BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA

Monday December 15, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Members attending: Anne Little, Linda Thornton, Carolyn Helfrich (Arborist), Carl Spangler, Laura Shepherd, George Solley (City Council), Mike Ward (Parks and Rec), Nancy Segarra (Public Works)
Diane Jones (R Board) absent

Call to Order, roll and agenda approval no additions
Public Comment Period none
Approval of Minutes yes

Agenda
Recap of presentation to City Council on 11/25 – George - well done and well received. Council is glad that we are working on this. Anne asked if any follow up was needed. If there are things that we think that they should know. George recommended to keep it short and pertinent.

Change of name to Clean and Green – Anne sent out to the group and received no comments. She added a statement that we set our own rules and by-laws. It is going forward – with the reading on January 13th. We can attend. The second reading and vote will be at the next meeting after that at the end of January.

Removal of boards around trees in downtown area – tabled as Mary Repass absent

Christmas Parade trash and future plans After Christmas parade on Saturday there were wraps and candy wrappers everywhere. "The messiest mess". Suggestions to David – not allow people to throw stuff off the parade floats – was not in the contract to prevent it. Can they place cardboard trash cans around in the high foot traffic areas. Diane Jones will help us with a parade float and we could hand out bags to recycle/collect trash. It was suggested that conditions set for parade participants that nothing is thrown and nothing is done that creates trash. Add advertisements to clean up after yourself. They used to have a crew that used blowers to blow trash to the street sweeper. They can't stop traffic after the parade, and the next morning is church. This time it was wet and harder to clean up. Carolyn reported that the homeless people at Micah helped cleaned up in front of the church before the service. Have every float offer a person to help clean up – or have a group of people/volunteer to pick up trash during the parade and the group that picks up the MOST trash wins a parade award. They will put up trash bins – all around the route and several blocks.

Homecoming parade – Anne asked the principle that they do not throw candy during the homecoming.

New Year's Eve first night – request not shoot paper confetti, use something water soluble.

Clean City Campaign Downtown Retail Merchants –Mary Repass absent

Coordinate with DRM on trash and cigarettes

Carolyn and others voiced a complaint about the hanging baskets near the visitor's center. The DRM asked for this and other changes this year. The DRM wanted it and there was no one saying yes or no. Our group needs to get involved in the group enough to help with the decisions or requests.

Tree subcommittee –
guidelines were presented . They want to come up with 3 pages that help selection planting and care to add to the Water and Sewerage Facilities Public Works Dept booklet that is available to citizens.
Landscape guidelines from the city of Alexandria is available in PDF on their website. These would be something that would be shared with the city workers/departments. Anne will send pdf out again to all of us. Mike and Dave both have a hard-copy now.

Spring planting in Mayfield – 100 trees. Mayfield community center presentation. Get scouts/church groups/college and HS students weekend of 3/21 or 4/4.

Next community in the fall – what area would be good? Group needs to bring ideas to next meeting.

Anne received a Call for proposals for USDA Forest service National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) for a matching grant.

Awards – should we be giving any? Laura feels that it often turns into an obligation on the part of the award givers. The award needs to create incentive for people to do something. George suggested that we pick a group that does the most to support our mission – we'd recommend to the city council and they would award it. We'd get publicity. Nancy suggested that we do something less formal like Rob Hedelt's x-mass decorations. Not a formal plaque. Recognition is important. Laura suggested something less formal than that. Neighborhood clean up ideas. Next meeting get some ideas out there.

Upcoming events:
1/1/308 City Council first reading of changes in ordinance re the bylaws of the Beautification Commission.

<u>Next meeting dates</u>
1/19/08- Tree Subcommittee, 4:00 p.m.
1/19/08 - Beautification Commission 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment