



JANUARY 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, January 3rd, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Steve Homeyer called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren (vacancy) John Beneke
Steve Homeyer Debra Redding
Jennie Cole Walter Jennings

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessica Watts
Kay Tatum
Vacancy (Jim Vandenberg)

ALSO PRESENT: Dana Carney, Zoning & Subdivision Manager, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

STAFF UPDATE ON CHAIR RULING:

Beth Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, noted that after speaking at length with both Planning City Staff and City Attorney staff that Steve Homeyer is to be the chair of the City Beautiful Commission until Commissioner Warren's position is determined. If Commissioner Warren is not re-appointed by the Board of Directors, then Commissioner Homeyer is the new chair and the CBC will elect a new vice-chair. If Commissioner Warren is reappointed to the CBC then either A. CBC can reaffirm the 2007 election results or have the vote again with a new slate of nominees.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CBC MEMBER, WALTER JENNINGS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 13th, 2007 meeting of the CBC were presented. Commissioner Beneke noted that he didn't remember stating that he would have information ready, regarding the landscape ordinance, today. He remembered stating that the CBC could discuss it at the 2008 Annual Retreat. The minutes also reflected him stating the KLRB would be getting their own booth. Commissioner Beneke stated that he remembered stating that he had spoken with KLRB about the separation of booths but it was up to them whether or not they get their own booth.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the minutes with changes noted.
Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING:

City Attorney noted that she would like to see the Audubon support letter prior to it being mailed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer’s Report
12-13-2007

Beginning Balance as of November 01 , 2007		<u>\$3,754.53</u>
Credits		
	<u>Interest on Account</u>	.85
	Total credits	\$ 0.85
		<u>\$3,755.38</u>
Debits		
None		
	Total debits	\$0
		<u>\$3,755.38</u>
Ending Bank Balance as of December 13, 2007		\$3,755.38

Commissioner Redding noted that she’d confirmed with Mr. Dana Carney that indeed the CBC was budgeted \$2,500.00 for the 2008 fiscal year.

Commissioner Warren noted that she had been able to get donations of plants for the water feature.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Landscape Awards(Steve)-no report.

Eye of the Beholder(Debra)- Zero new awardees for this month. The total for the year thus far is thirty-one (31).

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden (Lynn & Steve)- Commissioner Warren noted that she has plants that have been donated for the water feature. Commissioner Warren will draw up a planting plan with the donated plants. Recently, there had been trouble with the water feature, water freezing and causing a hazard to pedestrians on the sidewalk. City staff had the water turned off and sand/salt mix put on the exposed areas. Chair Homeyer is checking on the causes and solutions. Chair Homeyer is also trying to set a date/time to put in the plants and the irrigation.

I-630 Trees(Jessica & Christy)-no report.

PR-Website(John)-Commissioner Beneke met with Aristotle and made some changes to the website and uploaded the agenda for January. If anyone would like to be involved with the Website then let him know and he will teach you. It took him about 10 minutes to learn it. He submitted changes with the new members information. It can be addressed more at the retreat. It was noted that the current 2008 approved calendar and the CBC contact information, and the 2007 final minutes are all missing from the website.

KLRB(Jessica)-Commissioner Warren handed out a KLRB/CBC Comparison Sheet. It included the history of the KLRB. Commissioner Warren spoke with Stephanie Lopez, the executive Director, via email regarding the confusion and future endeavors and sent the comparison of the CBC/KLRB sheet to her which she voiced appreciation.

2008 Garden Show Booth(Debra)-Commissioner Redding sent the invoice to Venita Young in the Planning & Development Department so it could be paid early enough to get the discounted price. Commissioner Redding has been unsuccessful at getting a response thus far. She will continue trying. The theme of this years Garden Show is, "Healthy Gardening" and the dates are February 22nd thru February 24th. Discussion for potential handouts can be discussed at the retreat.

Adopt-A-Street Coordinator-no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audubon Letter of Support- Commissioner Warren hasn't received a letter from Commissioner Watts as to date but will follow up with her. Commissioner Watts has been out of town with work. Commissioner Watts agreed to write a one page letter of support under the CBC Chair signature for the CBC and attorney to review. Beth Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, again noted to please have her send a copy to her prior to its being mailed.

