

MINUTES OF THE HEARTLAND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
February 3, 2011

Present: Chairperson Rob Spencer, Councilor Steve Wildeboer, Councilor Peter Simons, Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner, Secretary Dara Green, Sherry Larter, Gertie Thieme and Will Brown.

Call to Order: Chairperson Rob Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

1. **Additions/Agenda Approval**

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

2. **Confirmation of the November 4, 2010 HBC Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Chairperson Rob Spencer that the Minutes of the November 4, 2010 Heartland Beautification Committee Meeting be approved.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

4. **Business Arising**

None.

5. **Statement of Revenues & Expenses**

Secretary Dara Green commented that there was a total of \$5,638.98 left over from the 2010 Streetscape Budget that Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner requested be brought into the 2011 Budget to be used. Secretary Dara Green inquired on whether or not this available 2010 Budget money would be included on the 2011 Statement of Expenses as part of the budget in the Streetscape area. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner stated that it should be combined with the 2011 Budget for Streetscape leaving a total of \$10,638.98 available for the Streetscape section of the budget.

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

Councilor Steven Wildeboer commented about whether or not the Town had seasonal banners or not. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner stated that the Town indeed had seasonal banners but had had an oversight with the fall banners that are still currently up, which were not taken down when the bucket truck was available. In the future he hopes to have them changed in time for the season changes.

(b) Community Gardens

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that the raised garden beds are ordered and will be built by the high school students. The beds will be installed where the food bank section was located last year in the Community Gardens.

(b) Communities in Bloom

Chairperson Rob Spencer announced that the Town of Stettler is registered for the 2011 National Competition this year. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner stated that competing in the National Competition give the Town of Stettler good press coverage that usually covers the cost of expenses endured by the competition.

(d) Median at Junction of Hwy 12 & 56

Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner presented pictures of potential median designs to help beautify the junction that he had found in other similar towns to Stettler. Most of them incorporated small shallow rocks in the concrete, but he was concerned that the sweepers might not be able to clean in between the rocks and that Alberta Transportation would not support such a design. Other pictures were of small bushes or a raised concrete curb around grass. A Student from the middle school class suggested that the bushed might look the best. Sherry Larter agreed that the bushes would be the best possible choice. Councilor Steven Wildeboer debated that the bushes would only collect garbage, which would lead to more maintenance.

More ideas and opinions would be discussed at the next meeting.

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

The Stettler Middle School Students Union attended and they were given the chance to express their thoughts and opinions. President of the Students Union, Grace wanted to express on behalf of her class ideas and comments about the good things that have been accomplished in the Town as well as areas that needed to be worked on.

The following are items the class thought were good accomplishments:

1. Community Gardens and its expansion
2. The new banners on main street and along the highway
3. The hanging flower baskets on main street
4. The garbage bins and benches throughout the Town make the streets look good and help keep Stettler clean
5. West Stettler Park and the pathways are great to have and the doggie bags are a great idea.
 - a. The Spray park is well used

The following are items the class thought needed change or growth:

1. Memorial Park
 - a. High School Vandalism is an issue – Could there be more monitoring?
 - b. Could the HBC lobby the Town asking for more monitoring?
2. Continue extending the pathway system
3. More trees in West Stettler Park would be nice
4. More consistent hours of operation for the concession at West Stettler Park would be great.
5. Are there any plans for winter activities? (e.g. groomed x-country ski trails)
6. The junk by the train tracks behind Sobeys needs cleaned up.

Sherry Larter suggested to the class that one day they would be in High School and that maybe if they tried to make changes for Memorial Park within their class and help educate fellow classmates about keeping the park clean and tidy first that by the time they reached High School there wouldn't be such a big burden at the park. The students agreed that that was a great idea and another student named Autumn spoke about a power point presentation that was designed to educate their fellow classmates about recycling, reducing garbage as well as keeping their school clean. This presentation could in the future, involve not just their school but memorial park as well. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner suggested that a volunteer officer could monitor the park for certain hours a week. Maybe in the future the committee would consider the option.

