

Clean and Beautiful Committee
Approved Minutes
May 14, 2015

Committee Members Present:

Misty Smith
Lisa Rene Jones
Brenda Clark
Matt Lovato
David McEwen
Allen Pierce
Teri-Mae Pierce
Darrick Porter
Jody Rushton-Porter
Samadhi Ishaya
Gandarva Darling

Excused Committee Members

Karen Lang

Guests:

Cathy Shurtz and John Ferradino
Sandra and Doug Johnson
Joe and Elaine McIntosh
Brent and Lynette Evans
Jim and Ann Bolton
Kyle Dean
Arlene Williams
Rebecca Davis
Bruce and Jean Hunt

Staff Members Present:

Cathie Alberico
Craig Thomas

Misty Smith, Chairperson of the Clean and Beautiful Committee brought the May 14, 2015, meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Guest Judges and Committee members were welcomed.

Misty thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and went on to say: without guest judges the 2015 Clean and Beautiful Awards program would not be possible. We are a volunteer Committee, our time is dedicated to meeting once a month to plan and discuss beautification projects that we can take on in the City. The Clean and Beautiful Yard Awards is a product of this Committee. We do this annually to encourage citizens of our community to take pride in their city as a whole, one home at a time, recognizing people who have really gone out of their way to improve the City as a whole.

Misty shared one of her all time favorite quotes with everyone in attendance. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead, American Cultural Anthropologist. Her concept was: liked minded, small in number people, can accomplish very large things. That is really what our Committee attempts to do. We try to work together towards goals that many people would not believe we would be able to achieve with the small number of members that we have. We have worked on the street banners you may have seen on 3500 South, we go from park to park to cleanup, and most importantly the Yard Awards to recognize members of the community for their hard work.

The Clean & Beautiful Committee is one of 12 citywide volunteer Committees or boards, supported by West Valley City government. Visit the City website at: www-wvc-ut.gov to see the Clean and Beautiful page, and learn valuable information about the City. If you are interested in more information about Clean and Beautiful you can go to <http://www.wvc-ut.gov/1010/About-Us> and click on the link [contact us](#). As you scroll down the City home webpage click on “Stay Notified, Get Connected With the City,” you will be directed to a page where you can sign up with your email address for any number of notifications about the City, including Committees and boards. Your e-mail address will be kept confidential and it will not be sold, disclosed to others, or used for unsolicited mass mailings (spam). If you want to join any of the 11 other Committees that accomplish great things information can be found on the website.

Our mission statement is to promote public interest in the general improvement of the environment of West Valley City: to initiate, plan, direct and coordinate programs for the general beautification and improvement of the physical quality of life in West Valley City.

The Committee meets once a month to discuss potential projects, and how we can best use our resources and time. We take on three to four volunteer service projects per year. Projects can include anything from cleaning up a park or working with neighborhood gardens. We introduced the Welcome to WVC street banners to the City. We volunteer at WestFest to give daylilies away in June. We publish small tidbits called Yard Clippings in the City newsletter. And we also volunteer at National Night Out Against Crime activities in August.

The Awards program is an annual recognition of individuals and some businesses that have kept their yards or landscaping clean, well cared for or in some way represents a Waterwise use of landscaping. Waterwise awards are given for anything from decreasing green plants, switching to decorative rock, using drip line irrigation systems to conserve water. Winners in the past have ranged from simple well-kept yards to homeowners who have gone over the top with architectural design and expense. We emphasize the Awards are not always given to individuals who have spent a lot of money. We Award the individuals who have put the most “heart,” into the care of their yard. It doesn’t have to be a very expensive project to have a very clean and beautiful yard. As you’re judging we hope you keep an open mind, look for homes that represent West Valley City in the image we would like. We present 76 awards, City wide, in 19 judging areas, four awards per area yearly.

