

KEEP MIDLOTHIAN BEAUTIFUL MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2019

The Keep Midlothian Beautiful Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Present: Karen Kreis, Helen Lekavich, Kristen Ramirez, Kathy Caveney, Gail Martinez, Joanna Whitten, Rita Sareny, Theda Reed, Don Knapp, April Doeden Lester, Rebecca Deneka, Karina Huaman, Marsha Amraen, Maria Kolacki, Chief Delaney, Jessica Rucinski and

Minutes

- **May 16, 2019 Minutes** – Motion to approve the Keep Midlothian Beautiful Minutes for the May 16, 2019 Meeting was made Kristen Ramirez and seconded by Joanna Whitten.

Discussion: Rita Sareny asked that the Clean Basements and Garages information be amended to remove “postcard” and replaced with “packet” to anyone in attendance. There was no further discussion.

Roll Call: Ayes: All in Favor. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Update on Executive Director Position – A candidate was selected and approved by the Village Board. The candidate has accepted the position and is going through our background checks. The position will be 10 hours a week. She is hoping that at our next meeting we will have our new Executor Director.

Update from School District 143 – Marsha Amraen was pleased with the posters in the Rain Garden and thought they were beautiful. The students were also excited about receiving the Certificates from the Keep Midlothian Beautiful Committee. There was one winner from each grade throughout the entire District. The winners were also identified on the Keep Midlothian Beautiful Facebook page.

Karen Kreis advised that certificates were not presented to the high school students but were recognized when pictures were taken on Clean Up Day. The pictures were included in a flyer and was also on our Facebook page and website.

Marsha Amraen spoke with Terry Stephens this morning and confirmed that they are on the Village Service Committee but will not meet again until August. We will need to purchase the frames and then provide those to the local businesses. Don Knapp from First Midwest asked to get involved and requested one of the pictures. He noted that he has a table set up ready for the picture.

Marsha advised that the art teachers have requested to be involved in the next poster contest and will be in touch with Rebecca in January to start formulating the program.

Rebecca Deneka commented that the Ecology Club will also be participating next year with the posters and will be participating in other clean ups. Helen Lekavich noted that she would like to begin an Inspiring Person Award, where we award those randomly doing beautification things. She is hoping to host the event at the Rain Garden and then they will be able to meet each other. The Volunteer Recognition will be the next KMB Event for 2019.

Update from School District 228 – Jessica Rucinski advised that it is a very quiet time due to the Summer break. The students will not return until August, but the Fall athletics will be looking for different service projects to get involved in and our Athletic Director is pushing them in that direction. They will be trying to get athletes, while in season, to participate and will be looking for projects.

Karen Kreis advised that we will be looking for individuals or groups to adopt a block or an alley. Jessica noted that whatever the theme for the Fall is confirmed, to let them know so that they can get participation by the students and athletes.

Kathy Caveney advised that she is trying to come up with a theme for the Fall Fest, which will be on October 27th at the Rain Garden. She was hoping to have participation by the younger population of students since the high school students were amazing last year. She suggested "Year of the Super Hero" for the scarecrows. Both she and Mary Chiz will be participating in the Park District's Back to School Fair, which is on August 8th, and will have a few scarecrows built. One will be on the table as if they are in the process of building it. They will then be partnering with the Park District, VFW, Library and the Village and will host a Family Scarecrow Build Day at Raday Lodge. One will be on October 3rd from 6-8 p.m. at the VFW and the second one will be on October 6 from 2-4 p.m. at the VFW. She was hoping to have the grade school students involved and hopefully some of the school Clubs.

Update from Public Works – Kristen advised that she is preparing a list for the cigarette boxes, which are mounted on poles. She suggested the Metra Station, but we would have to buy a post to put them on. Gail Martinez had suggested one should be located at Happy Daze. Bus stops were also suggested.

Summer Project Areas – They will be compiling a list. Helen Lekavich is adopting her block and Gail Martinez has adopted her block. If anyone would like to adopt a block or alley, please let Karen know.

