

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON IN BLOOM COMMITTEE
CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI
MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016**

A meeting of the Washington In Bloom Committee took place on Monday, January 11, 2016. Those in attendance included Mayor Sandy Lucy, Co-Chair Sally Bocklage, Co-Chair Dave Wehmeyer, Committee Members Jill Straatmann, John Steffens, and Darren Dunkle.

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting To Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2015. Committee Member Steffens made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded by Co-Chair Bocklage. Motion was approved.

Agenda Item #3: Committee Reports

a) AIB Administration – Committee Member Dunkle reported the following:

- He had received the resignation of Dr. Wanda Rogers-Larson. Dr. Rogers-Larson stated that due to family and other commitments, she would no longer be able to serve on the Steering Committee.
- Reported that he would be submitting payment for the annual AIB registration.

b) Projects – Co-Chair Wehmeyer made the following report:

- Met with Josh Wargo, Parks Horticulturalist/Arborist in regards to planning the removal of trees and existing vegetation in front and to the east of Otis Campbell's and to re-landscape the area. Currently working on a new landscape plan.
- Continue to work with the Master Gardeners and Parks Staff in regards to re-landscaping the Heritage Transportation Park (Caboose).
- Met with Mr. Dunkle in regards to the possibility of developing a formal native landscape bed at Main Park just north of the Pool Building. It was discussed that the landscape should include two different types of native plants.
- Discussion took place in regards to participating in the "Million Pollinator Garden Challenge", "Monarch Waystation Certification Project", and taking the "Mayors for Monarchs Pledge". On March 19th Hillermann's will host an event in part to encourage the total planting of one acre of pollinating gardens within Washington. At that time, they will also formally announce this year's planting colors of Red, Yellow and Midnight Blue.
- Earth Day/Arbor Day – It was discussed that the City and Hillermann's team up to host this year's Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration. Hillermann's will be handing out 100 18" White Oak Seedlings as part of the Oak Tree Promotion. The celebration could also consist of speeches by the Mayor on the Monarch Pledge, Joyce on Monarch Pollinators; Story time; Crafts; and booths by the WIB and UFC. Further planning will take place over next couple of months.

It may be possible to have a tree planting/identification with the scouts on another day.

- May 14th Hillermann's will host an event to push pollinators, and if individuals purchase five pollinating plants, Hillermann's will donate five pollinating plants to the Parks Department to be planted at Phoenix Park.

- Co-Chair Bocklage reported that an additional 62 bulbs were planted at the Lions Lake Bridge.
- Ms. Bocklage also reported that there would be a Master Gardener symposium held at East Central College on May 21st which would include educational sessions and the making of lesson plans for teachers. Milkweed seeds will also be given out.
- Mayor Lucy reported that the Boat Club may have found a boat for the riverfront landscape.

c) Programs/Contest

- Discussion took place regarding the Yard of the Month Contest and if the committee should consider changing the criteria and repeat winners etc. The committee decided not to change the rules related to repeat winners at this time, but brought up ideas such as the “Best use of City Colors” and “Use of Pollinating Plants” as bonus points.

d) Fund Raising – No Report

- e) Marketing – Mr. Dunkle reported that he had looked at the budget and that funds existed for the purchase of some AIB Brochures titled “Discover Plants” to use as educational handouts.

f) Volunteer

- Committee Member Dunkle reported that the Conservation Corps, Weeding Wednesday, and the Probation and Parole programs worked out very, very well this year, and that staff had been working to establish set dates and times for each: Weeding Wednesday’s – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays April through October; Probation and Parole – 3rd Friday. Conservation Corps dates are still being worked on.
- Mr. Dunkle also reported that he would be working on efforts to revamp the Adopt-A-Park Program. He stated that groups and/or individuals who adopt the parks should be given specific criteria as to what their responsibilities are and the number of hours per month they should volunteer, etc. This should help out greatly in the overall maintenance and patrolling of each park.
- Mr. Dunkle stated that Ms. Robin Peirick, Recreation Coordinator would be serving as the Volunteer Coordinator for these programs, and would keep track of volunteer hours, projects, etc. She would also be in charge of advertising these programs through face book and email blast.

Agenda Item #4: Old Business

- Stated that he had reached out to John Vietmeier in regards to joining the Steering Committee as a liaison of the Arts Council. Mr. Vietmeier stated that he would speak with the Arts Council and that he would get back to him.

Agenda Item #5: New Business

- a) Tree City USA – Mr. Dunkle reported that the Parks Department had submitted the annual application for Tree City USA and the Growth Award.
- b) Miller – Post Nature Reserve – Mr. Dunkle reported that he would be giving a presentation to the Lions Club on Tuesday on the status of the Miller-Post Nature Reserve.

Agenda Item #6: Next Meeting – February 8, 2016, 9:00 am at City Hall.

Agenda Item #7: Adjournment – Committee Member Steffens made a motion at 10:30 am to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Co-Chair Wehmeyer. Motion was approved.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL.