

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

approved

The Bedford Beautification Commission met in regular session on January 19, 2015 with the following members present:

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

Constituting a quorum.

Also attending were:
Don Henderson, Parks Superintendent
Dr. Roy Turner, City Council Liaison
Jeff Florey, Events and Cultural Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Marty Geer, Chairperson, called the Commission meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

NEW MEMBERS

1. Introduction of newly appointed Beautification Commission Members.

Chairperson Marty Geer welcomed the old and new members and asked that they tell a little about themselves so that we could all get to know each other. She reminded us that attendance at the meetings is very important and when a member has incurred 2 absences, a letter would be sent from the city. This letter is to remind you of your commitment and does not remove you from the committee. We were told if there were questions about this attendance policy, Don Henderson could be contacted for clarification.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

2. Consider approval of the following Beautification Commission minutes:

a. November 17th, 2014 regular meeting.

Dick Dobrovlny moved that the minutes be approved with one correction, Dewey Tennant seconded. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discuss changes to the Beautification Commission Business Award Program.

Bucky Geer told us about the Business Award Program that has been in place for a number of years. This program honors those Bedford Businesses who are making a difference in the appearance of the city. There are 3 categories in which a business may be nominated for this award. These include: Overall Appearance, Best Improved, and Superior Landscaping. A discussion of each took place. A fourth category was mentioned: Eco-friendly landscaping.

For a business to be considered for this Recognition Award, it must be included on the Beautification Commission Meeting Agenda for discussion and a vote. Once a business has been approved by this commission, it is presented to the City Council for approval and following their approval, an awards ceremony will be scheduled. Therefore, it is recommended that nomination forms (which can be found on the city website), be accompanied by photos of the individual businesses, and that those be sent to either Don Henderson or to Margaret Kiss.

4. Discuss admissions to the next Bedford Connection Magazine publication.

The Bedford Connection is published 3 times a year (Spring/Summer, Fall, Winter). Articles for the next magazine will need to be submitted by February 18th for publication in the Spring/Summer (April) edition. Fall edition deadline is June 19th with a publication in August and the Winter deadline is October 16th for publication in December. Don Henderson will submit something to advertise our upcoming spring events and possibly include some recycling tips.

Jeff Florey advised us that the Fort Worth Star Telegram will soon be publishing an HEB edition. It is not known if it will be weekly paper. This will give us another avenue to advertise the events and work of the Beautification Commission.

5. Discuss the Beautification Commission Involvement and support of other city Commissions and Boards.

Dr. Turner announced that the City Council wants to create unification between the committees and commissions in Bedford. This will begin with groups having knowledge of the goals and projects of other committees. They are also hoping to include joint functions between boards and commissions. The Council is exploring ways to get the different groups to interact. Suggestions can be sent to Dr. Turner for consideration.

6. Discuss the Beautification Commission goals for 2015.

Chairperson Marty Geer presented the individual projects of the BBC and a description of each was given by the person spearheading the project.

- a. Community Gardens – Dick Dobrovoly – The purpose of this project is to raise vegetables and other food items to feed the needy of the HEB area. The plots can be rented, water is furnished by the City of Bedford, tools are available in the pavilion, Master Gardeners are often on site for advice and assistance and

- donations of seeds and fertilizers are often provided. ½ of the food a gardener grows must be donated to 6 Stones.
- b. Clean Up Bedford/Chunk Your Junk Day – Patty Sinclair – The event is held to bring awareness to the appearance of the City of Bedford. Groups are deployed into the streets/parks/public areas of Bedford to pick up trash and tidy up the town. Chunk Your Junk Day is for all residents to dispose of any non-hazardous items they might have sitting around their property and homes and clean up their individual space.
 - c. Workday – Marty Geer – This project pairs commission members with Teen Court helpers to keep areas of the Boys Ranch Park landscaping healthy and looking beautiful for the users of the park. The teen court helpers get community service hours for their work. The commission members mentor the Teen Court volunteers in designing, planting, trimming, and weeding as well as overall tidying up of the areas is done.
 - d. Crud Day – This event allows the residents of the city to dispose of their household hazardous items by bringing them to Meadow Park for collection by the Crud Cruiser that comes to us from Ft. Worth. This is a very popular event and is held (whenever possible) twice a year. Cars are often turned away due to lack of space.
 - e. Shred It Day – An event that allows residents to bring all of their unwanted paper (especially identity sensitive paperwork) for shredding and safe disposal. Also a very popular event.

7. Discuss the Beautification Commission Adopt – a – Spot for 2015.

Chairperson Marty Geer told us of the work done during the last year to design and organize a street adoption program. This program called “Adopt – a – Spot” would involve groups, families, organizations or individuals taking on a particular street or section of a street and physically clean (picking up trash etc.) several times a year. A copy of the Mission Statement for the program was distributed. Since the organizer of this project is no longer on the commission, the project is something that will need further planning before it can be executed. Mrs. Geer mentioned that this could be a goal of the commission and that we could work to discover whether there is an interest in this type of program. Mr. Henderson has already committed to paying for the poles and the cement for the signs that would announce the adopter of particular streets. A recommendation about the future of this program will be voted on at the next meeting.

8. Review and set calendar dates for 2015 special events.

Chairperson Marty Geer reminded us that the Beautification Commission meetings are held at 6:30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month except July and December. She also told us that the workdays at the park are scheduled for 8am on the 3rd Saturday of every month except January and December. Beautification Commission Business Award dates will usually be scheduled for the last Saturday of the month when there are awards to be presented. Times vary to accommodate schedules for the businesses.

Don Henderson gave an explanation of how dates are set for the individual “special” events sponsored by the Beautification Commission. The proposed 2015 dates for events are as follows:

Clean Up Bedford/Chunk Your Junk Day	March 28 th ,	8am-noon
Crud Day.....	April 25 th ,	9am-11am
Crud Day #2.....	September 12 th ,	9am-11am
Shred It Day.....	October 10 th ,	8am-noon

Patty Sinclair proposed a time change for the Clean Up Bedford Day portion of the event stating that groups finished their assigned areas too quickly that the food for lunch was not there when the volunteers returned to base. She made the motion that the start time be 9am instead of 8am as in the past. Bucky Geer seconded the motion and the commission approved. Chunk Your Junk Day remained at the 8am start time.

A motion was made, by Dick Dobrovolny, to approve these calendar dates and times (with the revised Clean Up Bedford Day start time of 9am). The motion was seconded by Bucky Geer. The motion passed.

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

Workdays are scheduled for the 3rd Saturday of the month. We will meet in front of the Trinity Arts Theater at the Boys Ranch unless other notice is made. Work will be done at the park, in and around the theater, Arts Center, Senior Citizen's Center, the front entry flower beds and any other areas deemed in need of care.

NEXT MEETING

10. The next meeting of the Beautification Commission will be held on February 16, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, Dewey Tennant made a motion for adjournment. Bob Gough seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Marty Geer, Chairperson