

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CLEVELAND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

CLEVELAND TREE BOARD

January 13, 2022

Members present: Mary Anna Davis, Charlene Wolfe, Betsy Abraham, Jane Dunlap, Adolph Hilliard, Myrtis Tabb, Laura Giaccaglia

Chair Myrtis Tabb called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

After review of the minutes of the November 11, 2021 meeting, Laura Giaccaglia made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Betsy Abraham seconded the motion. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Budget Review

After review of the year-to-date budget, Mary Anna Davis voted to accept the budget as presented, Laura Giaccaglia seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the motion.

Old Business

1. The Beautification Commission purchased four new trash receptacles for downtown. The new receptacles are at Public Works. When the Christmas decorations have been removed from downtown, the new receptacles will replace four of the worn-out ones currently downtown. Mary Anna Davis will show the groundskeepers where to pour the pads for the new ones.
2. The Court Street crepe myrtle project is a joint project by Beautification Commission, Master Gardeners, and the Chamber, with Phyllis McCalop heading the project, along with Frances Janous. Mary Anna Davis has helped to identify the current crepe myrtles which need to be removed. Garden Club members have expressed an interest in purchasing new crepe myrtles for the project.
3. Public Works employees cut back the overgrown shrubs in the downtown islands, and added pine straw to improve the look of the islands. The Beautification Commission will check to see how well the shrubs return in the spring.
4. The Wildflower Trail plot in Firemen's Park is growing well. The Park Commission posted the signs identifying the plot. The plot at Bear Pen Park looks good and should be ready for spring planting. At Amzie Moore Park, the plot may need either a load of dirt, or it may need to be moved to another site. Mary Anna Davis will ask Jason Woods if the Park Commission can provide a load of dirt. Myrtis Tabb would like to update the Board of Aldermen on the Wildflower plots at one of the spring meetings.

New Business

1. The Beautification Commission members chose a Chair and Vice chair for the new year. Laura Giaccaglia made a motion to retain Myrtis Tabb as Chair of the Commission. Adolph Hilliard

seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor. Laura Giaccaglia made a motion to retain Jane Dunlap as Vice Chair, and Charlene Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor.

2. The Keep Mississippi Beautiful Conference scheduled for this month has been cancelled again. There was no indication if it would be rescheduled.
3. Arbor Day is scheduled for Friday February 11. The Beautification Commission would like to plant a tree downtown in honor of Arbor Day. Mary Anna Davis will ask Damontre Woodard to help her find a spot for a new tree, and plant the tree. She will take photos and post the Arbor Day Proclamation and photos in the newspaper.
4. A student from Delta State University has expressed interest in a Clean Up Day on the DSU campus and surrounding area for Clean Up Week. Myrtis Tabb will invite the student to the February meeting. Laura Giaccaglia did an outstanding job on Clean Up week last year, and Myrtis asked her to chair that project again for this year. Clean Up week will be held prior to Earth Day on April 9, 2022.
5. The Christmas basket project turned out well. 2 baskets were hung at the train museum and 4 at the Chamber. Mary Anna Davis collected the smaller baskets from Public Works and greenery, cypress, magnolia, and colored balls were placed in the baskets. The commission members decided to place similar items in the downtown planters next year during the Christmas season.
6. The Beautification Commission discussed the need for public restrooms in the downtown shopping district. There are currently no public restrooms available and many of the stores no longer allow the public to use their restrooms. With the influx of river boat passengers and other tourists, there needs to be a public restroom facility.

Chamber Report

Restaurant Week will be held January 24 – January 29. Three projects have been chosen for this year's voting.

1. A face lift for the gazebo on the downtown green space
2. Start up funding for public restrooms downtown
3. Exterior improvements to the Chamber/visitors' center

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cleveland Beautification Commission


Myrtis Tabb, Chair