

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Beautification Committee was held on October 16, 2024. Chairperson Ross called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

**ATTENDANCE**

Chair Ross took the roll call. It indicated as follows:

**Committee Attendance**

**PRESENT:** Trustee Berman Ross, Co-Chair Tancredi, Committee Member Almanzo, Committee Member Nunez, Committee Member Tierney, Committee Member Mitchell, Committee Member Jankowski Jr.

**ABSENT:** None

**Other Attendance**

**PRESENT:** Chris Woodard, Mundelein Arts Commission Representative, and Lynne Monroe, Beautification Committee Liaison

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

There was no public commentary.

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

**Approval of the September 18, 2024 Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the Beautification meeting minutes of September 18, 2024.

**MUNDELEIN ARTS COMMISSION REPORT**

- Update on Beautification Committee Star - soft call for artists has been sent out. A hard call is coming. Chris Woodard will coordinate the date with the Beautification newsletter in December.
- Chris mentioned the Audubon Society Mural program that Lake County Audubon Society shared information about - the artwork in these bird-themed murals is fantastic. Chair Ross mentioned Merlanne Rampale from SWALCO's efforts to find a site for a compost related mural.
- Chris provided an update on the s'murals that MAC is working on - zoning changes are required before this project can be started. The Village Staff is working on drafting the required updates. These small scale murals might provide an opportunity for the Beautification Committee to sponsor a s'mural.
- Chris mentioned that Terry Anderson, a Loch Lomond resident who makes wooden bird houses and other items. He has been to a Lake County Audubon Society

meeting and to Wild Ones.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Ross announced upcoming SWALCO events - Household Chemical Waste Collection event in Vernon Hills on October 19, 2024, two upcoming fall compost giveaways, one in Wauconda and one in Libertyville, and pumpkin collections for composting. Mundelein Parks and Recreation participates in the pumpkin collection.

## **PROJECTS**

### **Decorating / Gardening Contests**

- Not many entries so far.
- Discussed promotion on Village Facebook page.
- Discussed modifications to location of form on the Beautification Committee website.
- Talked about members of the committee recruiting people to participate - Committee Member Almanzo asked about paper copies of the form. Her neighbors don't use computers.
- Chair Ross asked about door hangers like the ones that America in Bloom had to make people with great decorations aware of the contest. Co-Chair Tancredi and Beautification Committee Liaison will investigate.
- Co-Chair Tancredi will provide a printable version of the form for people who don't use computers - these will have to be entered at the Village.
- We can offer people some leeway because the nominations will not close on the deadline but will stay open.

### **Calendar and Projects for 2024/25**

- Committee Member Holden is working on Bird City (the Audubon Society Program) and had questions about the process for a Proclamation - Chair Ross explained that she needed to notify the Village and provide the preferred Board meeting date and text 3–4 weeks before the preferred Board meeting to have it

presented and signed by the Mayor - she is going to look at the events related to migratory birds and pick a date for the proclamation. Committee Member Holden had other questions about the application. Chair Ross suggested she ask Paul Geiselhart of the Lake County Audubon Society for help.

- Committee Member Nunez is interested in Dark Skies - Chair Ross explained that her understanding of the Dark Skies program is that once we officially state that we want to become a Dark Skies Community, we have 5 years to complete the process, which includes having a lighting ordinance that complies with their requirements. The Village is aware that it needs to update its lighting ordinance and that this is a large undertaking. Chair Ross reported that she talked to Community Development Director Orenchuk about her plans for updating the ordinance and was told that it is not included in the plan for this year. So Chair Ross recommended that Committee Member Nunez start the process of identifying the Dark Skies requirements and planning some community education activities, but wait to start the formal process until the Village officially starts the process to update the lighting ordinance. Committee Member Nunez and the rest of the committee agreed that this was a sensible approach.
- The Committee decided to participate in Compost Awareness Week with SWALCO and would like to host a compost giveaway the first week in May. The Mundelein Public Works parking lot is the first choice for a location; St. Andrews Church is also an alternative.
- Committee Member Jankowski reported that he will have garden plans for some of the locations that the Village owns that need some landscaping and sprucing up in January or February for the committee to evaluate. He will include the Village Hall pollinator garden. Funds to purchase plants were discussed - there will be funds available in the Beautification Committee budget. The possibility of soliciting donations was discussed as well - Committee Member Jankowski advocated a structured program and Chair Ross suggested opening it to the community, not just focusing on businesses might be a good idea.

### **Pollinator Kits**

No discussion.

### **Monarch Pledge**

Decided not to continue with the Mayor's Monarch Pledge and to pursue more impactful projects instead.

### **Other Commitments**

No discussion.

### **Beautification Newsletter**

- When it comes out, the Village can post on social media to increase awareness.
- The deadline will be December 6, 2024 - Chair Ross will send a reminder.
- Future newsletter deadlines will be the Friday before the Beautification Committee meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Village Committee / Commission Email**

Beautification Committee Liaison Monroe discussed the policy on email use and distributed the policy and the acknowledgment sheet.

### **Seed Exchange - Farmers Market**

- Committee Chair Jankowski and Co-Chair Tancredi reported that people seemed happy to see them at the Farmer's Market. People didn't bring plants, but they picked up seeds and bookmarks.
- The proposed planting project was discussed - Committee Member Jankowski wants to focus on a Spring effort.

### **Beautification Book Mark**

Co-Chair Tancredi discussed printing more bookmarks and the committee agreed. When they are available, she will reach out so that members of the committee can help distribute them to other government buildings and to businesses around town.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Santa's Cottage and Winterfest Table - December 7, 2024**

- The committee agreed to support a giveaway of the gift bags that are given out

at Santa's Cottage.

- Co-Chair Tancredi will coordinate ordering the mini coloring books she found.
- The committee would like to put Beautification Committee stickers on them like we did for the seed packets.
- Several different craft options were discussed - ultimately, the committee decided to have a display on the table and distribute butterfly stickers.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No discussion.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **Motion to adjourn the Beautification Committee Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

**NEXT MEETING - December 4, 2024**