Landscape Ordinance(John)- Commissioner Beneke stated he felt like he isn't necessarily the person for this task. Commissioner Beneke stated he did not want to be an editor and isn't real current on the landscape ordinance. In his opinion, it would be better suited for city staff probably Ms. Marvel. Commissioner Warren noted that the Planning & Development Department has come to this Commission requesting a written opinion of changes to the landscape ordinance. Beth Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, noted that it is very helpful for each commissioner to strike through the changes desired and putting the changes next to it; perhaps in red. This makes it much easier for review/understanding for others that read it. The City Attorney will be reviewing the document for legal red flags. City Staff can help with clarity of the ordinance and the application of it. Commissioner Beneke inquired, "if I have a question about the landscape ordinance, what is the best way to ask it?" Mr. Dana Carney, responded that Planning can answer any questions that the Commission may have. The Planning Department will prepare the draft language of the new document. Currently, Planning & Development would like some suggested changes from the CBC. Are there areas we need to look at, change, or strengthen in the ordinance. Ultimately, the document will be required to go before the Board of Directors for adoption. Planning is just requesting that the CBC draft a document that gives suggested changes to the ordinance. All commissioners can funnel the documents to one City Beautiful Commissioner and that Commissioner can draft the document and delivery to the Planning & Development Department. Commissioner Beneke noted that it seemed simpler to him for all commissioner to merely send their comments/suggestions directly to Christy Marvel. Commissioner Warren asked Mr. Carney, "would you prefer something submitted collectively

from the CBC?" Mr. Carney responded, "yes". Currently, Planning and Development is waiting on this document from the CBC. Solicitation of other various organizations will occur at a later date. All Commissioners please have your comments/suggestions to Commissioner Beneke prior to the 2008 Annual Retreat. It can be discussed at length on this day.

Adopt-A-Median Update:- confusion about what group(s) are to be involved in the median project was discussed. The KLRB commission will be handling the median project. While the CBC will continue working on the I-630 tree projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

2008 Annual CBC Retreat:

The CBC has contacted the facilitator from last year's retreat, Julie, with Mangan Rainwater Culpepper. Julie has agreed to facilitate once again. Commissioner Beneke inquired on the number of vacancies currently on the CBC. It was noted that currently, there are two (2)-represented by Commissioner Warren and Vandenberg.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to purchase another gift certificate in the amount of seventy-five dollars(\$75.00); same as last year for the retreat facilitator. To be paid with non-city funds.

Second: Commissioner Beneke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Warren noted she would handle the purchase/pickup of the gift certificate.

Lunch options were discussed. Commissioner Beneke felt that it was fine to order from Loca Luna @ (\$15/person) but Commissioner Warren noted that she felt this was too expensive which is why we choose to use Community Bakery instead of Loca Luna last year. It was noted that Community Bakery has cost effective boxed lunches. Commissioner Cole inquired the prices at Community Bakery and it was on average, fifteen dollars (\$15.00) a head too.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to allow Commissioner Cole to spend up to one-hundred and fifty dollars, (\$150.00) on lunch for the 2008 retreat.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Beneke inquired about the low amount. In his opinion, this retreat is considered a part of operational funds and felt we could justify a more expensive lunch.

Motion: Commissioner Beneke amended the motion to allow up to three-hundred dollars (\$300.00) be available for the lunch menu.

Second: Chair Homeyer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A count on attendees was taken and twelve (12) is the current count.

Chair Homeyer will email everyone about the retreat. Commissioners Warren and Redding will work on the gift certificate purchase for the facilitator. Commissioner Cole will handle the lunch order.

The Eye of the Beholder Certificates for outgoing members can be discussed at a later date.

Commissioner Warren noted that in November of 2008 the National Trails Symposium is coming to Little Rock and the CBC might want to be involved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Litter Pickup-Saturday, February 9th (meet at 8:30 am)

Next Meeting-Thursday, March 6th.

2008 Retreat Date January 27th

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Cole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 12:50 p.m.



FEBRUARY 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, February 7th, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Steve Homeyer called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren (vacancy) Jessica Watts
Steve Homeyer Debra Redding
Jennie Cole Walter Jennings
Kay Tatum

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Beneke
vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Kip Moore, Architect representing Unity Missionary Baptist Church located at 1619 28th Street

Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the minutes with all changes noted.
Second: Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING:

PRESENTATION BY CITY STAFF: CBC Case 608, Unity Missionary Baptist Church 1619 28th Street

Staff began the meeting for The Unity Missionary Baptist Church which is located on the R-4 zoned property at 1619 West 28th Street. The church occupies two lots at the southeast corner of West 28th and Marshall Streets. The small church building occupies the east half of the property. A residential structure previously occupied the west half. The church itself appears to be a residential structure that was converted into a church some years ago. The Planning Commission approved the church for a conditional use permit to allow for the construction of a new church building and parking lot on the site. A smaller parking lot was also approved across the intersection on a lot at the corner of 28th and Marshall Streets, pending approval of the proposed landscaping reductions being requested today. The church and associated parking on the southeastern lot meet the minimal landscape ordinance requirements; in addition, the church has agreed to plant street trees along both site(s).

