

CITY OF OREM
BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION Minutes
August 25, 2014
4:30 p.m.

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Aaron Orullian	Chair
Carol Manwaring	Vice Chair
Rhonda Wilkinson	
Marlon & Ann Snow	
Jim & Barbara Campbell	
Judy Cox	
Sean Orullian	
Gayla Muir	
Brent Sumner	City Council Representative
Steve Weber	Staff Support
Debbie Lindsay	Clerical

Excused – Steve Weber

Approval of minutes – Gayla Muir made a motion to approve the minutes from July 28, 2014 meeting. Rhonda Wilkinson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Carol said she had a friend that wanted to volunteer to be on the Commission but was having a difficult time with the on-line application. In the end, she said it wasn't worth it to even apply. Questions were raised as to why this process is now in place and who made the decision to require the on-line app. Aaron will contact the Assistant City Manager, Brenn Bybee regarding this issue.

There is a chance we may be able to keep the water truck. Steve Weber put in a request to Jamie Davidson, the City Manager, and suggested that the Commission contact him and request that the truck not be surplused but to be kept for the express purpose of watering the flowers pots. Aaron will contact the City Manager, Jamie Davidson.

Frustrations with the online volunteer application were expressed to Brent Sumner, City Council Representative. Commission members felt it was a difficult process. The questions also seem inappropriate for a volunteer position. Members feel the new process is discouraging citizens from applying. Brent will look in to this process.

Orem is apparently the only city along the FrontRunner line to not have any banners at the station announcing the City. Judy has spoken with the Mayor about this. There are 8 poles with 2 banners per pole. Costs are still to be determined. Aaron said that the Mayor offered a donation towards this project. Discussion about content of the banners ranged from “the old guy” on the Storytelling banners to paying it forward to UVU to the Scera Theater. A suggestion was also made to just put the Orem logo on them along with Tree City USA. It was suggested to purchase extra as they will wear due to weather. It was also noted that ultimately the decision as to what will be on the banners will be decided by the City Council. Judy read an email regarding banners at FrontRunner stations. Original banners were from UTA. Most have been removed due to disrepair. UTA will not be adding any more banners. UTA has left this to the Cities to take care of and maintain. Banners cannot be any larger than the original banners due to wind and possible damage to the poles. Aaron made a motion to present the idea to City Council along

with some options on banners and proceed from there. Gayla seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Carol and Sean pulled up the Volunteer application on the City website. Questions range from “are you behind on your utility bill or any taxes or obligations owed to the City” to “are you an adversary party to pending or existing litigation against the City of Orem” to “have you ever been convicted of a felony.” Brent will look in to this. Aaron made a motion to let the City know that as a commission, we feel the questions are inappropriate for volunteers for commissions. Judy seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Aaron attended a charrett for a new concept for State St. Those that attended felt landscaping, trees, and reduced signage were most important. It was also suggested at the charrett that there be periodic medians with flowers to help beautify State St. Every section of State St was reviewed to determine where change can be made. Those in attendance were the mayor, city employees, business owners, design firms from out of state as well as Aaron from the Beautification Commission. Concerns were to keep the street free-flowing, but make it more attractive.

Aaron went over the truck issue with Brent. The flower project is dependent on having a truck to carry the water pump used to water the hanging baskets. Carol will compose a letter and send it to the commission members for approval. Commission members gave consent to have their names on the letter. Aaron will take the letter when he visits with Jamie Davidson.

Carol updated the commission on the hanging flower basket project for next year. Placement will be the same as this year. A deposit has been made for 20 flower pots that will be placed on State St and will be watered by the businesses they are placed by. There are also funds to either expand the hanging basket project, add more pots, or place wood chips in the flower bed in front of the City Center. Carol feels the wood chips are higher priority to keep weed growth down. Aaron asked for the names of the groups and people that participated in the flower bed project. He would like to have a “thank you” presented to them in a City Council meeting. Gayla sent an email to the Miss Orem royalty committee asking if they would take the flower bed project on as an annual event. She will send the information on who participated to Aaron who will send it on to Brent Sumner.

Aaron reminded everyone to get their Neighborhood awards information to Debbie. Gayla gave a nomination to Rhonda for consideration.

Aaron reminded everyone that Wednesday is Volunteer Appreciation night at the Storytelling festival. He encouraged the members to attend.

Aaron would like the dead tree removed from the Center St hill. Jim would like something done up on 800 N as well. Carol reminded everyone there is no water source on the Center St hill. She also reminded everyone that we don't want to disturb the ground too much to avoid erosion. She would like to see the hill covered with Xerescaping. It is a complicated issue. There are also concerns about the freeway exits and entrances and maintaining those areas. Gayla asked about jail inmates doing some of this maintenance. Brent said that most inmates are in short term. It was suggested to look to juvenile offenders who need court hours. Aaron will contact Laura Bascom, Orem City Volunteer Coordinator, to see if she has any volunteer crews who can do some of this work. Aaron said that the hill between Orem and Provo on State St needs some work as well. Gayla suggested contacting the United Way as they always have requests from groups for projects. Aaron asked commission members to email him if they see any areas that need attention. Gayla wanted to know if businesses could adopt a site and care for it. Laura runs and “Adopt-a-spot” program.

Aaron asked if he was still on the commission. His term was up and he is wondered if his name had been resubmitted to the City Council. Brent will check in to it. Aaron will email Steve to see if this has taken place.

Carol made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded the motion. Voting was unanimous.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2014.