

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
August 2, 2016
Aging & Disability Resource Center, 300 Adams Street
4:00 PM

Members Present: Paul Hartman, and Muriel Austin.

Chairman Paul Hartman called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Muriel Austin mentioned a documentary called "Back To Eden," about simple, sustainable solutions for farming and gardening. It focuses on a man named Paul Gautschi, who lives in Oregon. Due to a shortage of water on his land, Mr. Gautschi began investigating alternative methods to improve the soil in his orchards and vegetable gardens. After putting down mulch and wood chips on top of the existing soil, he found he no longer needed to water any of his crops. He was also able to stop using commercial fertilizer and herbicides. The soil became rich and full of nutrients where before the ground was dry and tough at the end of every seasons, and his trees and vegetables grew large and healthy and produced greater amounts every year. He was able to sell his produce at a higher price since it was organic, and ultimately he ended up spending much less time and energy working in his gardens.

Paul Hartman contacted City Forester Mark Freberg regarding the question of landscaping on Skyline Boulevard to replace the trees that were removed by the American Transmission Company. Mark Freberg said he doesn't have authority in the matter, and the Beautification Committee will need to contact higher management. Paul said that the Skyline Boulevard solution may need to be a compromise in order to satisfy all parties involved. He intends to contact the Mayor's office and arrange a meeting at a convenient time, so that all interested Beautification Committee members will be able to attend.

The meeting concluded at 4:45 PM. Next month's meeting is scheduled for September 6.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel Austin