

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CLEVELAND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

CLEVELAND TREE BOARD

June 11, 2021

Members present: Myrtis Tabb, Mary Anna Davis, Adolph Hilliard, Desira Warrington, Helen Coleman, Betsy Abraham, Charlene Wolfe

Chair Myrtis Tabb called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

After review of the minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting, Helen Coleman made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Desira Warrington seconded the motion. The vote was "aye" with no opposition.

Budget Review

Commission members reviewed the year-to-date budget and discussed the anticipated costs for the remainder of the budget year. The Beautification Commission does not anticipate any large expenses before the new budget year.

Anna Alford Sledge was welcomed as a special guest of the Beautification Commission. Anna is the new Director of the Martin and Sue King Railroad Heritage Museum. Anna spoke with commission members about plans for the museum and events that the museum will be hosting this summer. Anna has wonderful ideas for the museum and is doing a great job.

Myrtis Tabb thanked Adolph Hilliard for picking up bulbs and wildflower seeds from Keep Mississippi Beautiful in Jackson.

Old Business

1. The Beautification Commission had previously tabled discussion of purchasing new trash receptacles for downtown. Myrtis Tabb suggested that the commission invite the representative from Mississippi Prison Industries to the July meeting. Dr. Tabb also asked Mary Anna Davis to check on the price of the receptacles and the number that would need to be purchased. Mary Anna will check with the Public Works employees to determine how many may be needed and possible placement. The commission agreed that they should better utilize the receptacles we have before purchasing more.
2. The Beautification Commission would like to thank the Delta Home and Garden Club for a second \$50.00 donation. The commission and the city appreciate the donations.

3. The Cleveland Beautification Commission and Cleveland Tree Board held a tree planting ceremony on the downtown walking trail on May 26, 2021. The trident maple was purchased by the commission and the Delta Home and Garden Club.
4. The wildflower seeds from Keep Mississippi Beautiful were picked up by Adolph Hilliard. The weather has been too wet and windy for spraying and dirt preparation on the chosen sites. The grasses are not under control at Bear Pen Park and it may be necessary to wait and plant the seeds in the fall.

New Business

1. The ad hoc mural committee has recently completed a statement and guidelines for public murals. Those were presented to the Heritage Commission for review, and when approved by that commission, they will be presented to the Beautification Commission and Team Cleveland. The guidelines will then be presented to the mayor and board for their approval. Mayor Nowell has also established a Public Arts Commission which will be responsible for murals and other public art in Cleveland.
2. The City of Cleveland will purchase one of the sculptures on display for permanent placement downtown. The sculpture committee has asked the artists to please leave their sculptures for an additional year due to the Covid virus.
3. The Mississippi Forestry Commission is now accepting applications for grant funds. Laura Giaccaglia and Mary Anna Davis have reviewed the application and requirements. There would be a great deal of work to write and administer the grant and find matching funds. Myrtis Tabb will ask Laura for her input.
4. Mary Anna Davis packaged caladium bulbs which were received from Keep Mississippi Beautiful and distributed them at the Farmers' Market.

Reports

1. Chamber Report from Laura Giaccaglia

Team Cleveland is waiting to hear results from the Heritage Commission meeting on June 8, 2021 to begin their plans for a downtown mural.

Within the next few weeks, Team Cleveland will be announcing the winners of the Façade Grants. There will be four matching grants of \$500 each, which will be used to spruce up the exteriors of the four downtown businesses.

The Chamber has noticed that two blighted buildings on the west end of Court Street were recently demolished. The two buildings were in the Historic District and in the corridor to DSU. The Chamber asked the Beautification Commission if they would possibly be able to help beautify those properties. The Beautification Commission members stated that they cannot take on that project because those are privately owned properties.

