

CENTERVILLE CITY BEAUTIFUL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

7:00 PM in the Public Works Building

Present: Bob Baldino (Co-Chair), Austin Steinke, Carol Adams, Sue Jessee, Nancy Dye, Debbie Schmidt, Jan Prettyman, Drew Simon (City of Centerville Community Resources Coordinator), Jotham Smith (Public Works) and Ben Ankeny (Public Works Operations Manager)

Absent: Mary Ann Kabel, Gretchen Franck, JoAnne Rau (Council Liaison), and Freda Black

**Call to Order and Welcome:**

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM
- Jan Prettyman motioned to accept the September 5, 2023 meeting minutes, Austin Steinke seconded. Minutes approved.

**Staff Report – Drew Simon:**

- Budget – Flower costs moved to the Public Works budget.
- Fall Festival – Drew thanked everyone who participated in this highly successful event (25K people). Next year if the Stubbs Park project moves forward, the event will relocate.
- In partnership with Washington Township, the first holiday concert will be held on November 17 with two shows in the Town Hall Theater.
- The Uptown Holiday Walk is November 19 with 20+ shops and restaurants participating. The vendor village will locate at Benham's Grove from 1:00 – 5:00 PM.

**Old Business:**

- Debbie Schmidt, Gretchen Franck and Sue Jessee were asked to represent the commission on the Flowerscapes Committee. At the initial meeting the ground rules were established.
  - Re-design all of city beds
  - Cohesive and consistent look to all beds throughout the city
  - Drafting a Request for Proposal (RFP) to local landscape companies
  - Share recommendations with council
  - After the RFP will meet again on November 27
    - December - send it to the prospective business
    - January - seek council approval
    - April - work begins
- Four Corners Bed will be completed first and set the stage for other beds going forward
  - Facilities beds
  - City Building
  - Police Building
  - Benham's Grove (which will be a little different)
  - Yankee Trace
  - Gateway (corner of Alex Bell and 48)
  - Gateways (roads leading into the city limits)
- The work completed is dependent on cost.
- Suggestions for local landscapers were discussed by members.
- In the discussion on hanging baskets, placement would be difficult due to the sidewalk width.

**Next Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 6:00 PM (Note the change in meeting time and location)

The Chop House Restaurant

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**New Business:**

- 2024 Spring Seminar
  - Cline Elementary – reservation complete
  - Drew is pending a response from Pam Corle-Bennett. If a reply is not received by January, we will look for an alternate speaker. Suggestion - Siebenthaler's, topic hydrangeas.
- Holiday Lighting Awards
  - Prior to our holiday dinner on December 5 - Community Pride Award vote.

**Important dates**

- **December 1** – Send Community Pride nominees to Drew
- **December 5** – Vote on the Community Pride Winner
- **December 8** – Residential nominees due, send to Drew
- **December 15** – Notify residential winners, take photos, and submit to Drew and Kate
- The Community Pride Award winner receives a plaque, and all residential winners will receive a gift certificate for two to the Yankee Trace Brunch along with a monogrammed sherpa blanket.
- Drew will contact summer landscaping and holiday lighting award winners to see if they are interested in the City Beautiful Commission
- Other
  - Recognize Halloween decorations in 2024. After discussion, the idea was tabled until January.

**URBAN FORESTRY UPDATE:** Jotham Smith

- This week Public Works leaf collection is in full swing.
- The Tree City application is in progress, deadline - December 1, 2023. A minor setback with removing Marty Tackett's name and email from the application since his retirement. Public Works is applying for the Growth Award with the goal of continuing.
- Trees for the medians were ordered from Brown's Nursery with diverse selections to avoid monoculture. Many trees are lost annually to decline, disease, pests, and auto accidents. The trees ordered are: Chinese Elm, Sunburst Honey Locust, Redpointe Maple, Flamingo Dappled Willow, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Purple Robe Locust, Coralburst Crabapple, and Fine Line Fernleaf Buckthorn.
- City landscape beds have been winterized including the trimming of annuals, grasses, and daylilies.
- Six employees are registered for the Ohio Commercial Pesticide Recertification Conference on February 22, 2024, at the Oasis Conference in Loveland, Ohio.
- Discussion on brush pick-up cost of \$50.00 and brush drop off every Wednesday and the third Saturday of the month.
- Half of the leaf collection will be distributed to Tom's Mulch and the remaining to JB Mulch.

**GOOD of the ORDER** – nothing to report.

Adjourned at 8:07 PM. Minutes submitted by Sue Jessee.

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