

**Beautification Task Force
Minutes of the Meeting
April 22, 2009
Conference Room – Memorial Building**

The meeting of the Beautification Task Force was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Memorial Building and was called to order at 12:12 p.m.

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

Also Present: Roger Herring and Jerry Ciernak, Rotary Club of Hinsdale, Director of Public Services George Franco, Village Horticulturalist Dan Hopkins, Village Forester John Finnell,

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for March 25, 2009 meetings were approved with modifications.

Old Business

a.) Rotary Clock Donation

Dr. Ryne introduced Mr. Herring and Mr. Ciernak from the Rotary Club of Hinsdale. Mr. Herring informed the task force members that the clock donation was in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Hinsdale. Mr. Herring had inspected the new clock and was very impressed. He had visited the site at the Brush Hill Station with the manufacturer and was concerned with the visibility of the clock. He believed the clock would stand at 21 feet with the height of the curb, foundation, and existing grade added to the clock height. The tree at the southeast corner of the station could also block a clock face. Ms. Cleveland understood the concerns but expressed the task force's unease with placing the clock in the flower bed. Mr. Franco told the group that the foundation could be poured at the curb height of 18" and the grade lessened. Mr. Finnell stated he had scheduled the tree to be pruned to remove several lower branches for clearance and the clock should be more visible. Mr. Herring agreed the berm would be a good location if the foundation is at curb height and the tree is pruned.

Dr. Ryne asked if the type of brick had been selected and if the layout of the brick had been decided. Mr. Herring believed there would be roughly 200 bricks installed, of which 100 would be inscribed, the additional 100 would be available for additional donors. Mr. Herring understood that the bricks would need to be smooth to avoid chipping. Mr. Hopkins suggested the inscribed bricks at the Wellness House as an example that would work. The task force agreed to inspect these bricks. Mr. Herring agreed to provide an example of the bricks to be used. Mr. Franco reminded the group of the need to move efficiently with the project in order to provide the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees time to review the project, and to provide sufficient time for the foundation to be poured, electric to be provided and the clock installed before the dedication ceremony in August. Mr. Herring, Mr. Ciernak and the task force members agreed the berm would be the ideal location to lay-out the bricks. Dr. Ryne asked Mr. Hopkins to review the landscape plan provided by Hoerr Landscape in order to avoid any conflicts with plantings. Mr. Franco informed the group that bike racks donated by METRA would be placed to the east of the station, but should not conflict with the clock area. Mr. Franco agreed to ask Tim Scott to work with Mr. Hopkins in designing a lay-out for the bricks. Dr. Ryne raised the groups' concern with the base of the clock. Mr. Franco stated he would inform Mr.

Scott of the group's desire for an enhanced base for the clock and to consider that as the lay-out is designed.

b.) Tree Program Initiatives

The task force discussed the presentation by Edith Makra at last month's meeting. Ms. Cleveland stated that the talk had galvanized the need to communicate with the Village community about the state of the community forest and the need for investment by residents in the tree program. Dr. Ryne said he considers Ms. Makra a valuable resource, was very happy she has made herself available, and recommended the group continue to work with Ms. Makra

Mr. McElwain reported to the group he had attended the most recent meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission is investigating a "tribute tree program" as a possible fundraiser, though the task force is much further along in its investigation of this type of program. Mr. McElwain suggested the task force work in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Dr. Ryne reviewed information he had detailed of existing programs. The group reviewed this information and agreed that a program accustomed to Hinsdale should be proposed. The group agreed the program should be a tribute and not memorial in order to include birthdays, anniversaries and other occasions. The group agreed that the initial program model should be limited to tribute trees and expanded as opportunities become available. Dr. Ryne suggested the tribute trees could be available in categories, such as the Memorial Building campus, Central Business District and neighborhoods, including parks. Ms. Cleveland suggested a replenishment program for tree planting, especially in light of the concern with Emerald Ash Borer. Ms. Cleveland suggested the program be used to provide funding for programs such as the tree survey and to reduce the back-log of parkway tree plantings. Mr. Finnell informed the group that there is currently close to 300 sites on the Village planting list. Ms. Bohnen suggested the group flesh-out a draft of the program. Ms. Bohnen requested Mr. Finnell to draft a paragraph describing the current conditions of the tree program and how the funds could be used. Dr. Ryne suggested the program provide descriptions and pictures of available tribute trees. Mr. McElwain suggested the group inform the Parks and Recreation Committee of its progress in developing a program. Mr. Franco suggested the group develop a model program that they would be able to present to the Environment and Public Services Committee.

New Business

a.) Guest Speaker

Dr. Ryne had introduced two members of the Rotary Club of Hinsdale prior to the discussion of the clock donation.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Finnell
Village Forester