Review of Awards Program

Locate map of West Valley City, divided into 19 areas

Select an Area to judge: best not to judge the area where you live, neighbors may try to influence you

Take the matching packet to the area you are going to judge

Past Winners: 2010 through 2014 winner, are not eligible for an award. Past winners are indicated on maps and addresses are included. Review this information before awarding a yard

Winners must live in West Valley City

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age or disability

Award winners are very proud of their backyards, you will be asked to see these yards, backyards do not qualify for awards

Craig Thomas, City Staff member, reviewed - 12 Elements of a Great Neighborhood, published by the City. *Winners should not be in obvious violations of City Code.* We do our best to encourage homeowners to be in compliance with City Code, Clean & Beautiful awards should recognize the positive efforts of our residents for their efforts.

Vehicles- no cars on blocks; with flat tires, operable condition, parked correctly on approved surfaces by the City

Landscaping-that is why they have won an award, homeowners who have taken pride in the appearance of their home, taking the time to keep their homes and yards tidy, neat and clean.

Fencing- should be maintained, not in disrepair

Outside Storage, Solid Waste- can impact the value of everyone's home in the neighborhood, can detract from appearance of homes, avoid "stuff" stored in a carport, on their side yard or drive way

Heavy Vehicles-No Semi's - especially parked in front yards

Surfacing- vehicles parked on standard parking surface-gravel, concrete or asphalt, *can't park on bare dirt*, if you can see *ruts in the front yard they have been parking on the lawn* which is not allowed

Be mindful when looking at yards the whole package should be considered, not just a few areas of the yard, everything should represent a prideful care in their neighborhood

Waterwise landscapes- steps taken that will conserve on the use of residential water

We would like to see homeowners win the awards, some *areas have businesses that may qualify for an award, and perhaps their employees may be doing the work*

Don't be fooled by **silk flowers**

Craig will help you with the map of West Valley City

What is expected of Judges?

Your packet includes two City nametags to be worn

Award Packets- each recipient receives an envelope; contains congratulations letter, window cling sticker, invitation to Awards Ceremony and postmarked RSVP card to Awards Reception, loaded with information about the award, the Clean & Beautiful Committee and information about the Awards Reception held in their honor.

Consider making your signs visible in your car.

Review the map of your area, learn the boundaries of your area, past winners are indicated in red, please don't award to a recent past winner, award another yard to share the process with more homeowners, you will also have the addresses of past winners in a printed form to cross reference with the map. Take into consideration the written instructions. Also included are work sheets that you can take notes on.

Recipients receive a daylily from the Committee it is the City flower. We hope that you can find a Waterwise yard to award, in some areas it is very difficult, so an additional Beautiful award may be given. Waterwise yards have reduced the amount of water used through use of drip lines or through decorative xeriscaping. A well maintained yard with decorative rock or mulch and some plantings should be considered, not a yard full of gravel. We can also accommodate more than one Waterwise winner.

Take pictures of your award winning yards, at least one per house, more if you would like. Digital cameras are available to use, in the Public Relations office in City Hall. The pictures will be used at the Awards Receptions, to recognize the winners.

Complete the green Winners Sheet with the entire information section completed about the winners to return to Cathie Alberico at City Hall or by email to Cathie.alberico@wvc.ut.gov.

The due date to return your awards is noted: July 30, 2015.

As Judges you are also welcome to attend the reception. We will have a light brunch at the Cultural Celebration Center, and something new this year will be a chance to win a door prize at the reception.

Thank you so much for coming tonight and your consideration of the C&B Yard judging process of paying it forward in your community.

A question about artificial grass was posed. We have not encountered that possibility yet. You would want to consider the whole appearance of the home. Artificial grass could be considered if the yard was clean and beautiful.

Craig responded that there is not a specific code related to artificial turf, the City does require a certain percentage of the yard to be planted in live plant materials. This will be a topic for the City Council to consider in the future.

At this time the guest judges and Committee members were excused to begin the judging process by selecting an area and completing their registration.

At 6:25 p.m. the meeting was called back to order for regular Clean and Beautiful business. Cathie passed out nomination forms for elections; Chairperson and Vice Chair positions are up for election.

