

City of Southport Beautification Committee Minutes

Date: August 16, 2021 Minutes taken by: Karen Pasquale

Location: Indian Trail Meeting Hall

Quorum determined: Meeting called to order by Lynne Geiman at: 5:00pm

In Attendance: Sharon Lightbourne, Karen Pasquale, Ken and Lynne Geiman, Tom Lombardi, Larry Ashley, Joe Fikentscher

Absent: Margaret Fontaine, Robert Thatcher

Guests: Lowe Davis

Approval of May 17, 2021 Minutes: Minutes amended, approved and seconded online in July.

Guest Speaker Topic: Dog Park of Southport

Lowe Davis spoke with us about the future dog park of Southport. It will be located at the end of East Nash Street by the old cemetery. There will be 2 sections, one for big dogs and the other for smaller dogs. There will also be benches and picnic tables. Public Works will be in charge of clean up. Ms. Davis came to us for ideas. This will not be a project for the SBC but we may help with the building of the benches and picnic tables.

1. Committee Reports

a. Native Plant Pollinator Garden (NPPG): Larry Ashley for Kate Singley

- Weekly summer watch is going well and there were 2 work days.
- Acquisition of 4 ferns that were originally in boxes at Keziah Park are now in the yaupon grove next to the Adirondack chairs
- Lynne Geiman brought zinnia plants that are no longer needed by the Garden Club and those have been planted near the sundial and throughout the garden.
- Kate asks if the 2 benches can be repositioned this fall.
- Kate expects the Bee City designation to be this fall through the Xerces Society.

b. Communication Report: Lynne Geiman for Margaret Fontaine

- Margaret placed an ad in the paper announcing the next workday, September 4th.

c. Youth Outreach: Sharon Lighbourne

- Sharon spoke with the school leader of the youth program, Traci Leonard, and she will let Sharon know 3 days before our workday how many students will be present.
- After we know how many students will attend, we can plan on what work they can do.

d. Planting/Garden/Steward Program: Lynne

- Lynne contacted the Cooperative Extension to inquire about the state of our plants. She was told that due to a cold snap and then the drought, all plantings had a difficult time growing this season.
- Lynne still needs stewards for 3 locations: JC Building, Southport Community Building and the Pump House on Bay Street.

e. Financial Report: Lynne

- Current balance is \$3,000 effective July 1st, 2021.
- First receipt of \$76.00 will be given to the steward, Mary, for her section up by the Waterfront Park.
- Randy Jones provides an internal report on our running balance.

2. Old Business

a. Update on Holiday Wreath Electrical Repair: Sharon

- Taylor Evans gave Sharon a quote of \$500 per wreath to have them refurbished
- Currently there are approximately 5 wreaths that need to be repaired.
- Tom Lombardi will speak with Mosca, who originally built the wreaths, to get another quote on refurbishing.

b. Update on Trash Can Surrounds: Ken Geiman/Tom Lombardi

- Ken states that all the cement pads under the garbage cans have been replaced at Waterfront Park.
- Per Ken, 3 trash cans located north of Bay Street and East/West need cement bases.
- Randy will submit a request for money for the additional cement bases to Heather at Parks and Rec.
- Tom states that for now, the rain slant tops for these cans are on hold.

c. June Workday: Lynne

- Approximately 20 people, including students, attended this workday.
- People stained the picnic tables, weeded and did clean up at the Southport Community Building.

d. July – Boat Dedication: Lynne/Tom

- Lynne said that the dedication day for Nick Kern’s boat went very well.
- Tom sent the August newsletter containing the article on the dedication to Nick’s children.

3. New Business

a. Resignation of Maria Lowther, Treasurer: Lynne

- Maria Lowther has resigned from the board.
- SBC By Laws state that we can have “up to 9 people” on the board.
- Lynne suggests we keep the membership at 8 for now.
- Lynne states that we do not need a treasurer because Randy gives us an internal report monthly on our expenses and the current balance.
- Motion to keep the current board at 8 people and have 3 Executive Officers. Motion accepted and seconded.
- Larry Ashley asked us to revisit the possibility of adding a 9th person in the future.

b. Whitler’s Bench Discussion: Tom

- Tom suggests that we take out the current benches and top soil.
- Move the electric to the outside perimeter and then pour concrete.
- Add permanent anchors for the Xmas tree.
- Randy would like a compass rose in the center.
- Tom suggests 60 feet of benches to be put on the outer circle of the concrete.
- There will be wheelchair accessibility in place.
- Sharon suggested that we cap off the water line since we do not need water at this site.
- Tom states that it will cost approximately \$10,000. This will be paid by the city of Southport.

c. Upcoming Workday 9/4/21: Lynne, Tom, Ken

- Weeding throughout many sites.
- Community building needs weeding and plants for their 9/12/21 reopening.
- Franklin Square benches and picnic tables need staining.
- Tom says that the Mayor has asked for Nick Kern's boat to stay where it is currently (Caswell and Bay Streets). To keep the boat in place during storms, anchors need to be set in concrete. 4 sections, 2 feet deep and 1 foot wide for these anchors.
- It was also suggested that the current holes in the boat remain as holes so that the boat will not attempt to float during any flooding.

d. Future Project Ideas: Lynne

- Karen Pasquale suggested to put something permanent on either side of the Coastal Water Watch Sign such as a decorative marine symbol. She will look up ideas online and bring pictures to the next meeting.
- Leslie who works at the pollinator garden can no longer be the coordinator of making Xmas bows for this upcoming season. She asks for someone to replace her.
- Scott from the Forestry Dept will hold another class on pruning in the fall.
- Another project may be to fix the old swings at the Waterfront and add more since they are very popular.
- "Bucket Brigade" to maybe get started this fall to help clean up cigarette butts and other garbage.
- John Smith Cemetery will have a festival this mid-October. Planting committee will meet to discuss and add plants before the festival.
- Tom suggests that we hold a clean-up day at all the cemeteries this fall.

4. Adjourned: 6:31pm

Next meeting: Sept 20, 2021