

Hiram Community Beautification Commission

Meeting Minutes

Rosser Municipal Building

11617 Garfield Road, Hiram OH 44234

January 19, 2018

Beautification Members Present: Chris Szell, Acting Chair
Dan Brokos, Hiram Township Resident
James McGee, Village Administrator

Official Recorder: Wendelin Taylor, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Others Present: Robert Lewis, Village resident

General: Chris Szell called the meeting to order at 8:31 am. The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of October 27, 2017. James made a motion to accept the minutes. Dan seconded.

Guest and Public Comment: Robert Lewis 6910 Wakefield Rd. came before the Commission to discuss a tree on the northwest corner of his property, which is actually on property owned by Jeffrey Benner. Mr. Lewis has appeared before the Village Council to discuss this tree. He believes the tree to be a safety hazard. Today he is requesting the Commission send a letter to Mr. Benner declaring the tree is a hazard. Chris cited Codified Ordinance Chapter 909. Codified Ordinance Chapter 909 states it is the responsibility of the property owner to remove the tree. James is not of the opinion that the property owner can be forced to remove the tree and that the Commission cannot require the property owner to do that. Chris inquired whether Mr. Lewis has had a qualified arborist look at the tree. Mr. Lewis stated he has and that the arborist is of the opinion that the tree is dying. James stated that the Commission can hire an arborist to survey the entire Village for tree that need to be removed. A survey of the trees in the Village has not been done in many years. Once a new survey has been completed, James would like to have a quote to remove all the hazardous trees in the Village. He is not comfortable requiring any action be taken until that is done. Chris would like to have the Village Solicitor give his interpretation of the Ordinance.

Old Business:

A. Financials - \$3000.00 will be appropriated for 2018. Last year a large portion of the 2017 appropriation went to Hiram College and the Copper Beech Park project. Some of the other projects completed were the planter purchase and park/ballfield improvements.

New Business:

A. Chairperson Selection: Chris Szell has requested that another Beautification member serve as Chairperson. Dan Brokos stated he will Chair in 2018. Chris made a motion to select Dan Brokos as Beautification Chairperson for 2018. James seconded. Motion passed.

B. Cemetery: James is trying to make improvements at Fairview Cemetery. He has scheduled a tree service to continue to down dead or dangerous trees. He would like to replace the cemetery sign and replace the planter.

C. Village Projects: James stated that the Village limits signage is in need of replacement along with the planter boxes. He has received a quote for signage all over the Village including

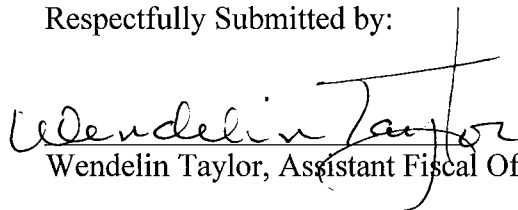
the parks. He was given a rough quote from Tucker Signs of \$19,000 to \$20,000 to replace at least nine signs. James and Chris agree that quote is too high. The same vendor has given James a quote to replace the Village limits signs with powder coated signs and posts at approximately \$2400 to \$3400. An Eagle Scout has approached the Village to propose a renovation project for the planting beds along the Rosser Municipal Building. The scout has not brought anything to James or Council to date.

D. Township Park: Dan Brokos would like to get the Township Trustees involved with the Beautification Commission again. He stated that the trail at the Township park are in need of refurbishing. Dan will approach Township Trustee Debra Blake, she may be interested in becoming involved with the Beautification Commission.

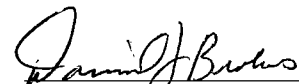
E. Project Recommendations: Chris knows of only one suggestion that came from Betsy Siman regarding the gardens at Hiram Christian Church. She has not followed through with a project outline or fund request.

The next meeting is set for April 20, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Wendelin Taylor, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Approved:


Dan Brokos, Chairperson