

Hiram Community Beautification Commission

Meeting Minutes

Rosser Municipal Building

11617 Garfield Road, Hiram OH 44234

July 19, 2021

Beautification Members Present: Dan Brokos, Chair
James McGee, Village Administrator
Michael Greenwood, Village Council Representative
Denny Taylor, Hiram Garden Representative

Absent: Mayor Lou Bertrand
Debra Blake, Hiram Township Representative
Ed Frato-Sweeney, Hiram College Representative
Chris Szell, Village Representative

Official Recorder: Wendelin Taylor, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Others Present:

General: Dan Brokos called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. The Board reviewed the meeting minutes of April 2021. Denny Taylor asked the minutes reflect a change from iTree Calculator to iTree Suite. Dan Brokos asked for a motion to accept the minutes as amended. James McGee motioned to accept the minutes. Mike Greenwood seconded. All voted aye. Minutes were approved.

Guest and Public Comment:

Old Business:

A. Reign Hadsell Park Trees – Mike Greenwood reported the majority of the trees planted last fall, are gone. James McGee stated the area experienced a dryer than normal summer and that the trees had died, also that a few of the trees looked as though they had been eaten. The tulip poplars have survived and are doing well.

New Business:

A. Appropriations for Beautification – Dan had asked for a report of the Beautification appropriation numbers. He had not received those. James asked Susan for a report and was able to have the report run during the current meeting. According to the current report Beautification has \$599.90 left to spent this year. The amount of \$1650.00 has been encumbered, James does not remember why that money had been encumbered and will investigate.

B. Hinsdale Trees – Mike Greenwood would like to use the \$599.90 to purchase trees to be planted along Hinsdale Street. He realizes that money won't go very far and that the Village Zoning Code does not permit trees to be planted in tree lawns close to the street. He believes a few home owners may be interested in planting trees in their front yards.

C. Donations – Denny Taylor reported Tina Dreisbach contacted him regarding monetary donations for the purchase of trees specifically for the cemetery. She is not interested in allowing the Village or the College controlling these funds. Ms. Dreisbach would like to make a \$5000 donation herself. Denny suggested Ms. Dreisbach form a 501c3 organization to manage her donation and perhaps other donations as well. He also suggested this organization be formed as a cemetery society that would not only manage the monies but the locations of tree plantings in the cemetery and village as well.

D. Hazardous tree identification – The Beautification Commission will be contacting Alan Seiwart for guidance regarding the identification of hazardous trees on Village park properties as well as on private property within the Village. James questioned how far the Village can actually go or would want to go as far as the removal of trees. Denny volunteered to contact the communities of Silver Lake and Cleveland Heights. Both cities have comprehensive tree maintenance programs that are very effective. A short discussion regarding tree removal followed.

Dan Brokos brought up wording from the Beautification Commission's guidelines that states the Commission must notify property owners in writing of the need to remove dead or hazardous trees from their property. The Commission would need to present the property owner with a quote to perform the work, which the property owner can accept or reject. According to the bylaws the property owner has sixty (60) days to prove financial hardship to the Commission.


All present agreed the process need to begin. James will contact an arborist to start accessing the condition of the trees. It was agreed that bids should be taken for tree removal for entire neighborhoods and not by individual properties. Mike, Denny and James related individual accounts of hazardous, dead or diseased trees along the hike and bike trail, Peckham Avenue, State Routes and college trails.

Dan asked for any other new business. None was brought forward.

Dan asked for a motion to adjourn. James McGee motioned. Denny Taylor seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next meeting is set for October 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Wendelin Taylor, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Approved:


Dan Brokos, Chairperson