

Minutes from Community Pride Committee November 17, 2008

Present: Judy Hartley, chairperson; Jack Herschend; Jean Cantwell; Ron Hall; Chris Myer; Jerry Gerhart; Dawn Erickson; JoAnn Burdorf; Tara Norback; Chris Ely; Scot Cizek; Larry VanGilder; David Miller; Jerry Adams; David Cissell, MoDOT

Chairperson Hartley called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Hartley introduced David Cissell, roadside engineer, representing MoDOT who attended to answer questions about landscaping on MoDOT right-of-way.

Hartley reported on a meeting between some CPC committee members and local MoDOT officials on Nov. 3. MoDOT will mow intersections of US 65 at Bee Creek, 248 and 76 four times a year. Volunteers can mow in between those times. MoDOT will weed eat guardrails and pick trash as needed. City can landscape current gravel islands at 65 and 76, but must leave a three-foot buffer of gravel from the edges for the safety of volunteers working. The city will maintain the plantings at Bee Creek and the future roundabout at 248.

Hartley said she told MoDOT that the immediate goal of the committee is to have flowers in the islands by spring 2009. She also reported that Church Army Branson had been interested in providing volunteers to help with the flower bulb plantings that will blossom in the spring. She will follow-up with Church Army. If Church Army doesn't work out, Jerry Adams will send out news release seeking volunteers. David Cissell from MoDOT told the committee to be sure and inform MoDOT when work begins on gravel islands.

Chris Myer reported on progress towards a "Welcome to Branson" sign. He and two other committee members, Ron Hall and Jerry Gerhart, drove Highway 65 north and south of Branson and found 4 good locations for signs. 1. On the south side of Cliff Drive bridge over 65 for visitors coming from the south; 2. Northbound off ramp of 65 at 76 on north side of 76 for drivers getting off 65 from the south; 3. Giant slope behind Home Depot facing north; 4. North of 65 and Bee Creek interchange on east side of Hwy 65, Dr. Talon property, for drivers coming from the north. Next step is to visit with sign expert from MoDOT about signs on two of the locations that are MoDOT owned. Adams to set up meeting with MoDOT sign man and committee members.

Tara Norback informed the committee about the current landscaped area at Hwy 65 and Bee Creek interchange. Some of the plants are dead and need removing. She and two other committee members are developing a plan to plant more colorful bushes for the spring, and Larry VanGilder will get the sprinkler system working again at the landscaped locations.

No date was set for the next meeting, but will be in January after holidays.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.