

August 1, 2016 City of Northville Beautification Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Diane Pittaway, Sally Hayes, Nadia Golinski, Gary Haas, Doug Bingham, Callie Milroy, Liliana Miyahara, and Jim Gallogly

Diane called the meeting to order at 8:10 am, thanking everyone for coming.

Approval of June 27th minutes: Copies were emailed late, so Diane will wait for suggestions of additions/corrections to be emailed especially from any not in attendance today. We will be exchanging meeting minutes with Township BC as was done in the past. This will help in coordinating projects.

Treasurer's Report: Sally is still waiting to receive all invoices and expenses to be turned in to her so that she can give an accurate itemization at the next meeting.

Project Reports:

City Hall Geraniums: Nadia has reported irrigation problems. She waters the dry areas when she deadheads but it is not enough in this drought. Jim has arranged for DDA crew to water until the irrigation can be repaired. Thank you Nadia for taking care of the entire section so skillfully and reliably.

Rotary Park/Well Site: Rotary member volunteers (5) met at the site on Saturday, July 30 to spread the mulch left by DPW last month. Michael B reports that Rotary has discussed appointing a Rotary Park contact person for coordinating maintenance of the site.

Deadheading: The deadheading sign-up chart for weeks of July 31 – Sept 4 was passed around.

In addition to fewer volunteers, the heat and drought have added to the challenge of maintaining the downtown barrels. Volunteers are doing an excellent job fighting back the overgrowing plants with more barrels per section than before, taking more time than in the past. The geraniums do not survive well in the combination with aggressive plants such as potato vine and the Picasso petunia.

Diane will research ideas for plants that will be colorful and fill the barrels but require less deadheading and trimming back. She will meet with Lori Ward in the fall.

Jim asked if the number of barrels could be reduced. Sally added that triple barrels had been added to the original ones that we had originally maintained. This will be considered in the planning with Lori Ward.

In the meantime, Nachi has agreed to coordinate the sign up for sections that get missed more frequently than others.

Rural Hill: DPW crew member Tyler met Diane at the site to help weed, redefine

the grass line and apply fresh mulch. Autumn Joy sedum and blue carpet juniper were planted last fall. They are surviving well without watering. DDA graciously agreed to wet the fresh mulch after application so that it would not pull moisture away from the plants.

8 Mile/Center Street: Terry will be working on a plan to present to us by fall. In the meantime, Hillside school has cleared much of the area and greatly improved the site.

JUDGING: Diane is finalizing the list to be sent to Michelle who will then send out letters.

Some sites were discussed with consensus reached that overall appearance did not meet the criteria this year. Some new winners were added. In regards to Guernsey's Restaurant/Dairy, Jim clarified that it is located north of 8 Mile which is out of our jurisdiction.

Everyone agreed that we could give an award to First United Methodist Church for the beautiful garden walk and water feature on the far west side of the property though the planter with their sign by 8 Mile Road is overgrown with weeds. A church receptionist explained to Diane that they are waiting to get approval for a new sign in August and will restore the planter then. The award sign will be placed at the far west entrance off of 8 Mile Road well away from the planter with the weeds.

Doug nominated Angela Carson's for Best in Town to which all agreed. Diane said that Julie suggested we might consider more than one Best in Town as one would always be reserved for Angela Carson. Members agreed that we will consider whether to do this and a Most Improved award next year.

Terry has agreed to draft a letter that can be sent or delivered to businesses in April/May along with the judging criteria.

Nadia volunteered to help Diane distribute the award signs.

Gary has already taken most photos and will get them to Diane.

Rotary Luncheon: Township BC commissioner Nancy Gandillo will be preparing a powerpoint of award winners that can run during the presentations, hopefully, coordinating the names and the photos. Everyone looks forward to this feature being added.

Diane thanked Jim Gallogly and his wife Lorna for maintaining the island on Randolph. She had driven by recently and noticed how well kept it looked with flowers and mulch.

NEXT MEETING: August 29th due to the Labor Day holiday.
We need all members present wearing pink shirts for our group photo!
Important planning for the luncheon on Sept 13th.

Meeting moved to dismiss and seconded by Doug and Callie at 9:02 a.m.