

**Hiram Recreation & Park Board
Beautification Committee**

Meeting Minutes
Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram OH 44234

November 14, 2023

Park Board Members:

Chris McCreight, Chairperson
Isabel Kopp
James McGee, Village Administrator
Mike Greenwood, Beautification Committee
Karen O'Sickey, Beautification Committee

Absent:

Mayor Bertrand
Abigail Stevenson, Beautification Committee

Official Recorder:

Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Guest:

General: Chris McCreight called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Mr. McCreight called for a motion to accept the October meeting minutes. James McGee moved to accept the minutes. Mike Greenwood seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment:

Grant Opportunities: Kent Environmental Council Grants – There are several \$1000 grants available. Mr. McCreight asked if the Board could come up with any ideas as to what a grant of this nature could be used. Mr. McCreight went over a list of qualifying uses. Ms. Kopp expressed the desire to use the money to augment the Village's tree canopy. James mentioned there may be some money available from NOPEC for use. He will ask Wendelin to investigate. The deadline to apply for the Kent Environmental Council Grant is December 31st.

Feral Cats: Questions regarding an exemption for the college pre-vet program's trap and release program from the proposed nuisance animal legislation were brought up by Ms. Kopp. That request has been forwarded to Council President, Chris Szell, and will be presented to council.

Survey: Corrections were made for spelling and location errors. The survey should be returned by December 15th. Wendelin will publish a QR code in the Communicator.

Misc. Discussion: Discussion regarding various ideas for Reign Hadsell Park prairie, possible use for the Hiram Church property in front of the Municipal building and tree planting were discussed. Ms. O'Sickey expressed her view that tree replacement should be a priority. The prairie area at Reign Hadsell should undergo a controlled burn and a short discussion regarding past efforts to have that done followed. Mr. McCreight will approach Chief Byers regarding a new permit to have that done. Mr. Greenwood suggested the area be brush-hogged.

Air Quality Monitor for the Parks: Mr. McCreight would like to try to obtain and install an air quality monitoring system for the Village. Hiram is within the area covered by Cleveland and Warren, Mr. Greenwood asked if that was not enough. The odds of Hiram Village being an exceptional island would not be likely, he did not think a monitor is a good idea. Who would be responsible for disseminating that information to the residents? James mentioned that a weather station is already installed at the sewer plant. He will contact NOAH to see if there is a unit that can be added to what we already have. Ms. Kopp mentioned the same information can be accessed at air.gov.

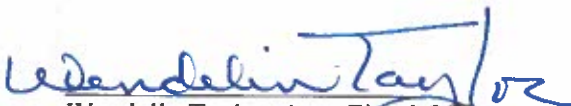
No Mow May: Mr. McCreight did participate in “no mow May” this past season. Mr. McCreight would like to investigate allowing residents to participate. Presently, the Village’s zoning requires grass to be no longer than 6 inches. Mr. McCreight encouraged the committee to investigate the idea. James asked if this idea pertains to residents or the Village as a whole. Allowing public areas to grow without maintenance mowing, especially in the spring, would make it difficult to get under control later in the season.

Mr. McCreight asked if there was anything to come before the Beautification Commission. Mr. Greenwood suggested that since there was so much overlap at this Park meeting, there was no need for Beautification to convene.


The next Park Board/ Beautification meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.
Mr. McCreight called for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Kopp motioned. Ms. O’Sickey seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

No Quorum

Respectfully Submitted by:


Wendelin Taylor, Asst. Fiscal Officer

Approved:


Chris McCreight, Chairperson

