

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
June 7, 2016
Aging & Disability Resource Center, 300 Adams Street
4:00 PM

Members Present: Paul Hartman, Marian Ripp, Lois Anderson, Jim O'Rourke, and Muriel Austin.

Chairman Paul Hartman called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

There was a discussion regarding the removal of the trees on Skyline Boulevard. The committee decided to verify the number of trees removed by American Transmission Co. There was general agreement that the appearance of the boulevard has been greatly diminished. Although the trees were cut down two months ago, the stumps have not yet been removed. Members inquired whether the Parks Department is responsible for removing stumps and if they're paid to do it. The City will presumably develop a plan to fill in the new spaces with plantings and greenery that can't interfere with the power lines. The landscaping will need to be self-sustaining, since the neighborhood is already seeking help to maintain the plantings that already exist. Paul Hartman suggested contacting the City Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department, and getting in touch with City Hall to arrange a meeting to discuss the issue. He observed that it's important to contact the City to make suggestions before the plans begin and gain support from the administrators. Jim O'Rourke said that the Mayor has already spoken in support of beautification projects initiated in neighboring communities, such as the landscaped medians in Allouez. Jim also mentioned that it's possible to view area wildlife corridors through an online program on the Brown County website; he pointed out that "connecting parks" are better than individual parks, since they support migrating songbirds and pollinators, and landscaping along Skyline Boulevard would help to connect Preble Park and the adjacent area parks. Native plants are preferable since they attract birds and pollinators, whereas Kentucky bluegrass (the species of grass generally used for public landscaping) requires more maintenance and is susceptible to weed invasion.

Paul Hartman raised the subject of the pick-ups this spring. There were tree limbs down in Jackson Park due a storm earlier in the week. Jackson Park is an attractive park with mature trees. Paul said he cleaned branches off the road and the sidewalk; there were some smaller fallen branches left in the park, but the City would eventually come round to pick them up. He emphasized that we want to encourage that kind of behavior within the community, and motivate citizens to invest in the upkeep of their neighborhoods.

Jim O'Rourke brought up the pocket parks, such as the Skyline Boulevard area, and the neighborhood contribution to such areas; he pointed out the Starlite Neighborhood as an example of a well-kept neighborhood.

Lois Anderson mentioned recent construction projects on the West side, specifically the creation of another retaining pond by the intersection of Ridge Road and Lombardi Avenue.

Paul Hartman said Green Bay is doing better than it was ten years ago. He said the City seems more interested in beautification than before, and mentioned the recent improvements to Navarino Park. He's been working on trash pick-up, and he says his neighborhood is in very good condition right now. Members suggested providing incentives to get people interested in cleaning up their neighborhoods, such presenting an annual Beautification award to neighborhoods that are litter-free—or a limited number of thank-you postcards signed by the Mayor and sent out on a monthly or quarterly basis to neighborhood leaders for trash pick-up per block.

Muriel Austin mentioned that the LaBaye Project recently received a generous donation of books from Globe University's library, since the Green Bay branch is closing.

The meeting concluded at 4:50 PM. Next month's meeting is scheduled for July 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel Austin