

**Clean & Beautiful Committee**  
**April 6, 2011**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Committee Members**

**Present:**  
Jeff Deelstra  
Pat Deelstra  
Brenda Clark  
Karin Alexander  
Tim Chezem  
Lisa Rene Jones  
Kate Duff

**Excused Committee Members:**

Janusz Wojtanowicz  
Jola Wojtanowicz

**Absent Committee Members:**

Brian Blank  
Mathew Lovato  
Carolyn Workman

**Guests:**

Sandy Silletto

**Staff Members Present:**

Craig Thomas  
Cathie Alberico

Jeff Deelstra, called the meeting of April 6, 2011, to order at 5:05 PM

**Welcomed** guest, Sandy Silletto.

Karin Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2011, Lisa Rene Jones, seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, all in favor.

**Small Yearly Beautification Projects**

No update information on Small Yearly Beautifications Projects is available at this meeting, due to the absence of Matt Lovato.

**Urban Gardens**

Jeff asked Karin to give a quick update on Urban Gardens. Have not had a meeting in the past month because Karin resigned from the Urban Garden subcommittee. Carolyn and Karin had met. Kate Duff was given the handout that Karin prepared about the role the Clean & Beautiful Committee would take involving gardens. The Subcommittee left off at making a brochure, about what an Urban Garden is, the different types and styles. What type of people get involved with gardens. Would like to have information included in Yard Clippings, and web site with contact info to include Brian Blank and Carolyn Workman's phone numbers. Considered presentations to community groups and church groups to bring about awareness. We have a .pdf map of West Valley City that shows areas

that are available, vacant lots, what is City owned. Building a Community garden at an existing City park has been discussed and is still being researched. Jeff added that the mountain of information that Karin had gathered is in Owens' hands. He is trying to make certain that there are no copyright infringements, when his research is complete it will go on the web site. Karin has been somewhat unsuccessful in contacting Wasatch Community Gardens. They have several different types of gardens that could be toured. The Mobile Home Park Community Garden (that Kate Duff, a potential new member to the Committee is working on) looks viable. We voted at the last meeting to donate a limited amount of funds for the start up of that garden.

Sandy addressed the Committee with her personal ideas about Urban or Community Gardens.

Sandy has spoken to Kate. She is very organized and ready to go. Sandy does not have a neighborhood garden in mind. Sandy would like to organize a West Valley City garden, utilizing West Valley City land, park strips and parks. She is also interested in approaching Granite School District, to see if their after school programs would be interested in working on gardens located on school property. The District has large parcels of land that get watered and mowed. Water is available. Her ideas are big; she is thinking no fees should be charged. She is hoping it will be funded with all donations. Sandy envisions proud residents, with a garden in a pocket park. Sandy has been researching gardens. There are many places where gardens have been established; there has been no vandalism, because residents take pride in their garden, where they live or their children play. Something she mentioned last year was to consider planting tomatoes in the planters at the Mall or other locations. She understands it is a huge undertaking and can't do it alone. Must approach the City first to seek support of projects like this. Resources she has studied mention planting fruit and nut trees in the park strip, could be messy unless the fruit and so on is used as a food source. Jeff added that there is a certain level of cleanliness that goes along with any tree. Karin mentioned that the City ordinance about trees and their placement should be studied. Sandy said, "If I had five children and \$1.00, am I going to go to McDonalds and get a dollar burger or am I going to buy a cucumber?" Knowing the answer to that question is one of the problems with our kids, they don't eat fresh produce, fresh fruit. Doesn't want to go the route of a co-op. Karin asked how would Sandy get people involved, would you go to food pantries, or church groups? Sandy would like to separate the Church from the whole process. She would like to post signs in the local area's to encourage attendance for organizational meetings. She taught at Kennedy Jr. High, and mentioned all of the grass, that gets watered and mowed. They also have an after school program, that runs all summer as do other schools in the Granite School District. Jeff inquired if she had enough information to approach the Granite School District? She is not sure that she is totally prepared, doesn't know how to do a power point presentation. Has statistics and information from the books she has read. There are places all over the country that have successful gardens on school property. It would be a great tie in to schoolchildren's education in learning about growing something to eat. She would seek donations from Home Depot because of

an existing partnership with Kennedy. She wouldn't mind touching base with Granite School District to inquire about the possibilities. Craig asked if Sandy had any idea of what the cost for a single school location would be? No. What would the schools role be in running an after school program? She thought it would be the responsibility of the after school program coordinator. Craig talked about the Community Education Partnership; the partnership helps to find funding for after school programs in WVC. It is a nonprofit organization, whose primary focus is on the low to moderate-income schools, schools with low-test scores and school with inadequate after school opportunities. It is for the schools that have the greatest needs. They might be able to help find funding, if the C & B committee were to find funding, they might be the in-source to get a program introduced about community gardens into their mix. Brenda Clark added that she and Matt work for Discover and they partner with a least one school, she also has a contact at Granite Education, specifically community education who may be helpful. Lisa noted that a class was included in the Granite Peaks catalog called Community Gardening. Growing a garden can easily be integrated into learning English, cooking and eating the crop and many other activities. Sandy questioned if "gardening" fits in the C & B committee. Jeff responded that it does fit in our mission, and information resources. Our mission is to enhance the image of the City; anything that is not yellow and dead enhances the City appearance. It would be interesting to see an established community garden in a public park. The C & B committee is at the least a resource for information on gardening. The subcommittee hasn't really decided where to go from here; the subcommittee is in very early learning stages. The Committee is looking to support people who want to take on a Community Garden, like Kate. We are looking to support these individuals to the extent that we can, with financial assistance or product such as seeds for example. The members present supported Jeff and Sandy's ideas. Karin passed along the handouts that she had developed about information and resources to Sandy. There was a general discussion among the members about community gardens, locations and purposes that were published in the local newspapers. Sandy expressed that in her opinion; Neighborhood Watch should handle neighborhood garden information. Brenda suggested using the National Night Out kickoff as a forum to pass information out.

