

Centerville City Beautiful Commission

Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2013

Members Present: Bill Abrams, Judi Hetzer, Yvonne Jacobson, Sherry Leighty, Allen Nelson, Mary Lou Pence, Jan Prettyman, Debbie Schmidt, Bonnie Sekely, Marilou Enslein, Karen Beal, and Patty Kraft

Members Absent: Rob James and John Beals

Sherry Leighty made a motion to approve the August minutes with changes discussed and Patty Kraft seconded the motion.

City Beautiful Summer Landscape Awards

- Holly Bricker experienced some difficulty receiving pictures from Commission members of the Summer Landscape winners. It was suggested that Commission members send an email/text to Holly saying the picture is on its way and a separate email/text including the picture. The email/text with the picture must include the zone number, winner's name, address, phone number, and the month of the award.

Reception for Residential Summer Landscape Winners, Monday, September 16, 8 pm

- Save the date letters were mailed and Debbie James sent invitations to the winners three—five days later. Commission members will call their zone's winners to remind them of the reception.
- Since there was not a 2013 Mayor's Award the Commission will review recommended properties in early 2014 and make the Mayor's Award early in the 2014 season. All Commission members must review the property and vote on the winner(s). A recommendation was made to engrave the Mayor's Award rocks without the date so they may be used at any time. Marilou Enslein made a motion to approve and Sherry Leighty seconded the motion.
- Commission members will meet outside the Law Library on Monday, 9-16-13 at 7:45 pm. Please wear your name tag.

Spring 2014 Seminar

- Sherry Leighty confirmed that Pam Bennett, Head Master Gardener for Ohio located in Clark County and author of a column in the Dayton Daily News will speak at the Commission's spring seminar, February 8, 2014 at 10 am. The program is entitled Awesome Annuals. A venue large enough to accommodate the anticipated attendance was discussed. The Police building can accommodate 120 people, and the Centerville High School was also discussed. Mary Lou Pence will reserve the Police Department and Patty Kraft will contact the Centerville Board of Education.
- In order to have adequate attendance the program will be heavily publicized and include past landscape winners and garden clubs, etc.

New Commission Member Recruitment

- The Commission has two open spots and four people have expressed an interest in joining the Commission, however, no one has submitted an application. Patty Kraft distributed the City Beautiful Commission Membership Guidelines document as a recruiting tool.

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Four Corners

- Councilman John Beals contacted Jan Prettyman about the Commission planting the medians throughout Centerville similar to Washington Township. Jan explained that Washington Township has extensive, paid staff (and 120 volunteers) that designs, plants, and maintains several areas throughout the Township including the medians. This project is costly. After much discussion from the Commission, it was recommended that a subcommittee be formed to discuss this further and make their recommendation to the Commission.

Financial Status of the City Beautiful Commission

- The 2013 budget is \$5,475 and year-to-date expenditures are \$2,975 and year-end projected spending of \$4,939. Patty Kraft will purchase four mums (\$30—50) for the Summer Landscape Winner reception to be used as table decoration and door prizes.

Tree City/Tree Board Discussion

- Mary Lou Pence reported that Wendy VanBuren recommended in order for the City of Centerville to maintain their Tree City status, the Commission should place more emphasis on trees. After much discussion about possible ways to create more emphasis, (tree education at Earth Day, curriculum in the Centerville schools, seminar about tree care, etc.) Allen Nelson will discuss with Wendy her recommendation on what is needed to maintain the Tree City status.

Announcements

- At the August City Council meeting Councilman John Beals praised the Commission for all the work they do for the city.
- The Commission will need a new Secretary beginning January, 2014.
- Marilou Enslein will chair the October 1 Commission meeting in Jan's absence.
- Tom Wheeler asked that each Commission member's term expiration be included in the Commission roster. Patty Kraft will incorporate this for the next roster. Tom Wheeler and Sherry Leighty's terms expire September 20, 2013. They will call Debbie James and renew.

Sherry Leighty made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bill Abrams seconded the motion.

Next meeting: October 1, 2013, 7 p.m., Public Works Center.

Submitted by Debbie Schmidt