

City of Southport Beautification Committee Minutes

Date: January 18, 2021 Minutes taken by: Karen Pasquale

Location: Indian Trail Meeting Hall

Quorum determined: Meeting called to order by Bonnie Bray at: 5:03pm

In Attendance: Bonnie Bray, Nancy Disbrow, Margaret Fontaine, Sharon Lightbourne, Karen Pasquale, Ken and Lynne Geiman, Randy Jones, Tom Lombardi, Maria Lowther, Rob Thatcher

Absent: None

Approval of November 16, 2020 Minutes: Minutes amended, approved and seconded.

1. Committee Reports

a. **Native Plant Pollinator Garden(NPPG):** Margaret Fontaine responds for Kate Singley

- NPPG next cleanup is to cut grasses.
- Kate asks to be put on Walking Tour.
- Randy Jones will put NPPG on Parking /Map List.

b. **Communication Report:** Margaret

- Margaret posted pictures taken of the last cleanup in the newsletter.
- Margaret requests ideas for the March newsletter.
- Margaret will contact Master Gardener for tips on Spring Cleanup.

c. **Planting Planning:** Lynne Geiman

- All the stewards have reupped for their sites.
- Firehouse planter boxes need a steward.
- Regarding grass pruning, Lynne will discuss with Bonnie.
- Lynne will meet with Planting Committee (Lynne, Sharon, Margaret, and Karen) on what plant ideas we can come up with for our sites.

d. **Financial Report:** Nancy Disbrow

- \$1952.71 left in the budget.

2. Old Business

a. Bylaw Amendments: Bonnie Bray

- Motion to approve as amended and discussed/reviewed at the November meeting. Motion approved.

b. Holiday Decorations and Schedule: Randy Jones/Tom Lombardi/Bonnie

- Holiday decorations are down and Christmas was a success.
- The Mayor lighting the tree at Whitley's Bench will become a tradition.
- All issues with the decorations will be taken care of by Tom and Randy (approx.. 5 wreaths have electrical problems).
- Forestry Dept. does not want a live tree at the Whitley's bench.
- Whitley's bench area needs to be fixed per Tom.
- Leslie Friedich will do garland and bows next November for added /replaced decorations.
- Randy is to purchase 3 trees: Two 6.5 foot trees for Franklin Square Park, and one 5 foot tree for the Keziah Park gazebo.
- Bonnie will prepare a wish list for additional garland.

c. January Cleanup and Recap: Bonnie

- 24 people attended the January 2nd cleanup. Many people were newcomers.
- In attendance was the Forestry Dept., Southport Historical Society as well as the Southport Beautification committee.
- Scott Glen from the Forestry Dept. showed us how to "hard" prune the azalea bushes that were overgrown. They will now be fine to grow over the next 2 to 3 years.

3. New Business

a. Joint Cemetery Committee Discussion: Randy/Tom

- Randy suggests a cemetery committee to review many issues. He would like to bring Garden Club, Southport Beautification Committee, Forestry and Historical Society together.
- John Smith Cemetery is a 501c3, non-profit cemetery.
- Norwood Cemetery is a public cemetery.
- Randy and Tom will talk to the Mayor for a plan.

b. Picnic Tables: Randy/Ken Geiman

- 5 or 6 new picnic tables to be added to Southport.
- Ken needs volunteers to help build these tables. Volunteers will assemble tables onsite.
- Committee voted for the picnic tables to be under Ken's direction.
- Randy will go to Parks and Rec to ask for payment of product.
- A pop-up day for staining was suggested.
- Sharon Lightbourne suggests that we have garbage cans next to picnic tables.

d. ITMH Bed Maintenance and Budget Request: Bonnie

- Garden Club has transferred the maintenance of plant bed at Indian Trail Meeting House (ITMH) to the Southport Beautification Committee.
- The board approved Lynn Menches as Legacy Steward of this plant bed and her request for \$50 for plants and 12 bags of mulch thru the end of June 2021.

e. February Cleanup (2/6/21): Lynne/Bonnie

- Cut grasses – 118 grasses and 10 lantana plants.
- Bonnie's email to ask volunteers to bring hedge cutters, gloves.
- Bonnie suggests to change the word "cleanup" to "work day" for the 1st Saturday of every month.

f. Volunteer Hours: Bonnie

- Bonnie has devised a "volunteer log" and requests that we all fill it out monthly for our Board related time.
- Bring this volunteer log to each meeting.

4. **Adjourned:** 6:29pm

Next meeting: February 15, 2021