The other parking lot is unable to be designed to meet the minimal parking ordinance requirements and the landscape ordinance requirements concurrently. The lot at the northwest corner of the intersection is in reality only a portion of a lot. The property was developed many years ago so that only a 50 feet x 100 feet portion of the lot remains. The church proposed to build an 8-space parking lot on the site. A one-way entrance will be located on Marshall and a one-way exit will be located on 28th street. The Landscape and Buffer ordinance require perimeter landscape strips of six foot nine inches in width. Landscape strips proposed vary in size from zero to six foot (0 to 6'). A six foot tall wood privacy fence is proposed on the north and west perimeters of the parking lot. The applicant has also agreed to plant additional street trees along this parking lot.

This is an overall upgrade to a site that is within a mature, infill area. The applicant has worked hard with staff to address the majority of the landscaping issues on both sites bringing one of them into full compliancy and then going above and beyond in planting street trees along both sites. Staff feels the applicant has met the overall intentions of the landscape and buffer ordinance and thus recommends approval of the landscape plan as submitted. Staff feels the applicant is both meeting and exceeding the intent of the landscape ordinance with the addition of the street trees. This site is located within the designated mature area of the city. Therefore, we recommend approval of the landscape plan as submitted.

Kip Moore, Architect representing the church presented the CBC with photos of the existing conditions on the site. Mr. Moore explained the location of the existing church noting the local need for rehabilitation and positive growth of the area. Mr. Moore explained this would be an upgrade to a stressed area of the city. Commissioner Warren inquired about the exact variance request and its location. Commissioner Warren inquired about irrigation intentions on the site. The applicant responded that irrigation wasn't required due to the size but that the hose bibs were planned for the church building site. However, there currently was no water plans on the parking lot side, across the street. Commissioner Warren inquired about the hardship to put hose bibs on the parking lot side of the project. The applicant thought this was a viable option to getting water to the plants. Commissioner Tatum commended Mr. Moore on his work for the neighborhood.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the application with a few conditions; the installation of hose bibs on the parking lot in an area closest in proximity to the majority of the plants. The required building trees are moved to the corner islands of the building allowing more room for growth and increasing the quantity of shrubs in the building landscaping area.

Second: Commissioner Watts seconded the motion with conditions and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer's Report
02-07-2008

Beginning Balance as of January 23, 2008 **\$3,756.44**

Credits

<u>Interest on Account</u>	.52	
Total credits	\$ 0.52	<u>\$3,756.96</u>

Debits

None

Total debits	\$0	<u>\$3,756.96</u>
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Ending Bank Balance as of February 07, 2008		<u>\$3,756.96</u>
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Commissioner Redding noted the booth for the 2008 Garden Show had been paid; however, it was paid to late to get the discounted rate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:**Landscape Awards**-no report.

Eye of the Beholder(Debra)- Chair Homeyer noted his findings for various signage options. One option is a throw away sign that is 24" X 18". Commissioner Warren noted that if the sign size could be reduced then the awards could be mailed. Options on the stake being mailed were discussed. Chair Homeyer noted that he would continue installation of the awardees signage for now until such time that another, more viable, option is found. Chair Homeyer noted the following prices:

50 signs with wire is \$397.00
 100 signs with wire is \$517.00
 150 signs with wire is \$ 775.00
 200 signs with wire is \$ 974.00

Commissioner Redding inquired if signage that required stakes the only option and perhaps, something sticky or with an adhesive might be an option. Commissioner Watts inquired on the amount of time for production of the signs. Chair Homeyer noted likely a couple of weeks. Commissioner Warren noted that the throwaway signs may not be the best option because they are unsustainable. Commissioner Tatum inquired about other options on signage. Commissioner Jennings inquired about a budgetary amount for the signage. In was noted that six hundred dollars was allocated for the signage at the annual retreat. Commissioner Warren noted that the recycling component of the signage needs to be researched further. Commissioner Watts explained that all recycle material has a number in the triangular logo that depicts its recyclables. Commissioner Tatum noted that the signs are a great educational tool.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden - Chair Homeyer and Commission Warren noted that Bemis tree farm had donated five (5) Foster Hollies. Commissioner Warren noted that in the spring, Wal-mart, per the use of gift cards, spring color could be added to the water feature area. It was noted that March was being considered for the ribbon cutting. More details will follow. Commissioner Warren noted that she may discuss the removal of the existing tree behind city hall with the City Urban Forester, Mr. Pete Rausch.

