

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

### DRAFT MINUTES

The Cape Girardeau Beautification Committee met at the Osage Centre on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

#### Present:

Lida Mueller  
Laura Ritter  
Loretta Schneider  
Becky Mocherman

#### Staff Present:

Julia Thompson, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Brock Davis  
Marcia Stone, Recording Secretary  
Guest: Lieutenant Rick Price, Nuisance Abatement Division  
Patrolman Tye Metzger, Nuisance Abatement Division

#### Absent:

Doug Austin  
Nancy Jernigan  
Mike Tripp  
Bonnie Stepenoff  
Sharon Bergman, Administrative Secretary

### A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Lieutenant Rick Price and Patrolman Tye Metzger were guest speakers this month. Introductions were made and they gave their report on how litter and nuisance abatements issues are handled at the Cape Girardeau Police Department. Currently, there are three full-time and one part-time nuisance abatement officers which serve in their unit. They are responsible for animal control issues, litter, disabled vehicles, quality of life issues, and other health and nuisance abatement issues.

They have been communicating with other cities on how they handle their nuisance abatement problems. Patrolman Metzger reported that some of the cities' officers serve warrants to property owners when they find evidence of a crime such as excessive litter. Mr. Metzger and Mr. Price felt that this would slow down the process of trying to get an area cleaned up due to the wait time for warrants in our city. Our judge is only available on Tuesdays and Thursday to produce the warrants. The property owner has seven days to correct the problem once the notice has been issued. The summons with a court date could be three to four weeks out before it is issued. The property owner could miss the court hearing, which would give them another month delay.

Their current method of enforcement is more proactive than other cities because they actually answer calls of complaints, go out and look for possible problems and talk to the responsible parties to convince them to take care of any issues. The response time averages approximately five days now or they just go ahead and ticket the violator. The police department knows that the expectation of the citizens of Cape Girardeau is zero tolerance on nuisance abatement and the members agreed that a lot of the violations were behavior related.

Maryland Heights is more of a passive aggressive city by sending a letter to the property owner to take care of the problem. Springfield's processing takes approximately ten days and Cape has a five to seven day turn around.

Mr. Price and Tye Metzger will make their recommendations next month to the City Council.

Director Thompson reported that she sets on the nuisance abatement committee. She will look on the Keep America Beautiful blog site and see what recommendations are listed for a good ordinance and what other cities have done.

### B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the January 29, 2013 minutes was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

## **C. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Chairman's Report – Doug Austin**

Julia Thompson reported that Doug Austin has requested to step down from the Chairman's position on the committee and they would need someone to fill in until they elect officers.

Lida Mueller conceded to fill the position of Chair. Ms. Thompson stated that the members need to be thinking about appointment of additional members to increase the committee to thirteen.

Ms. Thompson suggested that since they were missing several members and they have their Friends of the Parks Day/Great Cape Cleanup Day coming up before their next meeting she will have Sharon send out an agenda for an interim meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **D. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Discuss Mission and Vision for Keep Cape Beautiful – Workshop with Committee members**

The new mission statement and standing rules for committee were tabled due to lack of a quorum.

### **2. Friends of the Park Partnership Update – Brock**

Parks Division Manager Brock Davis presented the fliers for the Friends of the Parks/Great Cape Cleanup partnership for the members. Brock reported that Doug Austin picked up 25 fliers and he encouraged the remaining members to contact schools, churches and businesses to join the Parks and Recreation Department, Keep Cape Beautiful Committee and Missouri Department of Conservation on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Their goal is 100 organizations and 1,000 participants participating this year. He would like participating groups to contact him so we can keep track of the participants. The cost of the event is \$1,000 and he is looking for additional donations. Groups that volunteer in our parks will receive a t-shirt and lunch.

## **E. Other Items as Needed**

Julia will try to get the Keep Cape Beautiful Committee members' business cards printed for the next meeting.

The committee discussed renting a digital display sign to advertise the event. Ms. Thompson stated that Osage Centre and A. C. Brase Arena have digital signs that we can advertise the event.

Ms. Schneider reported that the City Council will be discussing ideas for the Hotel/Motel tax that will be up for renewal.

Ms. Thompson reported that she completed and filed the mid-year report for the Keep America Beautiful affiliation.

The committee members will contact potential members and invite them to come as a guest to the April 9<sup>th</sup> or April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Stone  
Recording Secretary

**Engage individuals, businesses and organizations, to Keep Cape Girardeau Beautiful!**

