

KEEP MIDLOTHIAN BEAUTIFUL MINUTES
MAY 16, 2019

The Keep Midlothian Beautiful Meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m.

Karen Kreis introduced our newest member, Kay Espinosa (Chicago Christian High School).

Kay Espinosa is a local resident and represents Chicago Christian High School. We will have a group of boys that will be coming with two teachers and are known as an Advisory Group. There will be about twenty kids cleaning the Central Park Trail Path and 149th Street for as many hours as it takes to clean up. The entire school will be out doing service work and volunteer work and have chosen this little corner to clean up as their service project.

Present: Karen Kreis, Kristen Ramirez, Kathy Caveney, Chris Parker, Jean Bartecki, Jerry Gillis, Sr., Theda Reed, Joanna Whitten, Gail Martinez, Katie Carls, Maria Kolacki, Chief Delaney, Marsha Amraen, Karina Huaman, Rita Sareny, Helen Lekavich (via speaker phone).

MINUTES

- **March 21, 2019 Minutes** – Motion to approve the Keep Midlothian Beautiful Minutes for the March 21, 2019 Meeting was made by Kathy Caveney and seconded by Joanna Whitten.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

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

- **April 18, 2019 Minutes** – Motion to approve the Keep Midlothian Beautiful Minutes for the April 18, 2019 Meeting was made by Dan Delaney and seconded by Jerry Gillis, Sr.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION – An Offer Letter to our candidate will be sent this weekend.

MARSHA AMRAEN (SCHOOL DISTRICT 143) – Karen Kreis thanked the students for their assistance at the Great Midlothian Cleanup and their promotion with the posters. Marsha Amraen noted that there are Ecology Clubs in each of the buildings in the District and they meet weekly and clean up various areas during their meeting. She provided pictures from the clean ups that the students were involved in and help out at our Clean Up Day. There was also a Poster Contest for Keep Midlothian Beautiful and provided all winners from each age group. The Posters have been displayed at the Library for the last three weeks. Marsha served on the Midlothian Village Service Committee with Terry Stephens and they offered to purchase frames for the posters and have them displayed in the businesses. Helen suggested that the posters be laminated or prepared as signs and then placed in the Rain Garden. She also suggested having pictures placed in our newest brochure or incorporated into certificates we would be giving out. The students and parents were contacted and everyone was so excited and made it a point to come up to the Library to see the display. Next year the art teachers will have a formal project for the students and include this in their Plan. She will provide the names of the winners to Karen Kreis. Karen advised that since the end of the school year is May 31st, Certificates will be prepared and given to the students soon.

GREAT MIDLOTHIAN CLEANUP DAY - Karen Kreis advised that School District 228 students participated in the Midlothian Clean Up to include the boy's football, girls' soccer team, parents and coaches. She thanked the students of District 228 for their participation. She again thanked everyone that participated.

Karen Kreis advised that although the weather was horrible, we got an enormous amount of work completed. There were more than 100 volunteers that participated. We collected over one ton of garbage as confirmed by our waste hauler, Republic. Kristen Ramirez noted that this was the most productive event and thought that the school kids made it a success and deserve all recognition.

The next Great Midlothian Cleanup should stay in April and it was suggested that it be the last Saturday which will be April 25, 2020. Kristen advised that anytime later is very difficult for Public Works since they mow lawns and will then have to pick up garbage and debris.

There was discussion of the business owners' participation. Letters were sent, along with the Midlothian flyer, and many of the businesses were visited. The businesses were willing to post the flyer, but the participation was low. Katie Carls noted that it was hard for her team to participate since it is on the weekend and she has a limited staff, and this could have been the problem as with other business. She suggested that in the month of April we present to the businesses the suggestion of one week before the Cleanup to participate one hour during the business hours to clean your area. Then send pictures and we will recognize them to the KMB. Everyone agreed.

Certificates for Donations will be presented to those that made their donations. Kristen had prepared two versions and has everyone's logos. Everyone agreed that this would a great gesture and suggested presenting the awards in June at the Board Meeting. Jerry Gillis suggested going to the individual businesses and presenting the certificates to the managers and store proprietors instead of attending a Board Meeting. There was a long discussion.