I-630 Trees-Plans are in the Planning office from the Highway Department.

PR-Website-Commissioner Warren inquired whether or not the agenda had been posted on the CBC webpage. Chair Homeyer stated he would visit with Commissioner Beneke to find out.

KLRB- These meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month. Nash Abrams, prior CBC Chair, is a good contact for information.

2008 Garden Show Booth- Vice Mayor Hurst has donated a rose arrangement; however, someone will need to pick it up from the store. Commissioner Watts has a photo of Ms. Willie Oates and inquired about the need for a release from the family for its use. Beth Carpenter noted that she would check on it and get back with Commissioner Watts with her findings. Six nurseries agreed to the use of a coupon for roses in conjunction with the Garden Show. It was noted the CBC website needed to be added to the coupon. Commissioner Watts designed a coupon and printing options were discussed. A rose information sheet will also need to be produced; options were discussed for the printing of this document. The CBC inquired whether city staff could produce these documents. It was noted that the city has a print shop and the printing options could be investigated and city staff will report the findings via email. Chair Homeyer inquired Beth Carpenter about drafting a document for him to take to the various landscaping companies that had committed to the coupon validation. Upon further discussion, it was decided it wasn't likely needed. Instead, a thank you letter can be sent confirming the obligation. Requesting the count be kept on the number of individuals that made use of the coupon would be optimal. Commissioner Warren noted that recently, Mary Jane Rebick, had sat on the commission and also owned a print shop. Commissioner Warren stated that she would also check with Ms. Rebick about the possibility of printing the documents.

A donation sign for Tipton Hurst will need to be produced for the rose donation. Perhaps, the roses could be given away the last day in a drawing that is held. Logistics of the drawing and prizes was discussed. Commissioner Watts volunteered the use of her laptop at the show to have the CBC webpage up for its use. Commissioner Warren has been trying to contact P. Allen Smith regarding the donation of a book for the show. Commissioner Tatum was able to get a "how to on roses" for the show. Production options for this document were discussed. Chair Homeyer will contact the Arkansas Historical Museum to see if the CBC can use their landscape award sign during the Garden Show.

Commissioner Jennings welcomes all logistical information as it is decided upon and will do all he can to help, just ask. Logistics of the drawing(s) were discussed.

Adopt-A-Street Coordinator-no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audubon Letter of Support- Commissioner Watts noted the letter is pending.

Landscape Ordinance- The landscape ordinance committee met with city staff and generated a proposal of changes which was submitted to all Commissioners via email. Review the changes/document for one month per the law.

Adopt-A-Median Update- Spring clean-up is near. Perhaps, the CBC wants to coordinate the pick up day. Commissioner Warren will inquire about the donation of four (4) more litter pick up tools from Walgreen's.

Retreat Minutes- Commissioner Watts composed the minutes from the CBC retreat and distributed them via email to the commissioners.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to accept the minutes with changes noted.

Second:

No second: motion failed.

Commissioner Warren retracted the motion. It was decided to revisit the minutes after the changes were made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnership/future of Macarthur Park- Commissioner Tatum informed the CBC regarding Macarthur Park. There is a committee that meets every Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. at the Military Museum, 2nd floor. One of the goals is to move forward with a master plan for the park and to also make Macarthur Park, THE city park again. A 5K race is being held to help with the remainder of the monies needed for progress. More information can be found at www.McCarthur5K.org Commissioner Jennings inquired about access to the minutes from the meetings. Going to another meeting once a week isn't an option for him at this time but being able to keep up with what's going on via minutes from the meeting might be a viable option.

Eye Award Presentations- Date is being moved to the 19th for Eye Award Presentations.

National Trails Symposium; November 15-18, 2008- Commissioner Warren noted this symposium is something the CBC may want to be included in and to keep it in the back of your mind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Litter Pickup-Saturday, March 8th (meet at 8:30 am)

Next Meeting-Thursday, March 6th.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Watts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 1:38 p.m.



MARCH 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, March the 6th, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Steve Homeyer called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Jennie Cole
Kay Tatum
Bill Weidower
Jessica Watts
Debra Redding
Walter Jennings
John Beneke

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

PRESENTATION OF NEW CBC MEMBER: BILL WEIDOWER:

RE-APPOINTMENT OF LYNN WARREN BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED:

Deputy City Attorney, Beth Carpenter, opened the meeting reiterating the previous decision/vote for the 2008 CBC Officers. Ms. Carpenter explained that the CBC can either re-affirm the decision made in 2007 or nominate a new slate of officers. Commissioner Beneke inquired about the recent chain of events and inquiring about the re-appointment of Commissioner Warren and whether or not she'd be eligible for another chair appointment. After discussion between Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Marvel it was noted that clarification was needed from Ms. Nataki Blocker, the Assistant City Clerk regarding exactly which seat Ms. Warren was appointed to fill.