Kate gave a quick update on the progress her garden is taking. The first meeting she held was attended by 23 people, she has added up to 40 people with interest in the garden. The garden is in a Mobile Home Park, Bye-A-Wyle, located at 3455 South 1185 West; they have a newsletter that mentioned the garden. Kate also posted flyers. She also included information about a Neighborhood Watch meeting for Saturday, April 23, 2011. They are planning to watch the garden and the neighborhood; it seemed to go hand in hand. Kate has been collecting coffee grounds, and eggshells to treat the soil. She has four parts blocked out to use. Volunteers are building a fence. The Mobile Home Park is being very accommodating, they have promised a parking area, a road, a water system, a street light anything that they can do to help out the project. Jeff and Pat Deelstra made plans to attend the Saturday meeting.

## **Education Subcommittee,**

Met on Monday, April 4, 2011. Owen demonstrated the web site. The site should be going live in the next week or so. A link will be added so it is easier to find. A slide show of Award winning yards has been added. Owen suggested for future reference to avoid taking pictures of minors at the Award winning yards, and try to avoid the house numbers if you can. They are going to have FAQ's. The questions will change; we can add questions that we think are relevant. Contact any of our City staff with ideas you may have. It is going to be very user friendly. An opportunity to nominate a yard for the C&B awards is included; we currently have one nomination. The education subcommittee may decide to redirect itself, they are in the process of deciding what they would like to accomplish. They will try to gather as many resources as possible. Send any links or information along to Cathie, Craig or Owen; it will be compiled, checked for any legal issues and that information will be included on the site. That would include a reference to books, brochures, articles, web sites, any type of resource about gardening that people might find interesting. They are hoping to easily direct someone into groups of information. When meeting with Western Gardens they were very supportive of these types of links because their web site doesn't contain this type of information. The subcommittee is hoping to set up seminars or classes here in the City. Possible meeting sights would include Cultural Center and the meeting room out at the new animal shelter building on 3500 South.

## **Awards Meeting Next Month**

Wednesday, May 4, 2011~ Multipurpose Room, City Hall, 5:00PM

Craig has already put a lot of thought, energy and ideas into this meeting. He brought us up to date. The invitations to last year's winners were mailed out on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. We have received a few RSVPS'. Everything is set and ready to go. The maps, information, forms, etc. will be compiled into a packet. So an envelope will be made up for the different areas of the map.

We could use some volunteers to come early to help set up the room. Offering some drinks and cookies was suggested.

Craig passed out phone lists from last year's 19 areas with available phone numbers. He asked that the Committee make follow up calls to the invitation letter around the 15<sup>th</sup> of April, we would like to personally invite them to be a judge and to attend the May 4<sup>th</sup>, meeting.

A question was asked of the entire committee, would the rules for judging be reviewed?

There will be a power point presentation of the do's and don'ts. Many members expressed concerns and suggested reviewing some instances that were encountered in the past few years. It was decided that in the future, Committee members should

respectfully reject an award if it is presented to them for their yard. In the packets given to judges, information will be provided that show committee members and last year's winners. Brenda added in Carolyn's defense, a guest judge awarded her yard, she tried to decline it, but the judges were insistent that she accept. Carolyn has a beautiful award-winning yard. Prior to this past year we had not encountered this, or set any guidelines. Other members expressed support of the actions that had taken place. Remember to keep, Craig or Cathie, informed of any other concerns that may come up, and they will rectify them on behalf of the City. Hopefully all of our judges will stay within the boundaries of their area. The procedure for the Committee recognition at City Council could be handled differently, perhaps being asked to stand and be recognized, many members feel recognition is important. We have asked City Council to attend, there is no guarantee that they will be present and on time, they make every effort to do so.

### **Membership and Elections**

Be mindful of your term dates, and if you are up for election this year. If you have questions concerning your term dates, refer to the "Clean & Beautiful Committee Members -Term Dates," in your binder. Please contact staff to inform them of your intentions to continue to serve on the Committee or not. We need to hold elections next month, so we will have a short meeting, as a committee, after the judging areas have been determined, please plan on staying a bit longer than a normal meeting. The Chairpersons or Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson are up for election. Please submit any nominations to staff for these positions by May 2, 2011. The Committee has two vacancies that we would like to fill; if you know of someone who might be interested we would love to invite him or her to a meeting.

Sandy inquired about the Small Yearly Beautification Projects, because she is ready to play in the dirt. Because of Matt's absence further discussion is on hold. Matt is making arrangements for a tree-planting event with the City Forester; it will probably take place in the month of May.

An inquiry was made about the funds that we have promised Kate for her community garden, when and how do we get those funds to her. Jeff and Pat will attend her meeting and move forward from there.

The meeting was adjourned, at about 6:05PM.