

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CLEVELAND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

CLEVELAND TREE BOARD  
KEEP CLEVELAND BEAUTIFUL

December 14, 2023

**Members present:** Myrtis Tabb, Catherine Wolfe, Mary Anna Davis, Betsy Abraham, Desira Warrington, Charlene Wolfe, Jane Dunlap

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

Myrtis Tabb introduced Mark Levy to the Beautification Commission. Mark gave a presentation to the commission on the new downtown plan, explaining the specific time lines, and emphasizing the need for public feedback and community support. The new plan will enhance the work which was started years ago, and will push the downtown forward. Mark's plan is composed of four simple design components, which will enhance the workability of downtown, create destinations, and make the area more ADA accessible. Myrtis Tabb asked Betsy Abraham and Desira Warrington to serve on a small advisory group for the downtown plan. Also in attendance were Caitlyn Thompson of the Chamber and Matty Bengloff of Team Cleveland.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

After review of the November 2023 meeting minutes, Jane Dunlap made a motion to approve the minutes. Desira Warrington seconded the motion, and the vote was all in favor of the motion.

#### **Old Business**

1. Mary Anna Davis updated the commission on the wildflower plots. She planted the areas in Amzie Moore Park and Bear Pen Park on November 20. The plot at Amzie Moore has germinated, but the plot at Bear Pen had poor germination due to pre-emerge residual, and will need to be replanted in the spring.
2. Keep Mississippi Beautiful provided flower bulbs to affiliates in November. Mary Anna Davis picked up and bagged the bulbs, and gave them away at the December Farmers and Makers Market on behalf of Keep Cleveland Beautiful. Bulbs were given to more than 80 people.
3. The Public Works Department installed the memorial bench for Jared Horne and one other bench on the walking trail south of Shelby Street. The memorial plaque will be installed on the bench when it is received.
4. Betsy Abraham updated members on the temporary signage for the breezeway. There were a few issues installing the signs, but both have now been installed. Myrtis Tabb asked Betsy to check with Roger at Robinson Electric to make sure that all the breezeway lights are on all the time.
5. Catherine Wolfe and Mary Anna Davis have been asked to look at the entrance to the bike trail and prepare a plan for flower beds at the entrance.

## New Business

1. Jane Dunlap, with assistance from a Master Gardener intern, has planted bulbs in the bed across from the caboose. Phill McNeer ordered other plants for her to place in the bed and sent three employees to plant and mulch. He provided the labor, plants, and mulch at no charge. The Beautification Commission will send a letter to Phil thanking him for his generosity.
2. The terms of Catherine Wolfe, Jane Dunlap, and Mary Anna Davis will expire on December 31, 2023. All three agreed to serve another term. Desira Warrington made a motion to approve the reappointments, pending board approval, and Betsy Abraham seconded the motion. The vote was all in favor of the motion.
3. Betsy Abraham reported that the Lions Club will assist with landscaping at the entrance to the soccer complex. Commission members discussed the need to involve area civic groups on park projects and Earth Day.
4. Betsy also reported that the Delta Arts Alliance will partner with the Beautification Commission to choose winners in the competition to select artwork for downtown banners to be hung in conjunction with the hanging baskets.

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

Cleveland Beautification Commission



Myrtis Tabb, Chair