

Beautification Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 21st, 2013
9:00am, Town Hall Room B-3

Present: Suzanne Schutte, John Schlachtenhaufen, Sabina Harris, Marcia Meinerth, Sandy Filmer, Marianne Wadleigh, Bob Wolkwitz, Sig Buchmayr, Sandy Drimal, Cindy Ryan

Absent: Heather Pommernelle, Cara Gates

Action items are noted in red.

Financial

- Expenditures to date for the line item account were discussed.
- MM will meet with Phyllis Hawkins to discuss budget and future maintenance expenditures for the VMS garden located at Exit 13 entrance to Darien.
- MM will send second invoices to will be sent to AAG sponsors whose checks have not yet been received.
- CR pointed out that the town needs to take care of the area along the Noroton Heights Berm area so that it looks better and isn't an expense to the BC.

Berm

- Boulders need to be moved and will be moved after the ground is completely frozen.
- JS noted there is a pile of chips that needs to be spread at the berm
- Group discussed ideas about future maintenance of the berm and possibly placing a bench there. It was agreed that more grasses are needed.
- Everyone was pleased with the gathering in memory of Jerry McGrath. His family and grandchildren attended, refreshments were served, SS spoke a bit about the berm project, and JS talked about the dedicated tree. Jerry's family expressed great appreciation.

Hanging Baskets and Noroton Heights Planters

- Discussed matters related to selling baskets to retailers who wanted to hang baskets but matters of logistics need to be considered. SD would prefer not to pursue.
- Much discussion centered about complaints about people getting tickets because the baskets obscured the "no parking" signs. SS has received a letter from towns hall concerning this matter. Matters concerning the height of the baskets, yellow lines needing to be more visible and overall placement of hanging baskets were discussed. SH/MW will help SD with placement of the baskets.

Adopt A Gardens

- Amy's smile Garden and Paw Prints gardens will be worked on and redesigned as needed. There is sufficient funds for the Amy's Smile Garden and additional plants will be purchased to enhance this garden which sits across from the Darien Train Station at Tilley Pond.
- SH will replace HP as an AAG coordinator.
- SS pointed out that in the future all BC members should sign off on the approval of a particular garden design, suggesting that we engage in discussion about suitability, colors, use of native plants, drought tolerance and how the garden will look in the future are important matters for consideration commissioning a garden design.

Donated Plants

- Discussed where the assortment of donated plants would go.
- Elder's donated hostas, upon approval by KSS and Karen Hughan would be considered for Amy's Smile Garden.
- JS will coordinate where the Iris from Frank Rosenberry will go.
- Placement of the Knock Out Roses and Japanese maples JS's daughter has donated needs to be decided.
- JS to coordinate placement of the spruce trees SF has to donate.

Miscellaneous

- BC discussed the use of wild flowers and MW pointed out that the display time is so short that this may not be a good choice for BC gardens
- Additional vests have been printed and distributed
- SB has removed the shrubs at the post office. JS and MW will work together to lay weed barrier and spread mulch.
- Fall clean up was discussed and it was decided that one was not needed for the fall BC members will clean up spots/areas as needed
- MW and SS are working with Will Haughey on plans for area across from Tegu Toy Company on Tokeneke Road. MW suggested using Daylilies and Daffodils since they can provide months of color and that we should just keep the area clean.

Next Meeting Nov 18th, 9am Town Hall Room B-3

Minutes submitted by MM for HP.