

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
CLEVELAND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

CLEVELAND TREE BOARD

August 12, 2021

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

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 July 8, 2021 meeting, Mary Anna Davis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Charlene Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote was "aye" with no opposition.

The Beautification Commission honored Ray Bell on his recent retirement as Director of Public Works. The commission presented Mr. Bell with a gift and thanked him for his service with the city and work with the Beautification Commission.

Stephen Ferri, the new Director of Public Works, was introduced to the Beautification Commission.

Lisa Miller updated the commission on the status of the historical marker for Virgin Lane. The location of the new marker will be on Commerce Avenue across from Cleveland State Bank. Public Works has prepared the area and set the pole in concrete. The marker will be added before the unveiling ceremony. Lisa asked the Beautification Commission for assistance in arranging the unveiling ceremony, and the commission happily accepted the request.

**Budget Review**

The Beautification Commission has approximately \$7,000.00 left in the budget for the year ending September 31. Mary Anna Davis will work with Fountain's Nursery in Greenville to possibly buy the fall plants for the planters before the end of the current budget year.

**Old Business**

1. The Beautification Commission again discussed purchasing new trash receptacles for downtown. Betsy Abraham made a motion to purchase two receptacles from MS Prison Industries. Adolph Hilliard seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposition.
2. In the July meeting, concern was expressed about the condition of the plants in the hanging baskets. Myrtis Tabb spoke with Sarah Strain to determine if there is anything that can be done to improve the look of the baskets. They are receiving an adequate amount of water and fertilizer. In the future the commission may need to purchase plants that are more heat resistant for the baskets. The planters look great this year with the plant selections that were placed in them. The beds in the downtown area could possibly use plants that are easier to

maintain and they need heavier mulching in the summer. The crepe myrtles on the green strip are over mulched, and some of that mulch can be placed in the beds in the future.

3. Mary Anna Davis updated the commission on the planned wildflower plots. Public Works and the Park Commission are preparing the plots and controlling the weeds. Mary Anna plans to plant the wildflower seeds in October to November.

#### **New Business**

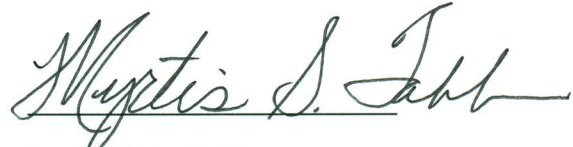
1. Mayor Nowell has requested that the Beautification Commission assist in improving the area of the recycling bins on North Bayou. The area is primarily gravel and may require a fence rather than plants. Mary Anna Davis and Betsy Abraham will look at the area and make recommendations to the commission.
2. The Beautification Commission was informed that some of the crepe myrtle lights on the walking trail are not working. Public Works will check on those and replace any that are no longer working. Public Works will also check for holes on the green strip where speakers have been removed.

#### **Reports**

Cade Holder is currently working on a grant to help with the cost of completing the breezeway. The lighting is ready and will be installed shortly. There is still much work to be done in the alley and parking areas behind the breezeway.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cleveland Beautification Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Myrtis S. Tabb". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Myrtis Tabb, Chair