Rita Sareny mentioned that next year is Earth Day's 50th Anniversary and suggested to have an expo. She was not sure if the school was planning anything and provided some ideas KMB could do. Everyone was in agreement.

Kay Espinosa advised that they have 150 saplings and bare root saplings at their school to give away for free and encouraged everyone to pick them up. They were received yesterday and will need to be planted and watered by tomorrow. There are burr oak, bare root saplings and she believed white oak. Kristen advised that there are sites that need a tree for parkways and was waiting for a grant or funding to accommodate them. This will definitely be looked into.

Next Meeting Date – Mayor L'Heurueux asked to reconsider making the KMB Meeting times later time in the day. Karen Kreis asked the Board for their thoughts. Currently, they begin at 12:00 p.m. and suggested possibly 2:00 p.m. or sometime in the evening on Thursdays. It was suggested to have a volunteer quarterly meeting to accommodate those that could not make it during the day. The Board agreed. It was suggested that the July meeting would be at 2:30 p.m. and will be on a trial basis.

Minutes of KAB - It was suggested that the KMB Meeting Minutes be placed on the KMB website page. This will be looked into.

The Village Rain Garden Halloween event will be on Sunday, October 27th.

Rita Sareny had ideas for other programs. She advised that on June 20th at 6:30 p.m. the Library is having a Professional Organizer Program to discuss Clean Basements and Garages. She provided the contact information and wanted to go forward with this information to include Keep Midlothian Beautiful. She would then provide a packet to anyone in attendance. The event could also be posted on our Facebook page. This encourages people to recycle and get the education out.

She visited Evergreen Park and they have a recycling event called US Again and explained the program. The recycling is for clothes, bed sheets, blankets, drapes, shoes and boots and number of other stuff and they pay you for it. It is a minimal amount but she will be checking into this for Earth Day and this could be promoted at the Rain Garden event. She had many other ideas and Jerry Gillis suggested her creating a list for future ideas for our Clean Up Day. Ideas she came up with were electronic recycling, textile recycling, paper shredding and hazardous waste.

Marsha Amraen advised that a student asked how he could volunteer for KMB and she advised him to come to the Village. Karen Kreis commented that he could contact either herself or Kristen and they could arrange an area to do some cleanup and this would assist him on his service hours. Tools will be provided and Marsha could be his sponsor. To contact Kristen in Public Works the phone number would be 708-389-9658 and is direct to Public Works.

Summer Project Areas – Karen Kreis advised that she would work with the Building Department to see if there are other areas that need attention but noted that it will need to be a public area. Kristen commented that Public Works has a list of public areas that need to be cleaned up. Karina Huaman noted that there is an area near the Library that at the property line there is an area that goes below the parking lot and creates a lot of garbage. She spoke to the landlord of the building to keep the dumpster area cleaner. Behind Peoples Bank is also an area that needs to be cleaned up. There was then a long discussion of other areas in need of cleanup.

We will be hosting, weather permitting, the Chamber Luncheon at the Rain Garden site on June 13th. We will be able to showcase the rain garden and talk again about Keep Midlothian Beautiful which will be our theme.

Adopt a Block - Helen Lekavich noted that she wanted to be the first person to Adopt a Block. This will assist in community outreach.

Cigarette Litter Prevention Program Grant – Karen was happy to announce that we have been awarded the 2019 Cigarette Litter Prevention Program. She advised that she applied for a \$5,000 grant. We will need an education program in place and they will help us. We will also receive 200 ashtrays for the cars and 400 of the pocket ashtrays. We will also get funding to

purchase the larger cigarette butt containers to be displayed throughout the Village. KMB logos will also be on them.

Katie Carls stated that during the month of June, anyone who asks for a quote from her office and mentions Keep Midlothian Beautiful, she will donate \$10 for each quote. The goal is \$1,000 and will be for Keep Midlothian Beautiful and this will see visible positive things in our community. Other businesses may follow.

Next Meeting Date will be on Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

The Keep Midlothian Beautiful Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Maria Kolacki
Deputy Clerk