

## Darien Beautification Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Place: Town Hall Room B-3

Members present: This information was not recorded.

The meeting was conducted by Suzanne Schutte.

### **Budget Report**

A formal treasurers report was not presented given the fact that the former treasurer, Gerry McGrath has retired. In lieu of this, a brief discussion was conducted as it related to the funds available and other budgetary concerns.

- Estimated 30,000 remains in the account of an annual budget of \$34,000

- It was agreed that plans for projects should be in place to utilize the budgeted funds available by June 30, 2010

- The 'special account' has a balance of \$13,100

### **Hanging Baskets**

By all accounts it was a stellar year for the hanging baskets. Compliments abound! There is a price for this show and the members present agreed that between \$22,000 and \$25,000 was a good estimate for what it would cost to maintain and water the baskets and planted islands for the year 2009/10.

There was discussion about looking into a plant that would be a petunia alternative for the hanging basket. This matter will be further explored by Chris Merritt, Cindy Ryan and Pam Elliott.

There was presented a request from Penny Glassmeyer and Lori Kirchen (commission member) for baskets for the Grove Street Plaza area. There was also discussion about how many baskets should be at the library. These are matters for Chris Merritt to consider when she completes her plans for ordering baskets for the coming year.

The baskets were taken down on October 8, 2009. The baskets are now stored in the Fire Department Garage at town hall. Marcia Meinert cleared out a space at the garage and staff from Complete Designs met on October 13 to place all baskets and brackets in the assigned area in the garage

### **Adopt - A- Garden**

Presently, 4 sponsors pay the Beautification Commission to maintain their island. 9 sponsors maintain and water their respective islands.

### **Squab Lane./ Berm Update**

John Schlachtenhaufen, also serves on the Tree Commission, offered up comments pertaining to the possible inclusion of trees as part of the berm design project as well as the two islands located at exit 13.

He reminded the group that the design must be blessed by the DPW, and that it is very possible to include trees that are low maintenance and self sustaining. He also mentioned that he serves on the Tree Commission with Lesley Kroll, and that the Beautification Commission should seek out her involvement in the design of these islands.

### **Poison Ivy and the Berm**

John agreed to see if he could get Elder Santiago, who presently is our vendor the care of the cemeteries, to give us a quote for what it would cost to clean up the poison ivy etc. at the train station berm area.

### **Hindley School Clean Up**

This project is proceeding well. Bob Baker, Marcia Meinerth, Suzanne Schutte and her husband, along with a Hindley School parent executed the first stages of clean up. Future dates for clean up will be set and the bulb planting will proceed as planned (along the stone wall at Hindley School).

### **Distribution of Bulbs**

Suzanne has mapped out the distribution of the bulbs. That is 10,000 bulbs in case anyone is counting. Bouquets of bulbs to you Suzanne for coordinating the distribution.

Suzanne, Susan Bihrud and Cindy planted bulbs at Town Hall.  
John Schlachtenhaufen planted bulbs at the DCA.

### **Noroton Heights Clean Up**

This continues to be an area of concern and is a priority for the commission in terms of letting the merchants know they are part of the plans of the Beautification Commission. The matter of merchants having access to purchasing urns that are consistent in design was discussed.

### **Signage**

Bob reported that Officer Ken ( a column in the local paper) recently addressed the matter of signs. Signs posted on public property could come with a \$50.00 fine.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday November 9, 2009 at 9am.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by ,

Marcia M.Meinerth