Commissioner Beneke inquired from both Commissioner Warren and Commissioner Homeyer their reasons/desire for the position of Chair for the CBC. Commissioner Homeyer noted that he was bumped up to Chair due to the inaction of the Board of Directors and would be happy to do either. Commissioner Jennings noted that he was new to this Commission; however, had observed that Steve Homeyer had done an outstanding job as chair. On the other hand, Commissioner Warren is a wealth of knowledge and an obvious asset to the Commission; therefore, he feels they both would do a good job.

Motion: Commissioner Beneke made a motion to keep Steve Homeyer as the chair and open nominations for the vice-chair position.

Second:

There was no second, motion failed.

Motion: Commissioner Beneke made a motion to open nominations for a new slate of officers for both the chair and vice-chair positions and also vote today.

Second: Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Watts ask that both nominees speak in regards to why each wants to be the chair position as opposed to the vice-chair position. Commissioner Warren noted that she would like to continue with the various projects she had undertaken to their completion. Commissioner Homeyer noted that he enjoyed what he was doing but would be happy to undertake either position. Commissioner Redding ask for clarification regarding the previous decision. Commissioner Redding thought that it was understood that if Commissioner Warren was reappointed by the Board that she would then become the chair. Commissioner Cole inquired about the need for a slate of officers. Commissioner Warren explained this procedure. Commissioner Beneke noted that he meant in his motion to actually nominate for the position(s) not a new slate of officers. Commissioner Beneke noted he thought it'd make more sense to go ahead and open nominations and vote today.

Motion: Commissioner Beneke made a motion to amend his previous motion and thus eliminate the slate of officer's selection process and simply open the floor for nominations and then vote.

Second: Commissioner Jennings seconded the amendment to the motion and the vote was noted as follows:

Ayes, 5

Noes, 3

Motion passes.

Chair Homeyer noted that he would entertain nominations.

Commissioner Beneke nominated Steve Homeyer for Chair.

Commissioner Watts nominated Lynn Warren for Chair.

Commissioner Homeyer, 4

Commissioner Warren, 5

Commissioner Warren was voted in as Chair for the CBC.

Commissioner Wiedower inquired about the vote and whether we could assume that second place is automatically vice-chair. It was noted that another nomination and vote was required for the Vice-Chair position.

Motion: Chair Warren made a motion to nominate Steve Homeyer for the vice-chair position.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Final decision for the slate of officers for 2008:

Chair, Lynn Warren

Vice-chair, Steve Homeyer

Treasurer, Debra Redding

Commissioner Homeyer continued as chair for the duration of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the minutes with all changes noted.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cole inquired whether or not copies of the monthly minutes are printed for disbursement. It was noted that a few years ago it was decided to eliminate both the printing and the mail outs to save time, save paper, and save on postage.

Commissioner Watts noted that she would work diligently on the minutes for the 2008 retreat and try to have them finished by the next CBC meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer's Report
03-06-2008

Beginning Balance as of January 24, 2008 **\$3,756.44**

Credits

Interest on Account	.29	
Total credits	\$ 0.29	<u>\$3,756.73</u>

Debits

Check # 1144 Caracalla	\$75.00	
<u>Note: annual retreat gift card for facilitator</u>		
Total debits	\$75.00	<u>\$3,681.73</u>

Ending Bank Balance as of February 21, 2008 **\$3,681.73**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Landscape Awards-Commissioner Cole noted that the date was far away enough that this topic could be discussed at a later date. Chair Homeyer noted that when ready he has quite a bit of information on the awards from chairing this committee last year.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - Chair Homeyer noted the information he'd gathered regarding the recyclable plastic signage. It was suggested that "please recycle" be written on the backs of the proposed signage. Chair Homeyer will bring examples to the next meeting.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Chair Homeyer and Commissioner Warren noted that some Foster Holly trees had been donated to the CBC and still needed to be planted. Commissioner Beneke noted those trees get quite large and perhaps another species would be more suitable for this location. Perhaps, the sky pencil holly would be more suitable for the area. Commissioner Homeyer noted he'd speak with Bemis, the nursery, and take suggestions from them upon their inspection of the location for the needed trees. It was suggested that a trellis might be optimal in this small area too. It was noted that the water to the water feature had to be turned off because it was spraying over the sidewalk area. Commissioner Warren mentioned that

we need a plaque or something that would commemorate those involved in the project. Commissioner Warren will coordinate the ribbon cutting with Mr. Scott Carter with the City of Little Rock Public Relations Department and the CBC Boards Liaison.

