, CBEAC and Ms. Wyn Hughes as a CIB representative. Nominations were received annually and the award was handed out as part of the Community Awards Night.

Some of the parties are unable to continue with assisting and Carys Wyn Hughes questioned CIB if they would be interested in heading the nomination process for the award moving forward. The award will continue to be awarded at the Community Awards Night and Carys Wyn Hughes has volunteered to take the lead on this. There would be a small fee required to purchase the plaque.

Cindy Carlson no longer present at the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

Councillor Beatty suggested that the 2025 award could be presented during the National Symposium as part of the programming. Call for nominations should go out by June 2025.

6. **Upcoming Events**

- 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, December 5, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., Rotary Complex – Mansbridge Room, 353 McCarthy Road W., Stratford.

8. **Adjournment**

Motion by Carys Wyn Hughes

Seconded by Barb Hacking

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

Meeting Start Time: 12:02 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 1:16 P.M.