

CITY OF OAK PARK BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
APRIL 18, 2017
MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. in the City of Oak Park Community Center, 14300 Oak Park Boulevard, Oak Park, Michigan, by Chairperson Lonnie Tabb-Upshaw.

PRESENT: Chairperson Lonnie Tabb-Upshaw, Commissioners Angela Mitchell, Brenda Moseley, Carrie Dodds, Danielle Fracassa, Idella Bailey, Joyce Schulman, Judy Simmons, Karen Davis-Harris, Mattie Boykin, Michella Perry, Santhia Guinn, Non-Voting Representative Kevin Yee, Councilmember Kiesha Speech

ABSENT: Commissioners Deborah Williamson, Larry Wilson, Reatha Richmond

GUEST: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES; FEBRUARY 21, 2017

MOTION by Guinn, SECONDED by Fracassa, to approve the Beautification Advisory Commission meeting minutes of February 21, 2017 as submitted.

VOTE: Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

Election – Voting Vice-Chairperson –

Motion by: Santhia Guinn

Seconded by: Brenda Moseley

To nominate Danielle Fracassa for Vice Chairperson

All in Favor: YES: All NO: None

NEW BUSINESS

Reatha Richmond – Non-voting representative Kevin Yee stated that he was contacted by Beautification Advisory Commission member Reatha Richmond and asked for an excused leave of absence from the commission. She is in a rehabilitation facility. Commission members stated that they would like to send her a get well card. Chairperson Tabb-Upshaw stated that they would like to nominate Reatha for a spirit of Oak Park award for her years of service that she has dedicated to the commission.

Flower Sale – Chairperson Tabb-Upshaw stated that she has not received a price list from the city's flower sale vendor, and mentioned that the price list is being worked on. Members were asked to sign up for their participation of the flower sale. The cash will be handled by Chairperson Tabb-Upshaw, and commission member Guinn. Various jobs will be assigned to other members of the commission. Commissioners stated that tables and chairs are needed for the setup of the flower sale. Signs will be placed on major roads in the city to advertise for the sale as well as on the website, marquee and the city's spring magazine.

Attendance – Chairperson Tabb-Upshaw stated to members of the commission that the meetings begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. and that she wanted the members of the commission to be sure that they are on time and that everyone's cooperation is needed for the meetings. Whenever a quorum is not met nothing can be discussed due to FOIA guidelines.

Transportation BCSEM Quarterly meetings – The next commission meeting will be held in Grosse Ile on June 15th. Commissioners have asked if transportation can be provided to them to attend the BCSEM quarterly meetings. Non-voting representative Kevin Yee stated that the decision made regarding transportation was that the city will pay for two of the four BCSEM quarterly meetings, and that will be the compensation for transportation and that there can't be both. He also stated that if the BCSEM quarterly meeting is held at a far distance, there may be a chance to work something out with the recreation department to provide transportation for the quarterly meeting. Members were asked to provide a list of commissioners who are interested in attending the quarterly meeting in Grosse Ile, or send an email out to each other so they could carpool. Commissioners were asked to check their emails more often, especially during the times when events are hosted by the commission.

Flower Exchange Day – Chairperson Tabb-Upshaw would like the commission to host a flower exchange day where people will meet in the spring and exchange perennials. This is an opportunity for people to dig up flowers and plants and exchange with fellow members of the community. The commissioners would like for it to be held at the community center and the idea is to have fellow gardeners readily available to give input and answer questions regarding planting and gardening. Councilmember Speech added that the commission may want to consider partnering with the Recycling Commission for the event. Commissioners decided that they will work on planning the event for next year and will consider creating a save the date flyer to pass out at the flower sale. The commission hopes to have the First Annual Spring Perennial Plant Exchange at the end of April/beginning of May 2018.

Adopt a Garden – Chairperson Tabb-Upshaw stated that she was approached to start a garden at the old Clinton school. Kevin stated that any project regarding the school will have to be coordinated with school officials as it is school property. Commissioners have the option to adopt a garden located in the city. Commissioners agreed that if a garden is adopted that full commitment is required to take care of the garden. Commissioner hope to promote a program that they already have and partner with businesses and also get volunteers to participate.

Awards for Holiday lights – Commissioners would like to acknowledge/recognize residents who decorate their homes for the winter. It was decided to not participate in such program as it may be offensive to residents who do not celebrate certain holidays.

General Discussion –

Recycling carts – Assistant city manager Kevin Yee stated that SOCRRA will be delivering carts designated for recycling to every resident in the city to encourage recycling. SOCRRA is renovating their facility to support single stream recycling. Commissioners would like the city to have an ordinance in place that would require residents to use a trash receptacle with lid for trash. Councilmember Kiesha Speech stated that implementing an ordinance as such could increase taxes.

T-shirts – Commissioners would like to order t-shirts to wear during. Updates include road paving on Greenfield, the water tower facelift, I-696 and Coolidge bridge facelift, Lessenger Park, Oakland county DNA lab, city council budget sessions, and world dance day.