

KEEP MIDLOTHIAN BEAUTIFUL MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Present: Karen Kreis, Helen Lekavich, Chris Parker, Maria Kolacki, Joe Sparrey, Mike Amrein, Kathy Caveney, Joanna Whitten, Gale Martinez, Rory Renkor, Jessica Rucinski, Rita Sareny, Theda Reed, Marsha Amraen, Katie Libowitz, Nancy Mehall and Maria Kolacki.

Karen Kreis advised that we were the first community in the nation to adopt a Rain Ready Plan and we are now nationally and internationally known. We are very proud of this and it dovetails in the Keep Midlothian Beautiful initiative.

Setting of the First Year's Objectives. Karen Kreis distributed the Observations which was needed to get to our affiliate status and for KAB to accept the Observations. It addresses the issues that were identified when they did the Litter Index and the Litter Audit. Rita Sareny note that the Village was broke up into 15 sections and Chief Delaney did the driving. There were four participants and each section was visited. They drove behind businesses and various side streets looking for litter and classified each area ranking them between 1 and 5. They discovered that it was not as bad as they thought it would be. There were a few areas that were worse than others and these trouble spots were identified.

Karen Kreis noted the need to implement an Action Plan. Two to three projects will be identified with implementation strategies and an improvement plan. Joe Sparrey suggested 145th and 146th and Karlov and Keystone, the little league field, in which the garbage comes from Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonalds, and the strip mall near Save A Lot since the garbage ends up in the vacant lot at the corner of 144th and Pulaski. Kathy Caveney noted that the Building Department has been after Family Dollar since many of the employees will not break down the delivery boxes and the trash is all over. Citations have been issued.

Karen Kreis suggested that a positive letter be sent to property and business owners and ask them to be partners with us and identify the problem areas. Kathy Caveney also suggested a general letter to the entire business community, one to the landlord/rental communities and one to the residential community.

An introductory letter should be sent to everyone introducing what we are doing and ask about participating to make Midlothian beautiful. It was suggested to provide businesses with decals for their windows noting their participation.

There was discussion on the need for additional garbage cans and Joe Sparrey suggested that McDonalds should be obtaining the additional garbage cans.

There was a long discussion on the cigarette butt cans and cigarette receptacles for the businesses instead of using buckets with sand. It was noted that grants are available and this will be checked into. Grant funding may be available for education materials for the schools and additional garbage cans that say "Keep Midlothian Beautiful".

There was then a long discussion on the need for additional garbage cans to be provided at various locations. Helen asked if there was an incentive for a business to purchase the cans on their own. We do not have any more garbage cans so we have to find a way to get the business, before we can get grants, to give incentives to a business to purchase additional cans. This will be researched. Karen Kreis suggested a marketing event in the near future could be done.

Karen Kreis noted that a press release was sent to the Village View, Bremen Messenger and the Southtown. The Chamber of Commerce will also pass on our information and invited the KMB to make a presentation.

Helen Lekavich noted that while working on our future small projects, we also want to keep up with some of the positives. If we see a random person cleaning up Midlothian, we need to stop and thank the person, ask their name, if we can contact them or if they would like to join us. If we see someone that has made a nice improvement on their property, we need to stop and reinforce the positives. We need community awareness and would like to have a reward system. When Karen Rozmus did our affiliate training, she talked about a reward system they used in Oak Park called the Onion and the Orchid. If you were bad, you received the onion award but if you were good you received the orchid award. We need partners. We can provide certificates for the random acts of kindness so keep your eyes open. It was also discussed the need for schools to be involved, as well as educating the residents and business owners. We will need to get our message out to the community.

Helen Lekavich thought frequent information should also be provided on the website to keep everyone informed and keep the momentum going. T-shirts are now available and are on Amazon for purchase.

Karen Kreis then read the Mission Statement: "The Keep Midlothian Beautiful Mission is to inspire and educate residents, employees, property owners, business owners and visitors to take action every day to improve and beautify Midlothian's community environment."

The Volunteer Tracking Form was provided to everyone. Anytime you do anything related to KMB, please note your hours. The report must be provided every six months to KAB to remain in good standing.

Helen Lekavich gave recommendations on how to thank our volunteers for things they are doing for the Village either through small business cards or awards. Our volunteers must be acknowledged. There was discussion by those attending on how to get volunteers, either through the school or by hosting an event.

Karen Kreis asked about the frequency of the meetings and wanted everyone's opinion. Helen asked that we meet next month since we need to get the word out. It was suggested that the next meeting would be Thursday, September 20th.

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Maria Kolacki, Executive Director