

**Beautification Task Force
Minutes of the Meeting
May 27, 2009
Conference Room – Memorial Building**

The meeting of the Beautification Task Force was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Memorial Building and was called to order at 8:11 a.m.

Present: Brian McElwain, Dr. Joe Ryne, Penny Bohnen, Candy Cleveland

Absent: Nancy McKeague

Also Present: Village Horticulturalist Dan Hopkins, Village Forester John Finnell,

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for April 22, 2009 meetings were tabled till the next meeting.

Old Business

a.) Tribute Trees

Mr. Finnell announced to the task force he had been approached by a Village resident wanting to participate in the tribute tree program. He explained that this is very encouraging because this program is in its infancy and Village residents are already willing to participate.

Mr. Finnell discussed two aspects to consider in regards to tribute trees:

1. New tree plantings as a tribute.
2. Existing trees as a tribute.

Mr. Finnell stated the use of existing trees could be another resource in program development. An existing tree could be tagged to honor a loved one, for example, the magnolias in front of the Memorial Building. Ms. Bohnen and Ms. Cleveland expressed concerns over the size of the tribute markers and suggested using tree tags similar to the ones used at the Morton Arboretum. Mr. McElwain asked if the BTF should consider imposing a policy that would regulate tribute tag size, information, etc. Dr. Ryne recommended the tags include information on the donor, the year tree was planted, and tree (common and scientific name).

Dr. Ryne discussed creating a brochure for the tribute tree program and welcomed any suggestions for marketing. Some task force members recommended using the same company that created the Parks and Recreation catalog for the Village. Mr. Hopkins believed the Parks and Recreation catalog was done in house, but would report back to the BTF when he knew for sure.

Dr. Ryne suggested dividing the tribute tree program into three donation categories. Task force members discussed appropriate price levels and what the money should be used for.

Task force members asked Mr. Finnell what size tree he would recommend using for the tribute tree program, and approximately what would it cost per tree. He recommended 2.5 inch caliper trees to be ideal, anything larger tends to struggle to establish. Mr. Finnell estimated a cost of approximately \$350 for a 2.5 inch caliper tree (installed). Mr. McElwain asked if it would be possible for Village staff to install the tribute trees to save money. Mr. Hopkins reported the Village is currently too understaffed do any tree plantings at this time. Ms. Bohnen recommended the BTF consider dealing directly with local nurseries to help alleviate some of the workload from Mr. Finnell and Mr. Hopkins.

Mr. McElwain discussed the importance of keeping other interested groups informed about the tribute tree program, so there is no overlapping of ideas. Dr. Ryne reported he has been in contact with Gina Hassett (Parks and Recreation).

- b.) Rotary Clock
Tabled till next meeting.

New Business

- a.) No new business.

Adjournment

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Hopkins
Village Horticulturalist