(f) Trade Show

The Trade show will run from April 15-17, 2011 this year. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner suggested that a big focus on Home Composting Bins would be great to launch at the Trade Show. Councilor Steven Wildeboer stated that maybe speaking about how to improve apartment and commercial recycling programs would be a great presentation as well. Chairperson Rob Spencer mentioned that maybe having a small display of the Community Gardens would spark more interest within the community about vegetable gardening or even home gardening. He also suggested that the committee have door prizes again like last year for whoever puts there name in the draw while visiting the display table.

All the ideas and a time sheet for shift work at the trade show will be discussed more thoroughly at the next couple of meetings before the event.

(g) Spring Plant Exchange

Spring Plant Exchange will be May 14, 2011 this year.

(h) Education on Home Composting for Town Residents

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that he would like to find readymade composting units for residents in Stettler so that their simple and easy to use with no assembly required. He mentioned that the committee would need to look into designs that would be considered by checking out other cities or towns that have a similar program that's already in effect. Councilor Peter Simons said that this idea should be launched at the Trade Show so that the citizens of Stettler are more educated and aware of the potential program.

(i) Container & In Ground Gardening Contest

Councilor Peter Simons suggested that the residents of Stettler be informed about this contest at the Trade Show in April. He stated that more sponsors to do ads in the newspaper and better prizes for the winners would encourage more participation. Chairperson Rob Spencer replied that volunteers are hard to find to help run the contest. Councilor Peter Simons commented that to make the judging easier, people could send in pictures instead and they can be posted on the Town of Stettler Website. That way their pictures would be judged instead of doing individual personal visits to every property.

(j) Park / Playground Improvement

Sherry Larter had taken pictures of certain parks throughout town that needed some sprucing up a bit like new swings ect. She mentioned that the one park that stood out the most was the Dog Park and that it needed more maintenance done with it. She stated that about 800 dog tags are sold every year and most of them go and use the park on a regular basis. She questioned about what the committee could do to make the Dog Park better. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner replied that only select types of dog owners exercise their dogs by going to the off leash dog park. All the other dog owners have the option of going to the numerous other pathways and parks that are always groomed and used for walking on a leash. The Dog Park doesn't have a budget and so whatever time is left over after maintaining all of the other parks in Stettler, which will be used on the Dog Park. The Parks & Leisure Department will not neglect all of the other parks that all the citizens of Stettler use just to accommodate a select group of citizens that use the Dog Park.

Sherry Larter questioned if it would be beneficial for the committee to ask for money for this park or instead not to expect the funds for better maintenance form the Town but to design and do the funding within the group of dog owners that use the park.

Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner noted that the Kinsmen Club received a grant to have the park near the Stop N' Go finished. Sherry Larter questioned about where they get the money from. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner replied that they received a grant with the help of Town Council considering them first.

Sherry Larter mentioned the idea of possibly using the no fly zone near the airport for the dog park since it's a bigger area.

(k) Streetscape on Main Street

Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner stated that Town Council had approved the remaining north end of Main Street to be completed, including shaving the asphalt, repaving and redoing the sidewalks so that they have the same railroad look as the rest.

(l) Off Season Beautification Opportunities

Discussions will continue for the 2011-2012 winter season.

7. Correspondence
 - a) Community Entrance Signs
8. Additions
9. **Next Meeting:** March 3, 2011
7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Chairperson Rob Spencer at 1:00 p.m.

Over the past month or so, I have been working on a power point to present to our school. In this presentation I hope to grab our audiences' attention by dealing with waste issues around our school, and then bringing it into a bigger picture, like how people on earth handle their garbage, and recyclables.

Near the end of 2010, our grade sevens took on a project that was not only disgusting, but went along with their science unit. They collected our garbage for an entire week. They discovered that our school was not as recyclable or environmental friendly as they thought. They found unopened materials such as pudding, granola bars, etc. that could have been taken home and been put to a better use.

20 bags of what we call "garbage", turned into 5 bags of what actually was. We want our school to be friendlier to the environment, and know what they're doing to earth as we know it. We want to get more involved.

We are planning on changing waste issues in our school by:

- Selling reusable lunch bags
- Lowering the number of garbage cans in our school so students don't feel as if they can toss extra, reusable materials away
- Redoing the project that the grade 7's took on to see the impact SMS Students' Union will have on our peers, classmates, and friends

Our grade 8 Student Council representatives are going to take some of the information we learn here today, and put it into our power point.