

CITY OF BERKLEY

BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, September 23, 2020
6:30 P.M. Virtually on Zoom

PRESENT: Dan Mihaescu (Chair)
Anela Mihaescu (Secretary)
Nick Armstrong
Stephan Bard
Jeremy Coan

IN ATTENDANCE: Natalie Price (City Council Liaison)

APOLOGIES: Eileen Steadman

ABSENCES: Micah Bradley
Kara Damphousse
Jim Fritsch
Jennifer Hance
Charlene Kondrat
Tanya Olson
Anna Ringe
Jennifer Smitterberg

WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chair welcomed all the new members who joined the committee. Present in today's Zoom session are Nick Armstrong and Stephan Bard.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:35 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
2. Report of the Chair
 - (i) Follow-up on questions from open discussion from last meeting
3. Oxford Towers Park

4. Tree Planting Program Update
5. Secretary Position Available
6. Discussion on Public Art Restrictions
7. Holiday Spirit Contest
8. Schedule of Next Meeting
9. Adjourn

The committee resolved to approve the agenda.

MINUTES

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - AUGUST 8, 2020

Apologies, minutes of the previous meeting were sent late this month. Anela will be sending these out to all members and Torri today.

2. REPORT BY THE CHAIR

(i) Follow-up on questions from open discussion from last meeting:

- Sidewalk overgrowth by graveyard north of 12 mile: previous discussion regarding this area being unkept and being a trip hazard. Natalie followed up on this issue which was handed to code enforcement. The area has since been significantly trimmed back. The sidewalk does belong to the city. It was slated for improvement for this year but has been delayed since it's effected by the gas tax and COVID-19 pandemic. It is on the slate to be fixed next fiscal year.
- Bus Stop on Woodward: if there's not a garbage can there now, we need to contact SMART to request them to put one in

NEW BUSINESS

3. OXFORD TOWERS PARK

Previously, the committee members discussed continuing to plant flowers and shrubs at this location. The park is currently in the process of being renamed "Oxford/Friends Park". Natalie got in touch with Parks and Rec Director, Theresa McArelton, who did reply that continuing to plant at this location is a great idea. Dan has a total of 18 seedling hydrangeas to donate that are ready to plant. Members discussed possibly splitting it between Oxford/Friends Park and the Tot Lot. Agreed on date of October 21st at 5:00 p.m. at the Oxford/Friends Park for planting. Dan will reach out to the Friend's of the Parks and Rec if they would like to join us on this day.

4. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM UPDATE

Members discussed Berkley's Tree Planting Program. Starting this year there will be no charge for residents who wish to plant a tree in the easement. The Tree Planting

Program will cover the cost of the tree. Discussion on type of trees and issues they might cause with sidewalk and sewer damage. Dan will work on updating the tree flyers to pass out to residents with the new information.

5. SECRETARY POSITION AVAILABLE

Anela will be stepping down as the Secretary for the Committee but will continue to be an active member and will continue to handle the committee's treasury duties. The secretary role involves writing the agenda and minutes for each meeting. Both the agenda and minutes are sent to Torri Mathes to post on the city's website. Stephen Bard volunteered to take up the role as secretary moving forward. Thank you Steve!

6. DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC ART RESTRICTION

Natalie discussed current restrictions posing public art, including murals, in the city. Currently the only restriction on the public art is that it cannot be commercially natured. Recently some of the art pieces have been in a gray area whether it is commercial or not. Questions: who should be making these decisions, should there be an ordinance or as a resolution, should there be a separate committee dedicated to this issue? Discussion on creating an as needed committee to review the art. If a new committee is developed, a member of the Beautification Committee could act as a liaison on this committee. Nick Armstrong volunteered to be the Beautification Committee liaison for this purpose should a new committee be formed. Thank you Nick!

7. HOLIDAY SPIRIT CONTEST

Members discussed if the committee would like to run the Holiday Spirit Contest again this year. Residents are able to nominate themselves or any other resident in the city. The contest involves reviewing these nomination, taking pictures of the homes, canvassing the city street by street for additional residential homes that might not have been nominated, editing these photos in a presentation format, and finally judging the homes for the holiday spirit. Winners were announced at a city hall meeting.

In previous years, judging was determined by factoring in the theme for the overall look of the home and front yard, if lights, colors, and decorations chosen match, if there are no obvious bare/neglected areas, if the fence/garage/upstairs/roof was included, and if the windows of the home were decorated. Residential homes do not necessarily have to have all of mentioned criteria decorated, however this is what we use to narrow down the selection of nominees. The committee members look for an overall theme of the home that is welcoming for the season, opposed to the volume of decorations used.

Members agreed to think about participating in this contest and voting on the matter at the next meeting.

8. SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING

Committee agreed for the next meeting of the Beautification Advisory Committee to take place on Wednesday, October 28th, 2020 commencing at 6:30 P. M. Location will be at Public Safety Building Conference Room (2nd Floor).

9. ADJOURN

MOTION: Moved by Dan Mihaescu to adjourn the meeting.

Motion supported by Anela Mihaescu.

Motion passed unanimously.

Voted by Nick Armstrong, Stephan Bard, Jeremy Coan, Anela Mihaescu, and Dan Mihaescu.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:30 P.M.

Minutes prepared by: Anela Mihaescu (Secretary), September 23rd, 2020.