

Beautification Committee

Minutes of Sept. 17, 2024 City Council Chambers

1. **Called to order** at noon.
2. **Roll call:** Present: Stuart Harper, Crystal Riley, Heather Bontreger.
Absent: Linda Schacht, Sue Fritz
3. **Minutes** of 11/28/23 Motion to approve by Bontreger, second by Harper. All ayes.
4. **Tree Program:** Consensus to seek another \$10,000 grant from Lancaster Community Fund, distribute trees in spring.
5. **Downtown Mural Project:** Consensus to shelve this idea; there does not seem to be funding for creation or maintenance of a large-scale project.
6. **Entrance signage:** This was the original purpose of the committee. There are now 3 signs — north on Highway 61, south on Highway 61, west on Highway 35/81. The site south on 61 needs upkeep, possibly should be relocated. Doing so would need a new site (and property easement if necessary), funding to cover infrastructure installment (including power), and DOT approval. Cost could be substantial – more than the committee’s typical budget. Consensus to update previous cost estimates, research potential materials, pursue in-kind support (such as from SW Tech’s masonry program).
7. **Future of Beautification Committee:** Need full attendance on a regular basis, need to recruit new members with clear mission (such as beautification of entrances), need full attendance with a commitment to specific times (noon on third Tuesday in January, April, July and October), need to promote committee at least in the Herald and on Facebook.
8. **Comments:** Need to identify the committee’s mission/purpose statement. (Note: the committee’s revised purpose – from Resolution 2021-14: *“To provide creative input to the City Council on making the City more attractive and welcoming to residents and visitors.”*)
9. **Future Agenda Items:** Trees, signs. Next meeting: Tuesday Jan. 21 at noon.
10. **Adjourn** at 12:42 p.m.

Michael Kuchta, City Administrator