I-630 Trees-Commissioner Warren spoke with Mr. Pete Rausch and he noted that he's been planting trees along the interstate at his leisure. He noted he doesn't plant them right up next to the highway but if he sees a spot he wants to plant them, he just plants them. No one has said anything to him yet. The CBC needs to keep him in the loop he may be a good resource for trees in the future for this and other projects. Commissioner Cole noted that she'd noticed tree wells that had Crepe Myrtles planted along I-630. Commissioner Weidower noted that a lot of those trees had been planted with transportation funds for the Central High Anniversary Celebration. It was noted that perhaps plans for tree planting were already in place and that the CBC maybe able to merely adopt and implement an existing set of plans. It was noted more research should be done prior to any drawings being generated.

PR-Website-Commissioner Beneke noted he wanted to turn the maintenance of the website back over to Commissioner Warren. Commissioner Warren noted that she'd be happy to take this responsibility. Commissioner Warren noted that recently, a group called Our Earth ask to be included on our webpage as a link at www.ourearth.org Commissioner Warren will make this minor change, along with updating the website when Commissioner Beneke gives her the new password.

KLRB- Commissioner Jennings was unable to attend the last meeting due to extensive obligations. Ron Myers is heading up a recycling program behind the bars at the Downtown River Market Area. It will include fencing and various recycling facilities for the River Market Area. Upcoming is a "dumpster dive" which includes taking refuse from the area statistically graph the types of refuse for this area. It was asked if cigarette butts were part of the recycling program. It was noted that currently, it is not. KLRB is currently working on building a website. They are also investigating the use of a Master Recycling Program of classes. More information will follow on these classes. The KLRB logo sticker is ready for distribution and can be purchased for \$20.00 a piece. Earth Day is April the 26th this year and to be held at the Clinton Library. Commissioner Warren noted the CBC may want to consider getting involved again this year and perhaps pick up litter again with KLRB.

2008 Garden Show Booth- The garden show synopsis was great overall. Commissioner Redding noted it was a great booth, the bowls were beautiful, the rose bushes, the P. Allen Smith books, etc. it was a huge success. It was the consensus that next year the nominees need to be present to win. It was noted that next year perhaps people put one dollar (\$1.00) in a jar to be in the drawing. Beth Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney noted that she would have to investigate this option further and report back to the CBC with her findings, a particular proposal would need to be presented at that time. There were a lot of questions regarding roses thus the handout was also a nice addition this year. The coupons were by far the most popular for the attendees. There were approximately 1800 of the coupons left so hopefully, these can be used again next year. The participating nurseries denoted on the coupons would have to be willing to do it again next year. The rose facts sheets and the generation of the coupons came to around nine hundred dollar (\$900.00). This amount was more than the Commission initially wanted to spend. Commissioner Jennings noted that at times of the drawings, a large number of people were gathered and this was a great opportunity with a captive audience to give a quick spill about the CBC that next year we need to take advantage of having. It was noted that the CBC should be interested in doing the garden show in 2009. The poster of Willie Oats was also a very nice addition.

Adopt-A-Street Coordinator-no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audubon Letter of Support- Commissioner Watts noted the letter is still in draft form.

Landscape Ordinance- In reviewing, Beth Carpenter's comments to CBC's Landscape Ordinance comments, Commissioner Warren noted that sub-division was added to the overview of the landscape ordinance to try and encompass the massive amounts of tree loss due to the subdivisions in the City of Little Rock. Various other topics were discussed but it was noted that this is the first draft and the ordinance will go through many other revisions and bodies prior to a final draft generation. Beth Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, reviewed the initial draft and made comments regarding the various changes. It was noted that the some of the changes included review of ordinances and variances that currently are governed by other Commissions within the city. Therefore, careful consideration must be given not to overlap jurisdictions of legislation. It was noted that perhaps the CBC request notification of all upcoming buffer variance requests. It was noted by city staff that this currently is an open public meeting and thus notifications are generated for these requests. The CBC decided to try and attend the Planning Commission Hearings more frequently and to put a written request in the document being sent to the Planning & Development department denoting the desire to be updated monthly on upcoming variance requests to the buffer ordinance.

