

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN
BEAUTIFICATION / HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MAY 17, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Brownstown Beautification / Historical Commission was held at the Brownstown Township Hall, 21313 Telegraph Road, on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pfau at 7:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Pfau, Golovich, Sheldon, Szymanski, Walters, and Whitecotton. Also in attendance was Recreation Director Maxe

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Machinski

MINUTE APPROVAL: Motion of Golovich, supported by Szymanski, to approve the Beautification / Historical Commission minutes of April 19, 2011 as submitted. All present voting aye.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion of Sheldon, supported by Whitecotton, to approve the Beautification / Historical Commission agenda of May 17, 2011 as submitted. All present voting aye.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT: Historical Society member, Richard Smith, reported the Society Garage Sale is being held May 19 through May 21 in the old bus garage and thanks was given to Maxe and his department for their wonderful cooperation. He announced that the Society will be canceling their open house schedule for the summer but will resume in September. An Eagle Scout has applied to clean the Rumsey Cemetery as his project. The Society has submitted an application to receive free seeds and plants for the community "pantry garden" that is being grown for local distribution.

Smith also reported the Society recently sent eight local students and teacher to attend the DCC Legislative Forum and they also sponsored a local school in an event at a regional track meet. Future society plans include repairing the basement leaks and eavestrough on the Museum; restarting the Lee Road Memorial Project; and providing public internet computer access to Brownstown's historical transcriptions and documents. Project priority will be set by availability of funding.

Smith introduced Regina Hunter, long-time resident and graduate student at U of M who has offered her free assistance to locate funding for these projects which, in turn, would help her complete her school internship requirements. She would be available until her December 18, 2011 graduation and would assist by checking into foundation, federal, state, county and all available grants to fund these. Members liked the idea and welcomed and wished Ms. Hunter luck in her endeavors. She was encouraged to communicate with members and asked to attend Commission meetings to provide monthly updates.

2011 GARDEN PROJECT: Whitecotton thanked Maxe for the Community Garden ground preparations. It is staked and ready for planting once it quits raining. Areas have been set aside for a pantry garden, a giant pumpkin garden, a three-sisters garden, and an edible flower garden. At the May 3rd Garden Club meeting, members motioned to request any and all updates to the

community garden areas be provided to them in a timely fashion during the Township campus renovations. Maxe will provide Whitecotton with all updates as the project moves forward. Current plans show forty-four 10 x 10 raised community beds, some ADA accessible beds, stone walkways, and water and composting available on site. Whitecotton reported on a recent MSU Extension Service training he attended on “How to grow gardeners” and plans to share that information with members in the future.

CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLANS: Maxe reported that Phase I of the Township Campus Development broke ground last week plans and is underway.

2011 PROJECTS: The State of Michigan requested additional information about the Corduroy Road Marker which Maxe has already returned. The DDA is waiting for the Commission’s request for the DDA to fund the Farmers Market children’s passports and entertainment budget of \$750 so they can place it on their next meeting agenda. Sheldon has it prepared and provided it at the meeting to be forwarded to the DDA.

The application for the ISA award is due and Sheldon will complete the application and forward her article to the event coordinator. Whitecotton has a wonderful picture that he will forward to Denise so she can include it.

OTHER BUSINESS: It was decided to bring back “The Best of Brownstown” as a fall/winter project since the focus is currently on gardening and the Farmers Market.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Pfau inquired if the Fire Department was still going to host the Sibley Road “Brownstown Sign”. It has been raining so much rain lately that not much has been done this year. Maxe will look at the signs before the next meeting to see if they will need any attention from the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion of Whitecotton, supported by Sheldon, to adjourn the Beautification / Historical Commission meeting at 7:53 p.m.

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