

Sky Valley Landscaping Advisory Committee

May 16, 2024 Minutes

Present: Cheryl Beckert, chair; and committee members Debbie McAfee, Don Rice, Cathy Turner, and Debbie Dalhouse Curtis

Absent: Becky Whitehead

CALL TO ORDER

Cheryl Beckert called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Minutes of the April 4 meeting were approved; motion by Debbie McAfee and second by Cathy Turner.

REVIEW OF 2024 PROJECTS

A. Rescue at Evergreen rock

Thank you to Don Rice for tilling in leaf mulch provided by the City Public Works Department, stacking smaller rocks to build a raised bed, and planting marigolds and snapdragons around the large rock, as well as the cherry tree near the pines and 5 hydrangeas beside Rescue Lane. In the fall, Don Rice will plant fescue grass seed between the landscaped area and the tree-line. Cheryl Beckert will request up to four truckloads of additional leaf mulch from City Public Works. Future plantings will focus on native perennial flowers, such as rudbeckia and Shasta daisies.

B. LaBelle rock

Thank you to Don Rice for planting the oakleaf hydrangeas behind the rock. Flowers and shrubs at the rock are all doing well. Cathy Turner suggested lining the drainage ditch with river rock or surge stone from Vulcan to prevent erosion. Cheryl Beckert will inquire if the City can purchase and install the rocks.

C. City Pavilion

Don Rice planted cannas and coleus at the front corners of the pavilion. Cheryl Beckert will confirm with the City if it is permissible to plant a small to medium-sized shrub, such as false cypress, as a screen in front of the electric box beside the pavilion.

D. Post Office

Mark Wanamaker will plant annual flowers in front of the Post Office on May 17. Cheryl Beckert will ask him to remove the three dying mountain laurel shrubs on the pavilion side of the Post Office. She will also ask him to plant daylilies on the hill behind the Post Office as they are thinned from the plots in front of the building. Don Rice suggested that pampas grass could also be planted on the hill as it is thinned from beside the Post Office.

E. Pond at Time Shares Maintenance Building

Don Rice suggested that rain-garden plants be added to the area where invasive shrubs were removed. Perennial flowers for a rain garden include: marshmallow hibiscus, milkweed, bee balm, daylily, Shasta daisy, woodland phlox, penstemon, cardinal flower, blue star, Siberian iris, blue-eyed grass, bellflower, crocosmia, columbine, sneezeweed, and cranesbill geranium. Rain garden shrubs include: ninebark, buttonbush, chokeberry, Virginia sweetspire, summersweet, and red stem dogwood.

F. Front Entrance

Mark Wanamaker will install flowering plants at the front entrance on May 17, including

perennial pollinator plants in the tear drop garden (rudbeckia, beebalm, and asters). Pine needles from the tear drop garden will be moved to the hosta planting at the Sky Valley sign on Bald Mountain Road.

G. Street Corners

Cheryl Beckert requested that committee members view the plantings on street corners maintained by the Garden Club: Ridgepole at Sky Valley Way, Big Bear at Sky Valley Way, Rebel Circle at Bald Mountain, and Driver Lane at Eagle Circle. Cathy Turner stated that she had weeded the garden at Ridgepole and Sky Valley Way. Cheryl Beckert stated that the Garden Club planned to add a dwarf mountain laurel and possibly evergreen ferns at Ridgepole and Sky Valley Way. Future plantings could include perennial flowers at the City Park bridge on Sky Valley Way and at Evergreen and Crusher Run.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be announced in the fall.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m. with a motion by Cathy Turner and second by Debbie Dalhouse Curtis.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Dalhouse Curtis