

**Beautification Task Force  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 25, 2009  
Conference Room – Memorial Building**

The meeting of the Beautification Task Force was held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Memorial Building and was called to order at 12:09 p.m.

Present: Brian McElwain, Dr. Joe Ryne, Nancy McKeague, Penny Bohnen, Candy Cleveland  
Absent: None

Also Present: Edith Makra Morton Arboretum Community Outreach, Public Services Director  
George Franco, Village Horticulturalist Dan Hopkins, Village Forester John Finnell,

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for February 25, 2009 meetings were approved.

**Old Business**

a.) Tree Preservation

- 1.) Mr. Finnell handed out examples of tree surveys that were performed by Mark Duntemann, owner of Natural Path Forestry Consultants. Mr. Finnell discussed the importance of a tree survey for controlling diseases such as Dutch Elm Disease and Emerald Ash Borer. Mr. Finnell also discussed the energy saving benefits of trees. Task force members agreed that these energy saving benefits could justify the cost of doing a tree survey.
- 2.) Dr. Ryne gave an update about the "Tribute Tree" program that he discussed at the last BTF meeting. He went on to say that the program could be a great way to raise money for a tree survey. Dr. Ryne also discussed corporate sponsorship as another option for fund raising. He explained that the Bank of America had donated 100 trees along the Chicago Marathon route. BTF members discussed soliciting donations as a way to help pay for tree related programs in the Village of Hinsdale.
- 3.) Dr. Ryne advised the task force that he had been in contact with Roger Herring of the Rotary Club. Mr. Herring would like to meet with the task force in April to discuss the Rotary Club's donation of the clock to be placed at the Brush Hill Train Station. The Rotary Club is planning a donation ceremony as part of the last *Uniquely Thursday* for this summer. Task Force members discussed the base of the clock and location and aspect issues. Task force members made a visit to the train station and it was agreed that the best location for the clock would be on the elevated berm, east of the flowerbed.

**New Business**

- a.) Ms. Makra thanked the task force for the invitation to the meeting and explained her background in the field of Urban Forestry and her history in developing public and private tree policies. Ms. Makra began by discussing the difference between public and private

tree policies. Public tree policies are relatively easy to create and enforce. Private tree policies on the other hand, can be successful, but may be very difficult to enforce. Lake Forest has had some success with private tree policies, but it took several years to create and requires a great deal of staff to enforce. Ms. Makra explained that there has been some success in other communities, that instead of creating private tree policies they just make it extremely expensive for residents or builders to remove private trees. This money would then be put into village tree fund.

Task force members asked Ms. Makra why it is so difficult to create private tree policies. Ms. Makra explained that creating a private tree policy will usually involve some litigation and this is what prevents most villages from pursuing a private tree ordinance. Ms. Makra posed the question, "If there are codes that residents must follow in regards to mowing height or grading on private property, then why aren't there codes for tree preservation and care on private property?" Task force members agreed and thanked Ms. Makra for her wealth of information in regards to tree preservation.

- b.) The members agreed to hold the next meeting on **Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at 12:00** in the conference room

#### **Adjournment**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Hopkins  
Village Horticulturalist