

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2008

Present: Shirley Walker, Chairperson; Robyn Brown, Roberta Clement, Paul Falconer, Mary Ellen Halliwell, Jan Kendall, Kristen Picone-Barricelli, Sandra Power, Judith Wolfe

New member, Jan Kendall was welcomed to the Committee.

Old Business

1. Final 2007 report - Ellen Talkowsky

Discussion was postponed as Ellen was called to attend to an emergency matter.

2. Clean Sweeps - Ellen Talkowsky

Discussion was postponed.

3. Plant Sale

Roberta reported on the success of the event and noted that the vendor (Flowers by Darlene) enjoyed working with us. It was suggested that more perennials could be available if Committee members contributed plants from their own gardens. The sale grossed \$1273.50. A motion was made, seconded and passed authorizing the presentation of a Lyceum Restaurant gift certificate in the amount of \$50.00 to Mr. and Mrs. Picone in grateful appreciation of their efforts in support of the event.

4. Artist Row

Shirley acknowledged and thanked all (including the city) who worked to cleanup and plant the site. The city needs to see to the street lights and holiday tree lights. The artists will see to watering the plants and to running their banner design before the Design and Review Board. Of the funds provided by RCG only some \$200.00 dollars remain that will go to the cost of the banner. Fiddlehead still needs to plant the roundabout at the head of the row.

5. M.B.T.A.

Mary Ellen reported that the necessary permits are all set. She sent a "thank you" note to the helpful person at the M.B.T.A. Mary Ellen and Paul discussed the need for the addition of plants noting that the availability of water and site ownership is problematic. It was suggested that perhaps planted containers could be a solution. It was moved, seconded and passed that the M.B.T.A. sub-committee can spend up to \$250 dollars on planted containers (barrels) to be placed at the entrance to the train station and these would be the "traffic island" sponsored by Salem Beautification Committees. An appropriate sign is to be created.

6. Traffic Islands

Sandra noted the interest expressed by some potential island sponsors she has contacted and concerns expressed by some regarding upkeep. She noted that Riley plaza lost its sponsor but there may be another. There has been some difficulty connecting sponsors with their islands. She got a report that the traffic island sponsor name signs are hard to read. Work on the traffic island project continues.

7. Smokers receptacles - Ellen

Discussion was continued due to Ellen's absence..

New Business

1. New member orientation-

Shirley suggested that it would benefit new Committee members to have an orientation with Ellen Talkowsky. Paul and Jan agreed. Such a session is to be scheduled.

2. Project selection and funding –

Judith summarized several areas of uncertainty regarding Committee autonomy in selecting projects to sponsor, fiscal management of funds raised by the Committee and processes for accessing the funds in order to pay the costs of Committee projects. It was assumed that the questions should be addressed to Ellen. It was decided that it would be more efficient to have Judith draft proposed questions, circulate them among Committee members for modification and then send the set to Ellen for comment. Members were concerned that the information be provided quickly and hoped that Ellen could be meet with the Committee on June 10th so that projects such as the M.B.T.A. "island" could go forward immediately. The memo of questions was scheduled to be sent to Ellen on Tuesday, June 3rd.

3. Newspaper boxes- Marcia

Discussion was postponed as Marcia was not present.

4 Recognition Awards-

Kristen suggested that a letter or certificate of appreciation be drafted by the Committee that would be given to individuals and groups in recognition of unusual good works that make a difference in the community and are consistent with the mission and goals of the Committee. Notice can be given in papers and nominations can be solicited. The idea was well received.

The meeting closed with a celebratory cake served in recognition of Sandra Power's receipt of the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women's 2008 Unsung Heroine award for the City of Salem and in recognition of Roberta Clement who received the same award last year.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Wolfe

Next Meeting is scheduled for – June 24, 2008. Chairperson: Robyn Brown

Deadline for Agenda Items is Tuesday, June 10th.