Motion: Commissioner Warren moved to send the document with Beth's' comments to the Planning and Development department as requested and would add a note that, "CBC would ask that when a landscape issue comes up for review with the Planning Commission and/or Board of Adjustment, that the CBC is notified thru city staff to see if CBC representation would be necessary during the upcoming review meeting.

Second: Chair Homeyer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adopt-A-Median Update- Chair Homeyer noted that he would check with the Public Works Department regarding the error in the Adopt-A-Street sign.

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnership/future of Macarthur Park- Commissioner Tatum informed the CBC regarding Macarthur Park. There is a committee that meets every Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. at the Military Museum, 2nd floor. One of the goals is to move forward with a master plan for the park and to also make Macarthur Park, THE city park again. There will be a park clean up on April the 26th. All CBC are encouraged to participate.

Eye Award Presentations- Commissioner Warren will contact the previous CBC members to coordinate the presentations of the Eye Awards. Commissioner Redding will purchase the frames for the certificates. Commissioner Watts noted that she didn't mind baking a cake in that, she is allergic to eggs.

National Trails Symposium; November 15-18, 2008- Commissioner Warren noted this symposium is something the CBC may want to be included in and to keep it in the back of your mind. Commissioner Beneke noted that he is now on the planning team for the National Trails Symposium and will email the CBC prior to anything in which they can become involved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Litter Pickup-Saturday, March 8th (meet at 8:30 am) changed to the 15th due to expected snow.
Next Meeting-Thursday, March 6th.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Watts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 1:42 p.m.



APRIL 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, April 03, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Lynn Warren called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Jennie Cole
Kay Tatum
Jessica Watts
Debra Redding

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Weidower
Walter Jennings
vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Watts made a motion to approve the minutes with all changes noted.

Second: Commissioner Tatum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE 2008 RETREAT MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Tatum made a motion to approve the minutes.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Homeyer inquired whether John Beneke's position had a Registered Landscape Architect position or not. Commissioner Cole stated she figured that it was basically floating nomenclature. Chair Warren noted that Nataki Blocker, would know for certain and the CBC can ask for clarification.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer's Report
04-03-2008

Beginning Balance as of March 06, 2008 **\$3,681.73**

Credits

Deposit for Kay Tatum embroidery fee	\$ 7.00	
<u>Interest on Account</u>	<u>.29</u>	
Total credits	\$ 0.29	<u>\$3,689.02</u>

Debits

<u>None</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Total debits	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$3,689.02</u>

Ending Bank Balance as of April 03, 2008 **\$3,689.02**

It was noted that it would be nice to now when things are paid and perhaps an email could be sent to her with all the outstanding bills noted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Landscape Awards-Chair Warren composed a detailed fact sheet regarding the history of the landscape awards. It seems that at this time, the presentation of the landscape awards per the PowerPoint Presentation seems to be the optimal means to see all the potential sites. In the past, receiving nominations has always been the problem. Chair Warren noted that she already had the nomination form on the CBC website. Currently, the awards are merely the Top 3 sites. In the past, it has also been noted that few awards are given out in South West Little Rock. Perhaps, in the future at the Award Ceremony which Ward the winning site is located within can be announced.

When the nomination closes then we (CBC) go and pick up last years award signs. The distribution of the award signs at the ceremony worked out well last year and should be repeated at this years ceremony. Chair Warren noted that last year the CBC did not have food/drink at the award ceremony and it seemed not to flow as well as in the past. The catering has been done for free by various companies in the past and Chair Warren thinks we should try this again this year.

The cost of the signage was discussed.

Motion: Commissioner Tatum made a motion to purchase 100 signs, recyclable, with stakes, spending around \$650.00.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion.

Vice-chair Homeyer noted that they would still have to deliver the signs; however, will not require being picked back up. Vice-chair Homeyer added to the motion that he'd like the authority to purchase these signs.

City staff noted that a purchase of this magnitude would need prior approval from Tony Bozynski and recommended contacting Mr. Bozynski prior to the purchase.

Chair Warren noted that she would contact the Planning and Development Department about the purchase of these signs. It was also noted that the price for the signs goes down as the quantity goes up.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - It was noted that the Eye of the Beholder Awards are primary given out from Spring to Fall; therefore, nominations should be generated soon. Oxford signs have options for new signage. Vice-chair Homeyer noted that there are samples that he can bring. There are a variety of options. It was noted that until new signs are generated the old signs are masked out. Commissioner Tatum recommended the use of plastic signs and will last longer and they are recyclable. Vice-chair noted that perhaps we can curb some of the cost with a donor for the signs. Chair Warren noted that the last signs had a donor and the CBC wanted to steer away from the donor option.