Misty called for a motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 2015. David McEwen moved to approve the April minutes, Matt Lovato seconded the motion. The motion passed all in favor.

Lisa Rene Jones apologized for missing the April meeting.

Misty took a minute to thank everyone; as her Chairperson term has expired. "Our Committee would not work without all of its members. Our members are the lifeblood of our Committee." She also thanked Craig and Cathie for all of the effort they expend to keep the Committee operating.

Nominations and elections for a new chairperson will take place tonight. Misty reviewed the duties and expectations of the positions. She mentioned a few highlights that exist in our Bylaws, Articles Five, Six and Seven, which discuss meetings and elections. Article Five: meetings will be held in accordance with a schedule submitted in advance to the City Manager. Cathie keeps records of the meetings in the form of minutes.

Misty recommended as Chairperson: shortly after the monthly meeting occurs, a meeting with Craig should be held to work out the agenda for the coming meeting. That meeting may take about an hour; it will help to prepare you for the next meeting. Craig and Misty have been meeting the Wednesday, following the Committee meeting, items discussed are still fresh in mind, to carry over thoughts, discussions and goals covered in the past meeting.

Misty emphasized that in order to conduct any Committee business we need a least 50% of membership to be present, which equals a quorum. No formal action shall be taken on agenda items until a quorum is established. Each of the agenda items requiring formal action by the Committee will be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Once a quorum is established: all members of the Committee shall have equal voting rights. A designated alternate may vote in the absence of a voting member, if arrangements are made prior to the meeting.

Article Six: Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are elected by a majority vote of the Committee

Article Seven: Officers - The Chairperson conducts all meetings; in the Chair's absence the Vice Chair conducts the meeting. Officers assume their position on July 1, and serve until June 30, of the following year.

There have been questions posed as to the voting rights of the president or a Chairperson of a committee. Cathie researched Roberts Rules of Order which states: If the president is a member of the assembly, he or she has exactly the same rights and privileges as all other members have, including the right to make motions, speak in debate and to vote on all questions.

When will the chair's vote affect the result? On a vote, which is not by ballot, if a majority vote is required and there is a tie he or she may vote in the affirmative to cause the motion to prevail; he or she can create a tie causing a motion to fail; or he or she may vote either to cause, or to block the required majority to pass a motion.

The president is expected to have a certain degree of impartiality. Misty has not made motions on her own this past year. She has asked for motions and seconds, and she has not voted on motions this past year unless there has been a tie.

Misty asked for nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The nominations for Chairperson are: Mat Lovato, Misty Smith and David McEwen. Misty withdrew her name; her work schedule this coming year will not permit her to act in the Chair position.

Nominations for Vice Chairperson are: Lisa Rene Jones, David McEwen, Jody Rushton-Porter, Mat Lovato and Misty Smith. Misty withdrew her name from the Vice Chairperson position. Lisa Rene Jones also withdrew her name due to a new job she has, but wants to remain as a member of the committee. Misty will be available to help in anyway she can, as her schedule allows.

Chairperson Nominees: Mat Lovato, David McEwen

Vice Chairperson Nominees: David McEwen, Jody Rushton-Porter and Mat Lovato

Mark your ballot Chairperson, and Vice Chairperson with your vote indicating your choice.

Misty asked if Mat or David wanted to say anything. Mat introduced himself. "I have been on this committee a long time, I have a lot of responsibilities too....(I couldn't understand what he said.)"

David did not speak.

A vote by ballot took place. The results of the election for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 are: Chairperson- Mat Lovato, Vice Chairperson- Jody Rushton-Porter. Congratulations to all.

Cathie added that Karen Lang reports the Boy Scouts will take care of the flagpole in City Park. Jason Erekson has voiced his support of the Community Preservation Building project.

At this time Misty adjourned the meeting, reminding everyone to take all of required tools for the 2015 Yard Judging process. The time was 6:40 p.m.