

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
September 6, 2016
Aging & Disability Resource Center, 300 Adams Street
4:00 PM

Members Present: Paul Hartman, Lynn Austin, Jim O'Rourke, Muriel Austin.

Members expressed approval of the City's ordinances allowing residents to plant native yards and to own chickens. Natural yards tend to require little maintenance once they are established compared to lawns which are high maintenance. The Brown County Extension Office is currently working on thirty acres of natural land in the Allouez-Green Bay area.

Paul Hartman brought up the need to have more people join in the efforts to beautify Green Bay. Jim O'Rourke suggested attracting new people through fun projects. He suggested the Izaak Walton League as a possible source of assistance for the Beautification Committee's environmental efforts. Jim also volunteered to work on building support for the Beautification Committee through phone and Facebook, and to call members to notify them before monthly meetings.

Lynn Austin met Kim Fruin, who is involved in some of the local urban gardening/farming projects such as New Leaf and the Green Bay Garden Blitz. Ms. Fruin is looking to buy or rent property on Main Street near the East River in the Three Corners Neighborhood for a community garden project in that neighborhood. Lynn said perhaps the City would help with this endeavor. Ms. Fruin has worked with the Brown County Extension Office with their project creating garden boxes for renters and low income families. Lynn said she invited Ms. Fruin to attend a Beautification Committee meeting.

Jim O'Rourke spoke about the East River corridor reaching from Mason Street to Osprey Point. There are improvements planned, including bridges and a dog park by Hoffman Road. The DNR is establishing a Northern Pike Fishery in the region north of the Allouez Avenue and East River intersection. He also talked about the importance of the bird corridor down the East River leading out to the Wildlife Sanctuary – these involve the power lines. The Izaak Walton League is sponsoring a Family Conservation Day on September 24. This will involve invasive species removal, possibly continuing the work on to Baird Creek.

Committee members agreed to support other efforts of area groups to improve environmental conditions and concerns. Individual efforts can lead to a series of events which result in either good (or poor) quality of life within our community. A discussion took place regarding the lack of trees and overcrowding of concrete buildings in our downtown—compared to the proportion of trees and other greenery in more affluent neighborhoods, such as Astor Park and St. James Park. The lack of trees in the downtown makes it seem much hotter during the summer and gives an uninviting impression. Lynn Austin mentioned the Oneida Tribe's prairie on Hwy 54 as a contrast, as well as the beautifully landscaped paths along the highway, into the heart of their

downtown. The paths and the footbridge over their river is lit at night with very nice lighting, and everything looks natural, artistic, and very beautiful.

Jim O'Rourke suggested posting pictures of Green Bay onto Facebook (both "highlights" and "projects needing work") to raise environmental awareness and beautification concerns. He will start a Facebook page for the Mayor's Beautification Committee. Flowers and birds are good photography subjects, because everyone likes them. The Committee should pick a target area (possibly the stretch along the East River starting at the Art Garage on Main Street and reaching to the Brown County Extension Office, with a ¼-mile zone on either side) with a view for its community use and any needed improvements.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel Austin