

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beautification Committee was held on August 20, 2025. Chairperson Ross called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

ATTENDANCE

Lynne Monroe took the roll call. It indicted as follows:

Committee Attendance

PRESENT: Committee Member Nunez, Committee Member Tancredi, Committee Member Tierney, Committee Member Mitchell, Committee Member Jankowski Jr., Committee Member Ross

ABSENT: Committee Member Almanzo

Other Attendance:

PRESENT: Chris Woodard, Mundelein Arts Commission Liaison and Lynne Monroe, Assistant Village Administrator

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None

MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of the July 16, 2025 Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the July 16, 2025 Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes.

RESULT:	Passed [Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0]
MOVER:	Committee Member Margaret (Peg) Tierney
SECONDER:	Committee Member Colleen Tancredi
AYES:	Kim Nunez, Colleen Tancredi, Margaret (Peg) Tierney, Jill Mitchell, Chester Jankowski Jr., Jenny Ross
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

MUNDELEIN ARTS COMMISSION REPORT

Chris Woodard provided Mundelein Arts Commission updates as follows:

MAC hosted a Guitar Jam last weekend and a Poetry Storytelling is planned for next weekend, both in the park next to the mural on Park Street.

The Lure of the Local will have 80 artists and MAC looks forward to a raffle item from the Beautification Committee. All money from the event is donated to the Kracklauer Fund for Public Art.

The hand sculpture is getting ready to be installed at Courtland Commons Pollinator Garden

The artist chosen for the MAC and Beautification Committee Mundelein Star will begin work soon.

MAC is partnering with Kirk Players for performances.

MAC is considering ideas for the open land next to Bill's Pub owned by the Village and MAC is interested in partnering with the Beautification Committee to beautify the space.

Member Tierney thought at least flower plantings would be beneficial. Chair Ross explained that any project there could be a large expense and require board approval and also suggested a volunteer effort for grants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-chair Tancredi recommends attendance at the Diamond Lake Open House on August 27, 2025 promoting the design of their new recreation center and shoreline project.

Chair Ross recommended attendance on August 20, 2025 at Greenbelt for Tree Listening sessions, with a focus on urban forest trees.

PROJECTS

Pollinator Garden

Lynne provided a brief report on the pollinator Garden at Courtland Commons.

Member Tierney expressed concern for the state of the park with dead plants and many weeds. Of particular concern was the grant funds received from the Audobon Society for the garden. Lynne explained that the plans were under warranty the first year, but the landscape company used has been replaced by the Village. The park will be undergoing construction with a new hand sculpture and a new bridge. With this construction, new plants are part of a bigger plan once the bridge is completed. The path is part of the plan to be replaced with a permeable paver. The committee should consider a plan for future maintenance to ensure it is tended to regularly once it is newly planted. Chair Ross reiterated a strong volunteer base is the key to maintaining gardens in communities. Member Tierney recommends reviewing the list of what was planted to determine if they were the best choices.

Member Jankowski reported that the garden at Village Hall was doing well, and he shared a plan for the small space at Village Hall next to the employee patio. Lynne will share with Public Works to get approval, and confirm irrigation. Member Jankowski suggested September 27, 2025.

Bird City

Proclamation on the Village Board Agenda on August 11, 2025

Member Mitchell reported that the board approved the resolution for Bird City USA commitment on August 11. Lynne explained this was one of the requirements to achieve an official designation. Lynne distributed a checklist of items to be completed to apply for designation and Member Mitchell is actively working on these initiatives.

Lynne included completed initiatives in the packet, including LEED certification and articles about Courtland Commons native habitat. Member Mitchell will work on narratives as required with the application process for each initiative.

Lynne addressed a resident concern made at a recent board meeting regarding mosquito abatement connected to the Bird City initiatives. Bird City designation and mosquito abatement are two different issues and the initiatives being addressed by Bird City will only bring positive results for bird populations. Public opinion may exist about the risks and benefits of mosquito abatement, but that is not within the scope of this committee. Chair Ross added that the Audubon Society has spent a lot of money and research into how to address bird diseases.

