

**Beautification Task Force
Minutes of the Meeting
August 20, 2009
Conference Room – Memorial Building**

The meeting of the Beautification Task Force was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Memorial Building and was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Present: Brian McElwain, Dr. Joe Ryne, Candy Cleveland, Nancy McKeague

Absent: Penny Bohnen

Also Present: Director of Public Services George Franco, Village Horticulturalist Dan Hopkins, Village Forester John Finnell,

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for July 22nd, 2009 were presented to the Beautification Task Force for approval. Minor changes were made and Mr. McElwain motioned for the approval of the July 22nd, 2009 minutes as amended. Dr. Ryne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Discuss August 11, 2009 EPS Meeting

Ms. Cleveland summarized her visit to the EPS meeting. She stated Trustee Saigh expressed concerns regarding the small tribute trees on the parkway and how the Village could guarantee the survival of the trees. Mr. Finnell stated the trees are under warranty for one year but will not be expanded there after that. The Beautification Task Force questioned the percentage of tree death after planting. Mr. Finnell explained approximately 1 to 3 % die in the first two years. Mr. Finnell suggested using “gators” ,an inexpensive device to make sure proper watering techniques are used, to help the trees mature. He discussed the gators also serve as a safety barrier from lawn mowers and other landscaping devices.

Tribute Tree Program

Mr. Finnell provided information regarding similar tree programs in Oak Lawn, Homewood, and Park Ridge. He stated he would like to put information together to place on the Village website for residents to gain information about the program. He went through the details of the proposed packet and referenced a 2003 ordinance that was adopted regarding trees. General discussion took place over the details in the proposed document and the timeline for a finished product to be presented at a future EPS meeting. The Task Force stressed the need to make the form easy to read rather than place more details in the document that could be confusing. Discussion took place over a fixed cost for certain tree sizes or a category with variable tree cost depending on the species of the tree or a general fund where smaller donations could be pooled together. Mr. Hopkins questioned for next year if a booth could be set up during the Hinsdale Farmer’s Market to market the program and raise awareness to residents. Ms. McKeague stated she would discuss this topic with Jan Anderson, member of the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce,

and would report back at a future meeting. Mr Finnell stated 2 to 2.5 inch trees are the most needed in the Village. Mr. McElwain motioned to adopt research categories dependant on tree size not species such as 2.5, 3.5 etc. Dr. Ryne seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rotary Clock Discussion

The Beautification Task Force discussed the Landscaping surrounding the Rotary Clock. The dedication of the clock is scheduled to take place on August 20. Discussion regarding the layout of the clock and the soil and landscaping took place as well as maintenance issues such as weeds and potential vandalizing took place.

Mr. McElwain left messages with members of the Bicycle Task Force for discussion of bike racks at the train station. Discussion took place regarding the possible placement of new racks installed near the post office and the installation of a cover that could bring more users to the racks. The Beautification Task Force requested to meet with Village staff over the landscaping plans for the Rotary Clock. Mr. Hopkins stated ideally a sprinkler system and new soil should be installed to help guarantee the survival of the plantings. The Beautification Task Force requested an estimate for installation of the irrigation system. Mr. Hopkins stated at this point zero funds are available and may not be available until next year. His recommendation was landscaping should be chosen based on the current conditions of the location. Discussion took place over the plantings proposed.

Discuss Protection of Trees on Private Property

The Beautification Task Force discussed a particular property located on north Garfield St. that had cut down all of their trees on private property. A list of like community research of tree ordinances would be provided at the next scheduled meeting for further discussion.

Adjournment

Dr. Ryne moved to adjourn the August 20, 2009 Beautification Task Force meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Ragona
Administrative Intern