

**CITY OF CLYDE
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
September 22, 2015**

The regularly scheduled work session of Clyde City Council was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room, Clyde City Building, 222 N. Main Street, Clyde, Ohio 43410 for the sole purpose of discussing Clyde In Bloom.

Roll Call.

Present: Council Member - Gary Beamer
Mayor - G. Scott Black
Council Member - Ken Dick
Vice Mayor - Carolyn Farrar
Council Member - Steve Keegan
City Manager - Paul Fiser (Not voting)
Clerk - Janet Dickman (Not voting)

Absent/

Excused: Finance Director - Craig Davis
Solicitor - Zachary Selvey
Administrative Assistant - Sharon Smith (Not voting)

Connie Hench distributed a report showing the number of volunteer hours that have been logged for each area covered. She feels that there is not an awareness of everyone who helps to water and maintain the flowers all around town. There are more volunteers other than the ones who are at this meeting tonight. It has been a great five years for the Clyde In Bloom club and members want it to continue. They have worked a lot with local Girl Scouts, with students who are home schooled and many others. The club's goal for 2016 is to bring a non-profit organization, America In Bloom, to Clyde. This would involve having judges come to view the flowers and judging them with different criteria. In order to accomplish this, they will need assistance from city officials, Council members and business owners. We would want to roll out the red carpet for the judges, who would be here for two days. The judges would view the high focus areas in town, in addition to alleys, gazebos and along the bike trail. Also the flowers at the post office and at the museum would be viewed. Volunteering hours with Clyde In Bloom can be done in many forms: fertilizing, planting, mulching, dead heading and watering. Some other past accomplishments include: using the Whirlpool wash tubs and completing grants to get trash bins and benches. Downtown business owners have also assisted with watering, and the club hopes to get everyone to do at least a little bit. One reason to volunteer with Clyde In Bloom is to follow your dreams and take pride in our community.

Several volunteers spoke on their reason for volunteering and their thoughts about Clyde In Bloom, while presenting a slide show of the many areas of beautiful flowers around the city and talking about areas they would like to work on in the future:

- Want to get out; like seeing neighborhoods and the community looking good; like to help out
- Love of flowers; volunteering about 17 hours a month with her husband

- While watering, weeding and fertilizing 13 pots, also pick up broken bottles (there is a need for another trash can because the current one is always full)
- Some areas are having trouble growing and are still a work in progress
- They have fun doing it and they like to work in dirt

One member, a freshman in high school, is creating a vision for a children's memorial garden which will be placed by the gazebo by the bike trail. She wants it to be an educational and fun place for kids of all ages. A music area will be called Melody Landing and is planned to have a key pad to walk on, several instruments on display and live performances from bands and local artists; an engineering area is planned to be a Lego land with legos to play and build with and a Lego project with moving parts; a robotics area with several robots on display that may do different things and signs to explain what they do and give credit to their inventors; a reading and writing area will be the Authors Point and will feature several famous writers and have benches and chairs and plaques for each author featured. There will be different soils and types of plants to observe – a grove of gardens – and a community box of seeds. Other ideas are to have free wifi, to renovate the gazebo, have a yellow brick road lead to the gazebo, have a string of white lights around the gazebo, have a Clyde emblem painted on the floor and screen doors and windows around the gazebo. There are numerous grants out there for youth, but youth must write the grant in order to be considered for it. It is felt the gazebo looks pretty when lit up at night and a suggestion was made to have a LED light left on at night time.

Connie feels that an increase of Clyde In Bloom will bring visitors to Clyde to see the flowers. The visitors may then go to Clyde retail stores, restaurants, etc.

Mr. Brewer stated he helped Clyde In Bloom become a not for profit corporation and helped them with starting grants. These grants, along with matching assistance from the city and other donations were used to purchase more benches. He helped to get washing machine baskets from Whirlpool and many community members helped to decorate them. He noted that part of applying for a grant requires that the club have a recycling display. Clyde In Bloom offers many different ways to help, such as: putting displays in the windows of the former Eagles Nest building; painting/decorating windows downtown for holidays; put information for Clyde restaurants, etc., on panels on the bulletin boards along the bike trail; work on press releases, news articles and Facebook posts. Volunteer hours compute to an in-kind donation. Mr. Brewer stated that visitors say Clyde is a stunning community.

COUNCIL REMARKS:

Mr. Dick has been a supporter since day one; he feels they do a heck of a job and their volunteer hours are probably grossly understated. He commended the freshman student for a good presentation.

Mr. Beamer feels Clyde In Bloom makes the town look nice and he offered his thanks for the volunteer's time.

Mrs. Farrar offered her thanks. She stated there are a lot of hours spent on this project and it shows.

Mayor Black attended the flags of honor ceremony at several different times and he stated the area looked very nice for the ceremony. Mayor Black was at the Clyde Fair all four days and he heard comments from Fair goers on how nice the flowers and gazebo looked. Residents and visitors recognize what Clyde In Bloom does and everyone is very glad that they do it.

In closing, Connie stated that everyone has pulled together and she offered her thanks for Council and Administration support and all the city departments who help as needed. In regards to America in Bloom, Connie will get a packet of information for each Council member so that they can see what goal Clyde In Bloom is reaching for in the next couple of summers. She also noted that Rimelspach is supplying all of the fall decorations that are needed. Clyde In Bloom is always open for suggestions/ideas.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Black announced the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



G. Scott Black, Mayor



Janet R. Dickman, Clerk of Council