Lynne reiterated that if members are confronted about mosquito abatement, residents should be referred to the Village Public Works department.

Upcoming Activities

Member Mitchell confirmed a Bird Walk with the Seminary on October 11. Lynne will work internally to have that event promoted. Upcoming events, including the Tiger Truck Fest and the Farmer's Market, will be avenues to distribute educational materials and giveaways that encourage bird-friendly environments. Member Mitchell shared some of the recently purchased giveaways, including window clings to help avoid bird collisions. Lynne will have a small postcard created to distribute with the clings. Chair Ross suggested connecting with Eileen Davis with the Lake County Forest Preserves for educational materials they may already have.

Community Events

Tiger Truck Fest (used to be Brat Fest) - at Carl Sandburg Middle School on September 5, 2025, from 5:00–7:30 PM. Set up starts at 4:00 PM; 1 table and 2 chairs are provided. Participating community partners are encouraged to bring a game or activity.

The Committee discussed the upcoming Tiger Truck Fest. Member Mitchell, Member

Jankowski and Member Nunez agreed to be there to represent the Beautification Committee, promote Bird City initiatives, and bring the prize wheel for giveaways. Member Tierney distributed word puzzles that could be distributed. Lynne will make copies and be available to pick up other supplies prior to the event. Members suggested having a Spanish version if possible.

Farmer's Market - September 20, 2025

Co-Chair Tancredi will be at the Farmer's Market hosting a Beautification Committee Table on September 20, 2025. The same prizes and Bird City education materials will be distributed.

Winter Tree Lighting Fest- December 6, 2025 from 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM in Courtland Commons

The Winter Tree-Lighting Festival will be held on December 6, 2025 at Courtland Commons. Lynne will be sure that the Beautification Committee's interest in participating is shared with the planning committee. Chair Ross and Co-Chair Tancredi said they would be available for this event. The group discussed that a table for activities would be a nice addition this year. Lynne will share that idea.

Garden Awards

Co-Chair Tancredi reported the Garden Awards were a huge success this year with over 30 yards displaying the sign. Co-Chair Tancredi asked that the photos be displayed on our website and Lynne will coordinate that internally since the winners have signed a release.

Co-Chair Tancredi announced that the Winter Decorating Awards will not be brought back this year due to the shortened season and other logistical challenges.

Clean Up Events

Member Nunez reported the past clean-up event went well, but no future events are planned. The group discussed potentially committing to quarterly clean-up events. Member Nunez suggested partnering with the library for clean-up efforts in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Projects

Member Tierney suggested the group take on a planting project at Regent Center and work with their volunteers as a way to add to our volunteer base. There was discussion about this property being on Park District land, and not necessarily a priority for the Beautification Committee. Chair Ross reported that many village properties need

attention and park district land is not within scope. Lynne suggested members volunteer their time to help the park district if so inclined. After an informal poll, it was decided the group had their own initiatives to focus on and this would not be a Beautification Committee project.

Member Tierney suggested adding themes (a bird theme and a flower theme) and perhaps a gift certificate to Country Bumpkin to the planters planned for the Lure of the Local raffle. Everyone was in favor of this option for two nice raffles in our wooden planters, that could likely be done for less than \$100.

Budget

No report. Co-chair Tancredi submitted reimbursement requests to Lynne for the purchase of marigolds and prizes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Member Nunez introduced the concept of a Windphone as a unique idea for a community park. A wind phone is a disconnected rotary or push-button phone located in a secluded spot in nature, usually within a booth-type structure. People use the Windphone to “call” and have a one-way conversation with deceased loved ones.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the Beautification Committee Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

RESULT:	Passed [Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0]
MOVER:	Committee Member Jill Mitchell
SECONDER:	Committee Member Chester Jankowski Jr.
AYES:	Kim Nunez, Colleen Tancredi, Margaret (Peg) Tierney, Jill Mitchell, Chester Jankowski Jr., Jenny Ross
NAYS:	None
ABSTAIN:	None

Jenny Ross, Chairman

NEXT MEETING - SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

