

Minutes – 9/7/23 Beautification and Improvement Commission

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Robert Quane (Chair)
Sherwin Ditlove
Dalya Horowitz
George Hubchak
Frederick Lisiewicz
Edward Potash
Rachel Rosenberg
Mitchell Sandler (Vice Chair)
Valerie Shuman
Brooke Sprague
Mike Madalinski
Katy Darr
Will Oney-Paige

Commissioners Absent:

Vernell Ellison-Smith
Ann Goldshaft
Joseph Hasten
Chuck Levine (excused)
Ross Del Rosario (excused)
William (Tony) Barney
Bahram Khazni

Forester Cathy Stevens and Trustee James Johnson – absent

Guest – Assistant to the Public Works Director Liz Zimmerman

Meeting called to order by Chair Quane at 6:34PM

Chair Quane introduces (new) commissioner Katy Darr to commission

Minutes approved by commission.

Commissioner Hubchak provides updates/results on Beautification & Improvement Commission Awards highlights:

1. 23 winners over 83 points
2. All top 5 properties were first time winners
3. 6 in top 23 were winners for last year too
4. 63 properties were judged
5. Consent was not received for 5 properties in time, so only 58 properties qualified
6. Some people were nominating other peoples' properties (need to adjust form)
7. Other judging commissioners chimed in about their experiences judging
8. Commissioner Shuman stated that we still need to work on people with nice yards but maybe not pollinator friendly
9. Commissioner Shuman would like to have a follow-up meeting to discuss what improvements can be made to the process

Chair Quanes shows signs for the award and explains the letters

1. Meredith to publish winners in next enews + photos
2. Chair Quane to draft letter for others who didn't win
3. Volunteers to distribute envelopes: commissioners Madalinski, Darr, Ed, ONey-Paige

Chair Quane to contact everyone about roles for awards ceremony on 10/16/23 at 6:30PM

Assistant to the Public Works Director Liz Zimmerman reviewed tree planting details:

1. Tagged 210 trees for Fall + budget increase
2. Hired consultant to look at SW area of Skokie by Village Crossing
3. Consensus is that Village needs to updated landscape agreements
4. SW industrial area – 251 locations on private and parkway for trees
 - a. Some businesses have landscape agreements
 - b. Send letter to those businesses who do not have landscape agreements
 - c. Provide watering contracts & quote for trees
 - d. How many trees do they owe us and how many can we get them to plant or want them to plant?
 - e. Certified arborist recommending trees to these businesses giving them automatic plans for trees for the property
5. Commissioner Shuman – explained what NI subcommission is doing
6. Liz Zimmerman applied for grant – only for disadvantaged study areas – already knows where areas of high need are
7. Chair Quane states that Appearance Commission/Plan Commission should look at this plan
8. No species of trees listed in codes per Liz Zimmerman
9. Upward development and “pocket” parks are also on the agenda to be discussed in public works

Commissioner Rosenberg talks to presentation at Library later in the month sponsored by B&I

1. Encourages commissioners to reach out to various contacts via social media, websites, etc
2. Solicits ideas for ideas for Spring speakers, including an event for business owners regarding trees

Native planting at end of month addressed by Liz Zimmerman

Liz Zimmerman announces (new) sustainability coordinator – Lisa Sansenbacher and mentions native planting project on 9/26 in multiuse area behind Dempster Swift

Brief discussion among commissioners regarding pros/cons of possible gas-powered leaf blower ban

Chair Quane mentions Northshore plant site – neat tool on website

Meeting adjourned at 7:46PM