

CITY OF BERKLEY
BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday, June 25, 2025
6:30 P.M. 2nd Floor Public Safety Building

PRESENT: Gary Elrod (Vice Chair)
Nicole Burgess
Ethan Fogle
Lynn Khadra
Terry Meek

IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Patterson (City Council Liaison)
Adam Wozniak (Staff Liaison Representative)
Bob Lathrop (Resident, Tree Board Member)

EXCUSED Stephen Bard
ABSENCES Taylor Bellopatrik

ABSENCES: Jeremy Coan
Anela Mihaescu

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes May 28, 2025
2. Officer Reports
3. Adopt A Garden
4. Landscape of the Year
5. DPW and Friends Park
6. Chore Program
7. Street Tree Planting
8. Holiday Luminary Project
9. Edge Sidewalk Campaign
10. Google Suite for BAC Project Tracking
11. New Business
12. Holiday Parade
13. Staff Liaison Update – Shawn Young
14. City Council Update – Greg Patterson
15. Other Items
16. Adjourn

Meeting was called to order at 6:33.

1. Minutes of the May 28th, 2025 Meeting were approved

2. Officer Reports

Gary Elrod shared that Chairperson, Dan Mihaescu, announced his resignation from the Committee.

3. Adopt-A-Garden

Adam Wozniak, sitting in for Staff Liaison Sean Young, reported no updates on GIS mapping progress pending Sean's return from PTO. Discussion of the Adopt-A-Garden draft guidelines and contact form was tabled until Taylor Bellopatrick, the author and coordinator of the program, could attend to receive feedback.

4. Landscapes of the Year

The committee confirmed possession of ten award signs. Oxford Park Tower requested an award contingent on verification of resident-maintained garden plots; the committee will review the site before recommending. One Landscape of the Year has been nominated, with additional nominations under consideration by members.

5. Public Safety Cleanup & Friend's Park

Members reviewed the recent cleanup efforts, noting positive community feedback but acknowledging the need for ongoing maintenance beyond the committee's scope. Additional volunteers will be sought. Plans were also discussed to extend cleanup efforts to the Community Center, leveraging a final delivery of mulch from DPW and exploring collaboration with the Environmental Advisory Committee to incorporate native Michigan plants.

6. Chore Program

The committee discussed providing supplementary yard maintenance for seniors and disabled residents enrolled in Parks & Rec's discounted lawn services. BAC will compile participant information, reach out individually, and coordinate volunteer assistance for tasks such as hedging and weeding.

7. Street Tree Planting Outreach

Members discussed a grassroots effort to distribute door hangers in neighborhoods with low canopy coverage to boost participation in the city's street tree planting program. Existing door hangers were discarded due to an incorrect sign-up address. BAC will collaborate with the assistant city manager to produce corrected materials and coordinate outreach with the Tree Board.

8. Holiday Luminary Project

The committee agreed to focus the luminary display on Bacon Park rather than individual residences. BAC will purchase luminaries and tea lights, which will be available for resident sponsorship. Ethan Fogle and Gary Elrod will proceed with purchasing rain-resistant bags ahead of anticipated price increases or supply shortages.

9. Edge the Sidewalk Campaign

The committee decided that outreach efforts would focus on sharing successful BAC projects via the City Communications Manager rather than providing prescriptive lawn care advice. Educational opportunities, such as invasive species identification, will be considered for future engagement.

10. Google Suite for BAC Project Tracking

BAC will adopt Google Docs and Sheets for organizing activities, volunteer sign-ups, and project documentation to enhance transparency and efficiency.

VIII. New Business

New Member Introduction

Nicole Burgess was introduced to the Committee as the newest member.

Chairperson Resignation & Officer Nominations

The committee recognized and thanked Dan Mihaescu for his 12+ years of volunteer service and leadership. Nominations were held:

- Gary Elrod was unanimously elected as the new Chair.
- Ethan Fogle was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

Holiday Parade Participation

The committee confirmed its intent to participate in the Holiday Parade and will coordinate with the Tree Board and Berkley Boards group to finalize details and confirm member involvement.

IX. Staff Liaison Update

Staff Liaison Sean Young was absent (PTO). Adam Wozniak reported no additional updates.

X. City Council Liaison Update

Council Liaison Greg Patterson confirmed all members had received and reviewed the updated Board and Committee Handbook.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM. Next Meeting: Wednesday July 23, 2025 at 6:30 pm 2nd Floor of the Public Safety Building. Minutes prepared by Gary Elrod