

MINUTES OF THE HEARTLAND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
April 7, 2011

Present: Chairperson Rob Spencer, Councillor Peter Simons, Planning & Development Clerk Dara Green, Office Administrator Laurie Tait, Sherry Larter, Gertie Thieme, Will Brown, Laura Nattestad and Visitor Marilyn Crow Shuman.

Call to Order: Chairperson Rob Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

1. **Additions/Agenda Approval**

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that he would like to add as an addition some items that were brought forward to him from some local residents.

Moved by Chairperson Rob Spencer to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

2. **Confirmation of the March 2, 2011 HBC Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Chairperson Rob Spencer that the Minutes of the March 2, 2011 Heartland Beautification Committee Meeting be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

4. **Business Arising**

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner had found a recycling basket design that would fasten to the side of the garbage cans on Main Street. He mentioned that the High School would not be able to build the baskets as they need to be powder coated so that they do not leave rust stains on the garbage bins. Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner would bring a price sheet of the recycling baskets to next month's meeting.

5. **Statement of Revenues & Expenses**

The Statement of Revenues and Expenses was presented. Moved by Chairperson Rob Spencer that the Statement of Revenues and Expenses be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

Unanimous

6. **2011 Projects**

(a) Banners

Chairperson Rob Spencer indicated that the fall banners had been taken down and replaced with spring banners on Main Street. He mentioned that the committee should look into acquiring winter and summer banners as well.

(b) Community Gardens

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that the Community Gardens Committee would have a chance to have some sessions on pruning or pests just as an informal discussion for any citizen that would like to attend if there was interest.

Sherry Larter questioned the use of the planter beds in the Community Gardens. Chairperson Rob Spencer replied that the beds would be more for the elderly who cannot bend over and yet a big enough area for what an elderly person would ever want it for. Sherry Larter questioned if Heart Haven Lodge had garden plots. Laura Nattestad stated that a lot of the elderly residences had their own gardens on site but no their own specific plots. Chairperson Rob Spencer explained that the raised beds would be constructed of 4x4 rail ties. Sherry Larter expressed her concerns that the beds might be too dry to grow anything in them. Chairperson Rob Spencer replied that the raised beds would be located next to the water tank to water them frequently. He stated that there are currently 2 raised beds built and more will be on their way.

(b) Communities in Bloom

Sherry Larter questioned if the Town of Stettler competed against the same communities every year. Chairperson Rob Spencer replied that although some are the same, they do change from year to year and once a community wins the national competition they no longer can compete.

The committee as a whole agreed that July 18, 2011 would be an acceptable date for the judges to come and evaluate the Town of Stettler. Laura Nattestad questioned if she should note a deadline of July 10, 2011 to have the binders for the judges ready so it would allow sufficient time for everyone to review them before handing them to the judges. Chairperson Rob Spencer replied that July 10, 2011 would be plenty early enough.

(d) Median at Junction of Hwy 12 & 56

Nothing was discussed on this project.

(e) Increase Awareness of Committee and Projects & Encouraging Youth Volunteers to participate

Chairperson Rob Spencer mentioned that he was contacted by the Wild N Woolly 4-H Sheep Club out of Alix about doing some volunteer work for the Beautification Committee. He explained to the club that the Beautification Committee was looking more for participation in the committee by sharing ideas and sharing the plans they had to help improve Stettler not necessarily about volunteering within Stettler.

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that the committee can continue to use the press for free such as the radio and newspaper as well as the Town's website. Laura Nattestad suggested that the committee contact the library because every Thursday there is a youth group that meets up and has a garden.

(f) Trade Show

Chairperson Rob Spencer suggested that the committee could present past, present and future projects to show the public what the committee does. Sherry Larter indicated that the Community Gardens should be left out of this year's presentation and focus more on tips for gardening or pests. Councilor Peter Simons stated that there should be a place for the public to leave comments about the committee and there should be handouts depicting what the committee is about. Sherry Larter added that the information handouts could have a spot for comments and improvements at the bottom to detach and hand back.

Planning & Development Clerk Dara Green mentioned that there could still be a diagram of the Community Gardens illustrating the new addition as well as the proposed raised garden beds. Chairperson Rob Spencer agreed that there could be an information handout about the new addition. Planning & Development Clerk Dara Green suggested that maybe it would more efficient just as a diagram set up in the booth. Chairperson Rob Spencer agreed. Sherry Larter indicated the need for Garden Plot application forms for people to take. They could then come into

the office and pay for them at their convenience.

(g) Spring Plant Exchange

Chairperson Rob Spencer confirmed that the 2011 Spring Plant Exchange will be held May 7 from 10 – 12 pm. Laura Nattestad questioned how many people would be attending. Chairperson Rob Spencer replied that usually around 30 – 50 people attend each year. Laura Nattestad suggested that the information about the spring plant exchange should be put in the binder for the Communities in Bloom Judges.

Laura Nattestad made a note to look for the Plant Swap Signs that have been used previously. The signs were assumed to be at the Recreation Centre. Chairperson Rob Spencer asked everyone to let the public know that they don't have to bring a plant to take plants home.

Chairperson Rob Spencer suggested calling the radio and the newspaper to advertise the plant swap. Additionally Posters could be put up around town as well. Sherry Larter mentioned Home Hardware and other business that have gardening retail should be the main focus.

(h) Education on Home Composting for Town Residents

Chairperson Rob Spencer found some information on home composting. Laura Nattestad commented that the Town of Stettler should offer composting to residents. Sherry Larter indicated that the Town already had composting bins located around town for grass and other vegetation clippings. Chairperson Rob Spencer agreed that there were bins provided by the Town but they weren't Home composting bins for private use only. Sherry Larter stated that home composting bins can be smelly and usually take a while to break down everything; she suggested that the residents stay with using the compost bins located throughout town. Councilor Peter Simons stated that with home composting, a lot of content can be taken out of the garbage creating less that goes to the landfill as an end result.

(i) Container & In Ground Gardening Contest

Chairperson Rob Spencer questioned whether or not the competition should have seasonal judging considering everyone's gardens would be in different stages throughout the year. Additionally he mentioned that the contest will be advertised in the May Town of Stettler Newsletter. Discussion continued about previous topics about how many contestants to judge in person and whether or not the contest could be put on the Town of Stettler website. Further discussion on the contest will follow via e-mail.

(j) Park / Playground Improvement

Nothing at this time.

(k) Streetscape on Main Street

Councilor Peter Simons mentioned the need to come up with some more suggestions on what the committee wants done with the meridians at Hwy 12/21 as well as what shrubs or plants should be planted at the new entrance signs.

(l) Off Season Beautification Opportunities

Nothing at this time.

7. Correspondence

a) 2011 Scotts Community Garden Grant

Chairperson Rob Spencer suggested that the Committee might as well apply for the grant. The Community Gardens could use the \$1500 to help improve the facilities. Deadline is April 21, 2011.

8. Additions

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that a citizen approached him and mentioned the following:

- They would like to see a walk through bridge from the train station to the P & H Elevator. Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that the Train Station is on private property, so we would not be able to make any changes.
- Need to raise the path around cold lake so it doesn't flood and to continue the path along 44 Avenue.

A tunnel from the path at the cemetery to the path at cold lake is in the budget to be completed at this time.

9. **Next Meeting:** May 5, 2011

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Chairperson Rob Spencer at 1:05 p.m..