

Beautification Committee Meeting Minutes, 9/15/22

Members Present: Kyle Nuse, Blair Watson, Lauren Philie

5:00pm Meeting brought to order

The committee welcomed Lauren! Because Johna was absent the committee decided to table voting on the August meeting minutes till October as well as agenda item "NVU future collaborations update." That said, Kyle did give an update on the last she heard from Johna about the SERV office at NVU helping make a flower box around the Cold Spring Sign. SERV is not interested in using brick and mortar - all materials we already have- but wood products. Kyle told Johna that if they could source the materials we'd be fine with that. Blair mentioned that there may be something easier to use than cement mix for the bricks. Kyle said she would look into it.

Kyle briefed the board on updates with the mural, flowers and potential gardening/landscaper position. The mural is finished! Finn was able to do everything in the time frame we outlined. Kyle reports it was a "dream" to work with Finn and hopes that we can continue to work with them on Phase 2: "Scenes of Johnson." She also reported that we made \$4,025 in our fundraising efforts for this mural project which well exceeded our goal of \$1500. It was decided that for Phase 2 we would use leftover money as seed money and apply for a SPARK grant that is a great fit for projects like these and you can get \$3-4K.

Kyle gave updates on the upcoming celebration around the mural and Lauren updated on getting food donations from Sterling Market. It was agreed that the committee would meet at 1pm to set up on Sunday.

Kyle asked about how we craft a "Charitable Gift" tax exempt letter to donors. Blair suggested having the town do it on their letterhead. Lauren agreed if Rosemary had all the information that would be an easy letter to compose. Kyle said she would reach out.

Kyle reported that we have had some flowers left of late on both the Power House and Railroad Street bridges. Not nearly as bad as last year but still not fun. She reported the thefts to the LCSD.

Kyle requested a motion to spend up to \$250 for mums for the flower boxes. Lauren made the motion, Blair seconded, and the motion passed.

Kyle told the committee that she went to the last Select Board meeting and lobbied for them to consider hiring a bonafide gardener and landscaper for 2023. They asked her to give them numbers on hours she and the committee have worked to do the job. She said she would report back with those numbers as well as budget information from other communities. She suggested that we don't let this slide from our or their radar as there is no way she can do what she did this past summer next year. She also suggested partnering with other downtown stakeholders with

lots of prime property that need landscaping help such as Jenna's Promise, J.E.S and the Village of Johnson. They all agreed that "first appearances" is an important economic development and flowers are an effective way to achieve it.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.