

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:

JANUARY 12, 2015

NEW MEMBERS:

Suzanne discussed the status of two new members, Jeff Smith and Cristina Orsi Lirot, and the fact that both still needed to be interviewed by the Democrat Party and then referred to the BOS for approval. **Suzanne** will again contact Randy Klein to ask him to schedule these meetings ASAP, or to assign someone else to do them.

Suzanne mentioned that Sig Buchmayr, Cindy Ryan and herself had all agreed to serve an additional 3 year term. **Suzanne** will let the Republican Party know this so that renewals can be noted and records updated.

FINANCE UPDATE:

As of 11/10/14, Marcia mentioned that the BC budget had a balance of \$7400 which will need to last until the new budget turns over on June 30, 2015. She noted the following:

- that there is still an outstanding bill from Elder Santiago of approx. \$1100 to be paid.
- that we spent \$4980 for hanging baskets in 2014, and therefore should allocate at least this amount for 2015 baskets.
- that we spent \$8050 in 2014 on the watering and maintenance of baskets using Elder's services, and if we include the costs to purchase the baskets, the actual cost per basket fully loaded = \$140. (Note that this excludes those baskets maintained by the Library, local merchants, etc.)
- there is a \$3173 balance in the AAG account. **Marcia** suggested using \$3m on the current 9 islands to pay Elder to add plants and do general clean up in the spring. **Marcia** is preparing 2015 invoices for these 9 sponsors.
- that we spent approx. \$1300-1400 per garden in 2014, with the bulk going to watering.
- In 2015, **Marcia** will send all AAG bills to Cindy and Michael for pre-approval.

ELDER SANTIAGO 2015 CONTRACT:

-**Suzanne, Cindy and Michael** will meet with Elder in spring at the end of March to discuss his 2015 contract and general responsibilities. We will document points such as terms of the contract, start and end dates, and estimations or guidelines on the amount of watering he is allowed to do per month. Watering suggestions included:

JUNE 1/week

JULY 2/week

AUGUST 3/week

-A suggestion was made to talk to Richard Jones Landscaper in Tokeneke to see how much he charges per hour for his services.

AAGs:

-The group had a discussion on the idea of increasing the annual costs to sponsors for the Adopt A Gardens since the cost has never been increased since the inception of the program, approx. 7 years ago. The decision was reached to get the gardens in great shape this season, to forewarn the sponsors that a price increase would occur next year, and that **Cindy and Michael** should keep up good relationships with each sponsor this year.

-Marcia mentioned that there is a \$6360 balance in Amy's Smile Garden.

-**Sig** will talk to the Dock Shop store at the corner of Tokeneke Road and Old Kings Highway to see if they would consider adopting the garden at that intersection.

HANGING BASKETS:

-There were 86 baskets paid for by the BC in 2014. (Note additional baskets were purchased by the merchants and groups below.)

-**Sandy D** will talk to the merchants and organizations (Tom Geary, Dolcetti, the Bank, Penny Glassmeyer, the Library) who purchased baskets in the past to determine the quantities to order this year. **Sandy** will also talk to Jim Flynn in P&R to see if they are interested in purchasing baskets to hang on the lampposts in Tilley Pond.

-The timing of delivery and hanging the baskets will be in late May – the Thursday before Memorial Day Weekend. The price per basket remains the same: \$33.75. The plant and flower selection will remain the same.

-**Suzanne** will talk to the merchants on Tokeneke Road to determine if anyone is interested in purchasing baskets this year.

ALL ORDERS NEED TO BE PLACED BY FEB 1 with the LI nursery.

TOWN PLAN ON CONSERVATION & DVLP:

-**Bob, Sabina and Suzanne** will present on 1/13/15 at Town Hall on the cemeteries, berm and Noroton Heights train station garden projects.

TOWN CLEAN UP/SPRING ACTIVITIES:

-**Marcia** has allocated \$2000 in the budget to **Sig** for the hiring of a person to do periodic clean ups in town, especially picking up trash at the I-95 entrances and exits.

-A discussion was held on whether it is permissible for the BC to hire such a person/people to do clean ups, rather than using volunteers as we have always done in the past. **Suzanne** will ask Ed Gentile, head of the DPW, if there is a town or state rule that he is aware of on such hiring practices.

-**Sig** suggested that the BC should hold a second annual clean up in the fall.

-**Suzanne** will re-contact the DHS students who offered to help clean up during Earth Day in 2015, and with the mother who wanted to sponsor a group of kids to help plant natives at the Butterfly Sanctuary at the DCA in the spring. **Nina** will help with these projects.

WINTER WORK PROJECTS:

-**Sabina**: follow up with DPW re cutting back cat tails in the stream at berm

-**Sig/Nina/Jeff/Sabina**: cut back tall grasses at berm in March

-Further discussion required on whether we ask the DPW to move existing large boulders at the berm to the base of the hill, and/or to bring more boulders. Winter is the only time to do this so it needs to be discussed and determined at the Feb. mtg.

OTHER:

-**Marianne** to order 6 more yellow safety vests with BC name on the back.