Recycling/Library Professional Organizer Program "Clean Basements and Garages" which is tonight from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Rita Sareny will be at the Library tonight for this event and will be talking about recycling for the Village. She will be providing a packet which explains ideas to dispose of refrigerators (ComEd will buy) and general garbage information such as one large item can go out and information on what can and cannot be recycled. There was a long discussion on the many different recycling ideas. Helen suggested putting this information on our Facebook page.

Rita commented that next year it will be the 50th anniversary for Earth Day. She would like to have a recycling event. She suggested a Saturday and to find a venue such as the Raday Lodge or the High School. She named a few recycling events to include textile recycling, paper shred, electronic waste and hazardous waste which would be at the entrance to the event and then everyone could proceed to an expo with booths by students and our businesses. Karen Kreis suggested hosting this event on Clean Up Day. Rita thought it would be fine for the collection, but if we wanted to do anything further about education, we will need to house them somewhere and cannot depend on our weather. Joanna Whitten suggested a contest where kids and adults can create projects with recyclables and with a theme for Earth Day. Helen Lekavich commented that we have done something like that. In fact, it was Reusapalooza and seasonally they would display crafts made by recycled items. Helen commented that she also wanted to prepare something for the 4th of July that is red, white and blue and geared towards the veterans out of recyclables. There were many ideas passed around of recycling craft ideas and where to hold the event. Rita was hoping to have this recycling event on October 27th in conjunction with the Scarecrow Fest.

Helen Lekavich then announced that everyone should go to the KMB Facebook page like Rita's event at the Library.

Possible Next KMB Event for 2019 – Karen commented that this would probably be in September for the Volunteer Recognition at Rain Ready Community Garden and we will present the volunteer recognition and Inspiring Person Awards. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

Karen Kreis noted that Kristen Ramirez created the Certificates of Appreciation for everyone that donated food for the Great Midlothian Cleanup and will be framed and distributed

Cigarette Litter Prevention Program Grant (Karen) – She wrote a grant through Keep America Beautiful and was pleased to advise that we received a grant for \$5,000. There will be things we have to do with this grant and will be looking for volunteers since the preliminary cigarette litter audit must be completed by June 30th and results reported to Keep America Beautiful. She then read the award letter. We will need to form a small a task force to execute the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. We have to spend funds in accordance with the agreement and she read the requirements. The grant agreement was signed at the Board Meeting last night. She asked if anyone wanted to volunteer. She noted that we must prepare a litter scan and then explained what was necessary. She also explained how they measure cigarette butt litter and cigar tips in a small area. She is looking for a scan team. Helen Lekavich suggested making this a potential public campaign and prepare a “No Butts About It” video. Everyone agreed. Karen, Helen, Theda, Gail and April agreed to work on the audit in order to meet the deadline.

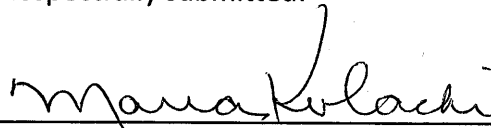
Outreach/New Business – Kathy Caveney mentioned that Midlothian’s 9th Annual Independence Parade will be on June 29th. The parade steps off at 11:00 a.m. and everyone will meet at Grill’s and line up down Kilpatrick. She invited the KMB Team to participate. Helen wanted to honor the veterans at the Garden. She explained that she was unable to prepare our float but asked if anyone could assist. She noted that everything we build is recycled and she has banners. Last year, the float was all recycled and had a water feature and was a huge success.

Karen reminded everyone that Katie Carls is running a promotion in the month of June that if anyone gets a quote from her office and they mention Keep Midlothian Beautiful, she will donate \$10 for each quote.

There was a request to have the next KMB Meeting at a later time so that Mayor L’Heureux can attend, as well as other residents that would like to attend. There was a long discussion. The next KMB Meeting date will be July 18, 2019 at 2:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn the Keep Midlothian Beautiful Meeting was made by Helen Lekavich and seconded by April Doeden Lester. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Maria Kolacki, Deputy Clerk