

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF TARRANT §
CITY OF BEDFORD §

approved

The Bedford Beautification Commission met in regular session on March 16, 2015 with the following members present:

- Marty Geer, Chairperson
- Bonnie Cooper
- Richard (Dick) Dobrovlny
- Kathy Fairchild
- Sam Fairchild
- Bucky Geer
- C.W. Koellman
- Dewey Tennant

Constituting a quorum.

Also attending were:

- Don Henderson, Parks Superintendent
- Jeff Florey, Events and Cultural Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Marty Geer, Chairperson, called the Commission meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Consider approval of the following Beautification Commission minutes:

a) February 16, 2015 regular meeting.

Dick Dobrovlny moved that the minutes be approved as written, C.W. Koellman seconded. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Discuss additional category to Beautification Commission Business award program.

Chairperson Geer reminded the Commission that the Business Recognition Award Program does not have an “Eco-Friendly Landscaping” category as previously thought. Jeff Florey stated examples of Eco-Friendly Landscaping include saving water, adjusting irrigation, planting native plants and limiting invasive species (such as Bermuda grass). Most landscaping companies offer eco-friendly landscaping, but don’t promote due to effect to their maintenance business. Question was raised on how we get the word out about a new category. Suggestions included directing citizens/businesses to the COG Smartscape website, publish articles on conservation on the City website, a flyer insert in the water bill, and contacting management companies of the various retail centers. We will also see what it takes for the City to sign up as a COG smartscape stakeholder.

C.W. Koellman moved that "Eco-Friendly Landscaping" be added to the three other categories to be considered in the Beautification Commission Business award program, and Sam Fairchild seconded. The motion carried.

3. Discuss plans for the greenhouse.

Ms. Geer encouraged members to visit the greenhouse located at the Parks Service Center on L. Don Dodson Drive before the next meeting. Don Henderson explained that there are 5-6 tables on each side of the greenhouse with plenty of available pots and other containers. Improvements have been made to the greenhouse and it is ready for some new plantings. However, there is no soil, seed or plants currently stored in the greenhouse.

Supplies needed would include native seedlings, seed, potting soil and certain implements. Consideration was given to provide plants for the color program in various medians around Bedford. Don Henderson will check with Tina to provide a list of plants in the color program, and the timing of plantings; he will report back to the Commission by the next meeting.

4. Discuss water items.

At the last meeting, members inquired about who sets the stages for watering restrictions, and why individual cities may have slightly differently formats. Don Henderson reported at this meeting that Bedford's watering restriction stages are set by the Tarrant Regional Water District. Member cities of this District include Fort Worth, Arlington and Mansfield. Other neighboring cities may be in different water districts and therefore follow such district's guidelines.

5. Discuss joint meeting with Park Board and Cultural Commission on May 6, 2015.

Don Henderson informed the Commission that the date of such meeting has been changed to June 4, 2015. At the encouragement of the City Council, a joint meeting with the Park Board, the Cultural Commission and the Beautification Commission will be held at the TXI Bldg. (old library) at a time to be determined. Agenda for the meeting has not yet been formulated.

6. Discuss plans for Beautification Commission Clean Up Bedford/Chunk Your Junk Day.

Clean up Bedford/Chunk Your Junk Day is set for April 18, 2015. Chairperson Geer reported that Bonnie Cooper, Kathy Fairchild, Patty Sinclair and Marty Geer are visiting businesses in Bedford to recruit volunteers, place signage and ask for donations of snacks and prizes to use during the event. Don Henderson stated the publicity signs for the event are ready to go. He will pull the permit for the event next week and a sign permit for 20-25 signs. It was suggested that the signs be placed around two weeks before the event. Dewey Tennant stated he would utilize his truck to deliver the signs.

Commission members will need to wear their green shirts and be at the Meadow Park site by 8:00 am for assignment. A photographer will cover the event. Don Henderson stated that he will use the \$400 already allocated by the City Council to supplement food, water, snacks and supplies above what is donated by businesses. Don also asked for two members to be there at 7:30 am to help with Chunk Your Junk; Sam Fairchild and Dewey Tennant volunteered.

Ms. Geer stated that we probably need more vests and pickers for volunteers. A motion was made by Kathy Fairchild and seconded by Dewey Tennant to purchase 25 vests and 25 pickers. The motion carried.

7. Discuss the Beautification Commission adopt – a – street for 2015.

Chairperson Geer explained that an Adopt-A-Spot program was the vision of a member from last year's commission. A sub-committee consisting of Bob Gough, Bucky Geer and Dewey Tennant was formed at the last meeting to report at this meeting about what still needs to be done to get this program "up and running".

Bucky Geer gave the report of the subcommittee. He passed out an example of what signage might look like. He also recommended the following areas be considered for inclusion into the program:

- Pipeline Road (north side) – Central Drive to Brown Trail
- Brown Trail – Pipeline Road to Airport Freeway
- Bedford Road – Brown Trail to Central Drive
- Bedford Road – Central Drive to SH 121
- Cheek-Sparger Road – Brown Trail to Martin

Also considered for inclusion were areas around creeks. It was pointed out that much of the creek areas are located on private property, and may carry liability issues. Kathy Fairchild suggested considering the Linear Trail system for inclusion. Before presenting this proposal to the City Council, we will need to determine the cost of signs, how long each "Adopt-A-Street" segment stretches, and how we recruit adopters. Don Henderson said he we find out the cost of signage, based on the subcommittee proposal. It was also suggested that we contact surrounding cities who have already adopted such a program to gain intelligence about the design and function of our program. Bucky Geer stated that the signs would probably go up first with "Adopt-This-Spot" place holder. A motion was made by C.W. Koellman and seconded by Bucky Geer to recommend the "Adopt-A-Street" (without inclusion of areas around creeks) to the City Council, pending answers to the above questions. The motion carried.

8. Discuss the plans for the Bedford Boys Ranch workdays with the next workday scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

The regular monthly workday at the Boys Ranch is scheduled for March 21. We will meet in front of the Trinity Arts Theater at 8am. This month's project will be to plant two trees – a crepe myrtle and a red oak. Don Henderson's crew will dig holes for the trees assuming rain does not make the ground too wet. A motion was made by Dewey Tennant and seconded by C.W. Koellman to spend up to \$250 for the purchase of a crepe myrtle tree and a red oak tree. The motion carried.

The workday for April will fall on April 18, 2015, the same day as Clean Up Bedford/Chunk Your Junk Day. Since this activity is used by Teen Court participants for community service credit, we will check to see if any participants have signed up; otherwise, there will not be any workday in April.

9. Discuss plans for Beautification Commission budget.

Chairperson Geer detailed the following items to be considered for Budget inclusion:

- Plants, seed, potting soil for the Greenhouse
- Plantings around the Theater Arts Building
- Replacement brochure for Crud Day
- Various tools for workdays – snippers, loppers, hoes, rake, broom, gloves

A motion was made by Dewey Tennant and seconded by C.W. Koellman to purchase up to \$250 of various tools for workday use. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETING

10. The next meeting of the Beautification Commission will be held on April 20, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.

Marty Geer, Chairperson