



**CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS  
Beautification Meeting  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024  
7:00 P.M.  
Recreation Center  
AGENDA**

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 28, 2023

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

1. Motion to appoint a new Chairman of the Beautification Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Keep Palos Heights Beautiful: Eileen Lunter
2. Adopt-A-Pot: Denise Hyker
3. Classic Car Event: Bob Starzyk
4. Lake Katherine: Bridget Provost
5. Public Arts Commission: Lynda Schiappa

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to approve the donation of \$1,000.00 to Lake Katherine for the Arbor Day Tree Program.

OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURN

**MISSION**

*'Keep Palos Heights Beautiful' through worthwhile beautification and economic development projects that benefit residents, visitors, and promote business growth within the wider community and support local charitable causes.*

**VISION**

*Help Palos Heights grow through thoughtful projects and programs which benefit the wider community, support commerce and promote ambiance in a visitor friendly atmosphere.*

# CITY OF PALOS HEIGHTS



## Beautification Committee Meeting Thursday, September 28, 2023 MINUTES

### **Call to Order**

Denise Hyker called the meeting of the Beautification Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center. Present were: Gary Duran, Lois Duran, Eileen Lunter, Bob Grossart, Jan Collopy, Joanne Miller, Bob Starzyk, Vince Petrosius, and Recording Secretary Ashley Pala.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Bob Grossart motioned to approve the meeting minutes from July 27, 2023, with the change of date for the Keep Palos Heights Beautiful Awards night to be listed as October 25<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Lois Duran. All in favor, the motion carried.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Hanley was absent was provided the Committee with an update via email. Great job Bob Starzyk at the recent City Council meeting. It was a nice touch to give awards to the heart of the Classic Car Event. as well as the long time sponsors. all well deserved. Great job to Keep Palos Heights Beautiful again this year and everyone should make an effort to come to Lake Katherine on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. Place a new item on the next meeting agenda to open up nominations for chairman. When the new schedule for meetings comes out I would suggest changing the meetings from Thursday nights to Wednesday nights. This would allow the Public Arts Commission to be able to attend. I think it is important that we know what they have planned in the future for their commission.

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***Keep Palos Heights Beautiful: Eileen Lunter***

Sharon and Joanne have been a great help. There are a lot of gardens that have been nominated. We are in need of nominations for homes, trees, and porches. Jobs were then assigned to the committee members for the evening with a 5:45 p.m. arrival time.

#### ***Adopt-A-Pot: Denise Hyker***

Denise met with Director of Public Works Adam Jasinski. We are currently at 65 pots and that is as many as Public Works can maintain. Adam felt if more were added that he would not be able to do all the pots justice as they need. Two of the broken pots will be replaced. Denise is working with the manufacturer to see if a credit can be applied for one of the pots. The price will increase in 2024 to \$100.00. There is a possibility that the pots will include fall and Christmas décor. The 2024 Adopt-A-Pot will be on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Car Classic Event: Bob Starzyk***

Bob Starzyk stated that the car show brought in \$4,500.00. There was at least \$5,000.00 lost in sponsorships this year. Jan Collopy questioned if there was a way to contact all of the businesses down Harlem Avenue, to which Denise replied yes. The Committee discussed ways to include businesses in sponsorships, raffle tickets, etc. The shirts were expensive and a new vendor will be needed next year. The costs for the event is going up. Discussion was had to send a letter to businesses stating sponsorship is needed if they would like a car show to occur. Bob Grossart stated he met with City Administrator David Strohl in 2022 who stated that the same businesses are being asked for sponsorship for multiple events. Bob Grossart stated that the City should begin paying for some of the fees as the purpose for the

car show is to bring business to Harlem Avenue. The Committee discussed raising the registration fee from \$10.00 to either \$15.00 or \$20.00. It was brought to the Committee's attention that Anne Girzadas would be discussing with City staff to see the potential in closing Harlem Avenue for that evening.

***Lake Katherine: Bridget Provost***

Bridget Provost emailed the Committee stating that Lake Katherine is set for October 25<sup>th</sup>'s recognition night.

***Public Arts Commission: Lynda Schiappa***

No report.

Denise stated that there is a sculpture tour at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Old Business**

Denise met with Public Works Director Adam Jasinski in regards to the Christmas Tree being placed at the municipal lot. The Committee discussed different trees and prices.

Bob Starzyk motioned to approve the purchase of an 18-foot Extended Branch Panel Christmas Tree not to exceed the amount of \$13,000.00, seconded by Bob Grossart. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Jan Collopy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Denise Hyker. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ashley Pala, Recording Secretary



### Beautification Committee Proposal

We are requesting from the beautification committee a total of \$1000 to go towards a cost sharing Arbor Day tree planting program for residents of Palos Heights.

Lake Katherine would organize, coordinate and distribute up to 20 trees for residents to plant on Arbor Day 2023. We will coordinate advertising for an application procedure for the program. An application for those wishing to apply can be submitted to Lake Katherine by March 31<sup>st</sup>. These applications will be reviewed to assess suitability of the request. Lake Katherine will then order and coordinate tree pick up and drop off. The cost to the resident would be half the wholesale cost of the tree which is \$100. The contribution from the beautification committee would be able to reduce the cost to the resident to \$50.

The trees we would choose for this program would be native oaks. These are keystone species to the Chicagoland area and therefore have huge conservation value.

In addition to the 20 trees available for residents, Lake Katherine would also coordinate application and purchase of 5 trees for businesses or institutions within Palos heights. The price for these applicants will be at cost which is \$100.

Lake Katherine will liaise with Public Works to help with the distribution of the trees on Arbor Day and give guidance on how to plant if necessary.

We would like the beautification committee to consider our request for \$1000 to offset the cost of the Arbor Day Tree planting program.

Respectfully submitted for consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gareth Blakesley", is written over a horizontal line.

Gareth Blakesley

Director & Chief Naturalist

Lake Katherine Nature Center & Botanic Gardens