

Minutes – 6/1/23 Beautification and Improvement Commission

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Robert Quane (Chair)

Sherwin Ditlove

Vernell Ellison-Smith

George Hubchak

Edward M. Potash

Rachel Rosenberg

Valerie Shuman

Ross Del Rosario

Mike Madalinski

William Barney

Will Oney-Paige

Commissioners Absent:

Mitchell H. Sandler (Vice Chair)

Ann Goldshaft

Joseph Hasten

Dalya Horowitz

Charles Levine

Barbara Rubins

Brooke Sprague

Forester Cathy Stevens and Trustee James Johnson - absent

Forester Intern Kaylee Aleksic - present

Minutes:

1. Call to order by Chair Quane at 6:35PM

2. Chair Quane asked everyone to sign attendance sheet and include vest size on attendance sheet.
3. Commissioner Shuman and Commissioner Oney-Paige second approval of the minutes from last meeting
4. Chair Quane went over details of the Skokie Festival of Cultures and stated that we can discuss what to do next year at a later date.
  - a. Chair Quane thanked all commissioners who participated and talked about all candy given away.
  - b. Chair Quane provided stats on the festival raffle winners and who won (Jo Hammerman and Sehar Saeed)
  - c. Chair Quane is looking to have Assistant to the Public Works Director Zimmerman get a better rain barrel for next year
  - d. Chair Quane is looking to see what trees are available in public works
  - e. Commissioner Madalinski stated that a lot of candy was given away
  - f. Commissioner Lisiewicz stated that a lot of people attended the Skokie Festival of Cultures from outside of Skokie
5. Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade – Chair Quane
  - a. Chair Quane extended an invitation to commissioners to be on and/or walking next to the float
  - b. Chair Quane extended invite to Go-Green Skokie and SEAC to be on the Beautification and Improvement Commission Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade float.
  - c. Chair Quane looking at new signage for the Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade float
  - d. Consensus during meeting was “no” to seed giveaways
  - e. Commissioner Shuman questioned if the Beautification and Improvement Commission should have a QR code on signage on the float for the Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade?
  - f. Chair Quane stated that he’s said “no” to the mariachi guy on the Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade float
  - g. Chair Quane believes that the Beautification and Improvement Commission’s float is the only traditional float in the Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
  - h. Chair Quane spoke to size/length of the Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
  - i. Chair Quane discussed various marching bands in the area that may or may not participate.
  - j. Chair Quane stated that a marching band from Dubuque will be participating in the Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
  - k. Chair Quane stated that the fee for participating in the Skokie 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade is \$125 for a business
  - l. The Beautification and Improvement Commission will look for flower shaped candies as give-aways seems to be consensus
  - m. Commissioner Rosenberg asked for Chair Quane to clarify all instructions about everything for the parade to the all participating members in the parade

6. Chair Quane introduces Forester Intern Aleksic, the new intern for public works
  - a. Forester Intern Aleksic introduces herself and talks about her degree and how she's working with Assistant to the Public Works Director Zimmerman
  - b. Forester Intern Aleksic will help with the judging and nominating of properties this summer for the Beautification and Improvement Commission Award
  - c. Chair Quane requested Forester Intern Aleksic to reserve the best area for a fall planting for the commission
7. Chair Quane discusses grant proposal
  - a. Tree canopy campaign
    - i. Discusses the details and particulars
    - ii. Read proposal for all commission members
    - iii. Recognition program
    - iv. Evaluation piece – how do we know we are successful?
  - b. Commissioner Shuman and Chair Quane talked to Forester Stevens and Assistant to the Public Works Director Zimmerman, on how the Beautification and Improvement Commission cannot be just “bystanders” to what public works is working on with tree plantings
  - c. Commissioner Shuman wants to go over what we can do to scout for tree planting areas with businesses
8. Commissioner Shuman to discuss B & I awards updates
  - a. Process
  - b. What to look for
    - i. Tree locations (new)
  - c. Nomination
  - d. Scouting
  - e. Schedule
  - f. Commissioner Hubchak suggests using official Skokie envelopes for all mailings
  - g. Forester Intern Aleksic brought additional red Skokie Beautification and Improvement Commission polo t-shirts
  - h. Commissioner Hubchak will coordinate the judging again
  - i. Commissioner Shuman will email everyone evening of June 1, 2023
  - j. Chair Quane, Commissioner Shuman and Commissioner to make sure Zones are assigned properly
  - k. Announcement on June 13, 2023 to community about Beautification and Improvement Commission Awards
  - l. Commissioner Shuman may promote garden walk if current schedule works for next year
  - m. Reviewed nomination zones
9. Old business
  - a. Resource page was delayed per Assistant to the Public Works Director Zimmerman and Chair Quane's conversation

- b. Communications Manager Meredith Gioia to review resource page
  - c. June 13, 2023 will have an announcement for the Beautification and Improvement Commission awards
  - d. Safety vests and envelopes to be sent to commissioners mid-week
  - e. Commissioner Hubchak to assign judges online
  - f. Chair Quane will get back to us on physical location of where to pick up the vests and envelopes (for those who want to pick up)
  - g. Forester Intern Aleksic will find a place for the September planting
10. Commissioner Ditlove motion to adjourn
- a. Commissioner Shuman seconds motion to adjourn