

Community Pride Committee Minutes

June 2, 2009 Branson City Hall

Meeting called to order at 3 p.m. by Chairperson Judy Hartley

Committee Members present:

Chairperson Judy Hartley, Jerry Adams, Larry VanGilder, Chris Ely, Ron Hall, Gerry Gerhart, Jean Cantwell

Visitors: David Cissell (MoDOT), Sam Clanton (KRZK), Larry Milton from Branson.com, Garrett Anderson, city economic development director, Shirley Thompson from Branson One Stop

Business:

Update on landscaping the islands at highways 65 and 76

Chairman Hartley reported that the four MoDOT highway islands at the intersection of U.S. 65 and Missouri 76 have been completed. She thanked the volunteers and city employees that worked on those islands. Committee members will be seeking volunteers to keep the islands maintained throughout the summer and fall season. Public works will water the areas.

Larry Milton suggested that the committee look at the big picture that includes beautifying all of Branson and particularly the interchanges at 65 and 248 and 65 and Bee Creek and along Highway 76. He feels a portion of the tourism tax, now used for marketing, be earmarked for city beautification and hire contractors to do the mowing, landscaping and beautification instead of depending on volunteers. Jerry Adams responded to Mr. Milton that the tourism tax allocated to the Chamber can only be used for out-of-area marketing and advertising. Milton believes the city should still set money aside for beautification, and he indicated he will talk to the mayor and aldermen.

Welcome to Branson sign

Chairperson Hartley reported that the Welcome to Branson signs, proposed to be installed along north and south U.S. 65 have been given the okay by both the Chamber and Branson Board of Aldermen. Jerry has sent the sign proposal to MoDOT in Springfield and now awaiting MoDOT's approval. Larry will take care of getting the two signs made.

Volunteers for mowing U.S. 65 interchanges at Branson exits

Chairperson Hartley asked Jerry to create a news release seeking individuals, groups or organizations to assist in voluntarily mowing the large, grassy areas at the three interchanges in between the times MoDOT mows. She also asked committee members to help in finding mowing volunteers. Larry said city crews will mow all areas at Highway 65 and Bee Creek and about 50-100 feet in from the highway at the other two intersections. These are the most visible areas to motorists coming into Branson. It was discussed that finding volunteers to use their own equipment and gas and on their own time mow these areas would be difficult.

Meeting adjourned 4:20 p.m.