

**MINUTES OF THE HEARTLAND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
March 2, 2011**

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Rob Spencer called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m..

1. **Additions/Agenda Approval**

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

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

2. **Confirmation of the February 3, 2011 HBC Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Chairperson Rob Spencer that the February 3, 2011 Minutes of the Heartland Beautification Committee Meeting be approved.

MOTION CARRIED
Unanimous

4. **Business Arising**

None

5. **Statement of Revenues & Expenses**

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that he would like to add "Visitors, Stettler Middle School Students Council" to who was present at the February 3, 2011 meeting which consisted of 11 students and 3 Adult advisors.

Will Brown also stated that the Spring Plant exchange, which is supposed to be the day before Mother's Day is actually May 7, 2011 not May 14, 2011 which was in the minutes.

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

None

(b) Community Gardens

Chairperson Rob Spencer announced that there would be room for 14 raised beds in the Community Gardens this year but that they were only going to start with 7 for 2011 just to see how well they worked and what people thought of them. One would be an example bed for the public while the other 6 would be available for the public's use. Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that the raised beds would be designed and built by the High School and would invoice at 2 raised beds at a time to keep from having them sit at the school until paid for. It was estimated that the beds would cost roughly \$220 a unit which is cheaper than initially thought. Chairperson Rob Spencer confirmed that the raised beds would be located in the low spot of the garden since that area had flooded last year and was very successful with plants in the ground in that area.

Chairperson Rob Spencer mentioned that maybe in the future the Community Garden Committee might host a workshop, possibly at the library to allow the public to learn more about gardening, plants, soil and various other information that would be helpful when using the Community Gardens or even when gardening at home.

(b) Communities in Bloom

Councilor Steven Wildeboer informed the committee that a resident had approached him and asked if the Carl Stettler monument stone could be moved to the Hwy 12/56 intersection so it better represents the Town of Stettler given that he was the founder of the Town.

Further discussion would continue about Communities in Bloom at the next meeting.

(d) Median at Junction of Hwy 12 & 56

Will Brown stated that he quite liked the idea of the stones in the pavement to improve the look of the medians at the intersection and that that would be the best option to present to Alberta Transportation because of less maintenance issues. Chairperson Rob Spencer questioned if some from Alberta Transportation would be willing to come to Town and walk through everything and take a look at the medians and listen to some of the ideas. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner answered that most likely Transportation would not be willing to come to Town and it would be difficult to get them to listen to any ideas at all. He also mentioned that Planning & Development Officer Leann Graham would be asking about more specifics to see where Alberta Transportation is in their progress. Chairperson Rob Spencer agreed that the stones were the most practical idea because the area was not ideal for growing any plants, although he had heard of a very salt tolerant plant and would look into it so that there were more options available.

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

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that he had two meetings with the High School about the Beautification Meeting. He mentioned that everything was straightened out and by the end of the meeting the student's had a better understanding of what the Beautification Committee actually represented, which was beautifying the Town not just about gardening. Chairperson Rob Spencer informed the High School teachers that the committee wanted to reach out to all the students to get them involved and thinking about ideas for the committee to achieve. Possibly by having it brought up in their T.A classes where they would be asked what features they like about their Town, what they would want to learn more about and what changes they would like to see. These ideas and questions can then be brought to the beautification committee so that they can be discussed.

(f) Trade Show

Schedule for the Trade Show for the Heartland Beautification Committee was discussed and time slots chosen. Some slots still need filled by members. Trade Show Schedule will be circulated so that everyone can see.

Chairperson Rob Spencer mentioned that he would like to see the public asked questions about what they think about composting and what level they would be interested in at the Trade Show booth. He stated that giving out pamphlets about home composting similar to the pamphlets that were handed out for the Community Gardens last year would be good to use and use the back to explain what can be composted.

Peter Simons mentioned that maybe a video could be done up on composting to use at the booth. Chairperson Rob Spencer commented that both he and Peter Simons would look into promoting Home Composting further. He asked if maybe there could be some door prizes done up again like last year so people can put their name in for the prizes, the Committee as a whole agreed it should be done like last year.

Gertie Thieme questioned if the Heartland Beautification Committee would be sharing a booth again like last year. Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner confirmed. Gertie Thieme expressed her concern that the HBC members should consider getting a separate booth next year because other organizations that the HBC shares with are aggressive and always deter the public away from the HBC Booth. Chairperson Rob Spencer agreed that they would look into next year.

(g) Spring Plant Exchange

An insert will be put in the April Newsletter about this year's Spring Plant Exchange. Chairperson Rob Spencer will provide a paragraph to hand in.

(h) Education on Home Composting for Town Residents

The Committee agreed as a whole that Home Composting should be introduced to the public at the Trade Show and see what kind of responses they would receive.

(i) Container & In Ground Gardening Contest

Chairperson Rob Spencer stated that as previously discussed, the Committee should have the contest based on photos handed in to the Town Office and Recreation Centre for judging. It was discussed that the pictures would be put on the Town of Stettler webpage once the photos had been sorted to an estimated 10 finalists allowing the public to vote on the photo of the garden they like best. Further into the competition a few of the top competitors would be selected for an at home visit.

Chairperson Rob Spencer noted that these contests should be advertised to the public in the May newsletter.

(j) Park / Playground Improvement

Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner questioned this topic as to whether or not it is relevant to the Committee's attention or not. His job consists of Park and Playground Improvement. He questioned if this topic should really be kept or not since it usually gets cover by his job position.

(k) Streetscape on Main Street

Director of Parks & Leisure Services Lee Penner noted that the entire north end of Main Street will be finished with updating this year which includes the entire 50th street/ 50 Avenue intersections. The new sidewalk will be continued and the street will be repaved.

(l) Off Season Beautification Opportunities

None.

7. Correspondence

a) Community Entrance Signs

Entrance Signs have been approved. Option #1 was chosen for the signs coming into Stettler. The signs will be installed hopefully before the end of the summer.

8. Additions

None.

9. **Next Meeting:** April 7, 2011

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Chairperson Rob Spencer at 1:02 p.m.