

**City of Madison  
Beautification and Tree Board  
Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012  
Conference Room, City Hall  
6:00 p.m.**



**Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Pat Cross, Chad Hunter, Liz Cuneo, Karen Lawler, Tom Irby, Alice Tucker, Joe Hackett, Lisa Thomas, Julie Ray and Ray Lewis.

**Board Members Absent:** Carol Umstaedter, Gigi Bullman, Rose Berry, Amy Goddard Robison, Sue Bish and Councilwoman Ronica Ondocsin.

**Proceedings:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President Liz Cuneo.

Finance report was provided by Sue Bish:

- \$ 15,404.94 (Beautification Board)
- \$ 5,901.30 (Tree Board)

**Tree Board Updates:**

**Tree Ordinance/Wild Bradford Pears – Tom Irby**

Earlier this month, Tom Irby met with Sherri Blair of the Madison City Planning Department to discuss desirable/non-desirable plants and trees. Sherri requested a list of plants and trees that are suitable for this area and could be provided to builders as a recommendation. Tom developed an initial list and requested inputs from board members. Tom also reported that he is working with Sherri to update any ordinances where they address MBTB responsibilities concerning plantings on private and commercial properties.

*Post meeting update: The draft list was provided to all board members after the meeting via email. MBTB members are requested to review and provide inputs to Tom Irby.*

**Resignation – Liz Cuneo**

Liz Cuneo reported that Carol Umstaedter has resigned from the MBTB. During the time of Carol's membership, she initiated the Arbor Day poster contest, promoted Madison as an official Tree City, established the Arbor Day workshop, and participated in countless other efforts to promote the planting and maintenance of trees in the city of Madison. The board wishes her the best as she returns to graduate school.

**Beautification Board Updates:**

### **Beautification Awards – Pat Cross/Karen Lawler**

Pat Cross and Karen Lawler have completed the mailing of letters and application forms for this year's Beautification Awards. As of the date of the Board meeting, 77 nominations have been received, 52 of those received awards in 2011, and 16 are new participants.

The date for assessing all properties is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Four driving routes have been established, and eight independent judges have been scheduled to participate. During the judging, Pat Cross will be taking photographs of all of the properties. The photographs of the winning properties will be shown during the Awards Luncheon. In addition to the Beautification Award, there will also be two additional awards presented, the 'Knock Out' Award which is given to the property with the most outstanding display of 'Knock Out' Roses, and the Excellence Award which is given to properties with a score of '100'. Karen is working on the gifts for the judges and the judges will be treated to lunch at the Main Street Café.

### **Awards Luncheon – Liz Cuneo**

The Awards Luncheon menu has been coordinated. Chad Hunter will be designing and making the table arrangements for the Awards luncheon. He is planning on 14 arrangements, and will be accessing board members' gardens as well as supplementing with any additional plants required. At the end of the luncheon, table arrangements will be given to attendees as door prizes. Chad will act as the emcee during the Awards Luncheon.

### **Pride of Madison – Ray Lewis**

Ray Lewis briefed the board on the Pride of Madison program. The new sign prepared for the Zeta Phi Beta PAZ Chapter was posted at both ends of Plaza Boulevard. An additional sign was needed to be placed correctly for the Rainbow Mountain Homemakers, and has been accomplished. The signs for Mississippi State Alumni have been posted. Chad Hunter has coordinated with Ray to adopt a mile near his business on Palmer Road and that is currently in-work as well.

### **Yard of the Roses Contest – Julie Ray**

Julie Ray reported on the status of the Yard of the Roses award. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, three judges drove the route of the Run through the Roses race, and selected the most attractive yard that also had a good display of 'Knock Out' Roses. A 'Knock Out' Rose and a Certificate of Appreciation were provided to the winning home. An article announcing the winner has been submitted to the newspapers and has been published.

### **Yards of Madison – Rose Berry**

Rose Berry has requested nominations from MBTB members and has received many responses. Mail out will be at the end of the month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Ray  
Secretary