

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CLEVELAND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

CLEVELAND TREE BOARD

KEEP CLEVELAND BEAUTIFUL

August 11, 2022

**Members present:** Mary Anna Davis, Betsy Abraham, Adolph Hilliard, Jane Dunlap, Myrtis Tabb,  
Frances Janoush

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 June, 2022 meeting, Betsy Abraham made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Adolph Hilliard seconded the motion. The vote of approval was unanimous.

**Budget Review**

The budget numbers for the end of July were not available at meeting time. The commission members discussed pre-buying for the fall planters downtown. Mary Anna Davis will check to see what we can order now, before the end of the budget year.

**Old Business**

1. The Beautification Commission members discussed the performance of this year's hanging baskets. Members questioned if the baskets were successful this year, if the same number of baskets should be used next year, and whether different plants should be used in the baskets. Mary Anna Davis and Betsy Abraham will continue to work with Sarah Strain on the baskets for next year, and they will check with Sarah to see if any of the baskets need to be replaced. Mary Anna suggested that the baskets on North Street, Court Street, and the west wall of the chamber building be removed, as they do not do as well due to the sun exposure.
2. The flower beds downtown still have an issue with weeds and the Beautification Commission would like to find a solution to this problem and make the beds easier to maintain. One possible solution would be to plant low growing shrubs to cover the ground. Another solution might be to remove some plants from the beds in order to make everything cleaner. The commission will check to see what types of shrubs can be purchased to plant in the beds. Commission members will also evaluate the plants which were cut back in the parking area beds to determine if they should be removed or replaced.
3. Mary Anna Davis gave the commission an update of the crepe myrtles along Court Street. The existing crepe myrtles have been pruned and some of the least desirable ones were removed. Only a few of them may need to be replaced, but they should be a mature height.

4. Mrs. Jane Dunlap gave an update to the commission on the downtown roses. The heat and lack of water have been very hard on the roses this summer. The soaker hoses in the rose beds are too small to provide enough water and we may need to find a different supplier in order to purchase larger hoses. Mrs. Dunlap is currently fertilizing the roses and has increased the watering on those beds in order for the fertilizer to be absorbed.

#### **New Business**

1. The Beautification Commission received a letter of resignation from Helen Coleman. Chair Myrtis Tabb asked commission members for names of possible candidates to fill the unexpired term when the commission meets in September.
2. The Beautification Commission received a donation from the Delta Home and Garden Club and a \$1000.00 donation from Keep Mississippi Beautiful Circle of Excellence. In order to receive the annual Circle of Excellence Award, Keep Cleveland Beautiful will need to nominate people or groups annually for Keep Mississippi Beautiful awards. Commission members will check the KMB website for the nomination categories.
3. Commission members discussed possible uses or projects for the donated funds. Mary Anna Davis suggested placing benches along the nature trail on the south end of the walking trail. She will check with Public Works to see if any benches are available or if they will have to be purchased. Chair Myrtis Tabb asked for a motion to place the benches on the nature trail and purchase the benches if necessary. Betsy Abraham made a motion, and it was seconded by Jane Dunlap. The vote was all in favor of the motion.
4. The Cleveland Beautification Commission would like to recognize Connie McClellan for her work on the Keep Mississippi Beautiful annual reports. The reports are required for Keep Cleveland Beautiful to remain in good standing with KAB and KMB. The Governance Report and the City Litter Survey are required to be completed every year. KAB also requires a number of reports on local activities. The local activities submitted for 2022 were as follows:
  - The Big Green Event for the Great American Clean Up
  - Earth Day for America Recycles
  - New Trash Receptacles downtown for Litter Prevention
  - The Downtown Beautification Project which includes hanging baskets, planters, and flower beds
  - Mississippi Arbor Day Tree Planting
  - The Court Street Beautification Project
5. The Beautification Commission would like to revisit the possibility of landscaping the small area between Highway 8 and the Sharpe Avenue-Cotton Row crossover. Myrtis Tabb will check with Josh McPherson and MDOT to see if low growing plants may be planted in that area.