Motion: Commissioner Tatum made a motion to move forward and purchase the signs out of the CBC funds if the Planning & Development refused to pay for the signs.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion.

Commissioner Redding noted that she was needing additional Eye of the Beholder Certificates, signed. City staff noted that there are probably more in the office that she can pick up. City staff will check and get back with Commissioner Redding. CBC members please make nominations with Commissioner Redding.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Vice-chair Homeyer noted that he had the water back on at the water feature. The landscape installation should occur soon. Chair Warren noted that she is still working with Wal-mart about getting a donation of plants. Chair Warren noted that she'd spoken with Mr. Pete Rausch, City Urban Forester, and he and the Mayor recently drove around the city looking at the trees in city medians.

I-630 Trees-no report.

PR-Website-Chair Warren noted that she was again, working on the CBC website and is updating information. Commissioner Watts noted that she could try and get a PDF of the poster that was made for the 2008 Garden Show for inclusion on the CBC Webpage. Chair Warren will contact, Nancy Nolan, once Commissioner Watts get her the contact information. Chair Warren has sent out the thank you letters. Chair Warren will also put the Rose Information Sheet on line. Chair Warren and Commissioner Tatum will work on the display for the Library so be thinking about what the CBC wants to include. It was mentioned that the poster of Willie Oats might be an option. The poster needs to be put on foam core for display. Chair Warren also noted that she thought a trophy would also be nice to have displayed. Chair Warren noted that she'd also updated the CBC Contact information.

KLRB- Commissioner Watts noted that the KLRB was still working on fundraising. The recycle project is currently on-hold, especially, the dumpster dive because the city said no. Tim Heiple, a local Architect, who owns a dumpster downtown has decided to allow this project to move forward with his dumpster instead. On April 7th, a waste audit will occur. Close toed shoes have to be worn, all food will be bagged, and a waste audit seminar prior to the dumpster dive will transpire. Earth day is coming up soon and Chair Warren noted that there will be a variety of activities in which the CBC can participate. Commissioner Tatum noted that the Iris Society is also doing something that day at Grace Lutheran Church. Contact Ms. Tatum for more information if you are interested in attending.

2008 Garden Show Booth- The garden show was very informative. Vice-Chair Homeyer talked to the nurseries and they have received very few of the coupons. Commissioner Tatum noted that she'd gone to Cantrell Gardens and they had received some of the coupons. Photos were taken at the Garden Show and Chair Warren noted that she'd like any/all photos taken that day be emailed to her so she can post them on the CBC website.

Adopt-A-Street Coordinator-no one has taken on this project coordination. Perhaps, Commissioner Weidower would be interested in taking this project on this year. Vice-Chair Homeyer will meet with Mr. David Hathcock about the Adopt-A-Street signage.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audubon Letter of Support- Commissioner Watts drafted a letter for the Audubon Society and brought a copy to the meeting.

Motion: Vice-Chair Homeyer made a motion to add Beth's name to the letter and then it can be sent as written.

Second: Commissioner Watts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Landscape Ordinance- Sent drafted changes to the Planning and Development Department on March 10th, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS:

Partnership/future of MacArthur Park- update given per Commissioner Tatum. They generated the monies for the design and have chosen a firm from Minnesota and a local Architect, George Wittenberg, for the Master Plan.

Shirts for the new commissioners- New shirts are needed for the newest CBC members. It was noted that previous, off-going Commissioners might be willing to donate their shirts. Vice-Chair Homeyer noted that he would check on the price for two additional shirts too.

Eye Award Presentations- Commissioner Warren will contact the previous CBC members to coordinate the presentations of the Eye Awards. Commissioner Redding will purchase the frames for the certificates. Commissioner Watts noted that she had a recipe for a cake that was egg less and Chair Warren ask that it be emailed to her. Ann Ivey noted that June 5th would work for the presentation date for her. Although Jim Vandenberg is out of the country, his wife could come accept the award on his behalf.

UAMS had contacted Chair Warren about the cigarette ashtrays and sent twelve (12) ashtrays to them. It was noted that currently, the city is reviewing options for the elimination of smoking in public parks. Beth Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, noted that she was working currently with this issue and would be happy to keep the Commission up-to-date on the progression and findings of this issue.

It was also noted that an option for next year might be the production of bags that could be given out that are canvas and used to carry groceries. There is a big move to reduce the number of plastic bags that are polluting our water supplies.

National Trails Symposium; November 15-18, 2008- Commissioner Warren noted this symposium is something the CBC may want to be included in and to keep it in the back of your mind.

Motion: Vice-Chair Homeyer made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Watts seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 1:51 p.m.



MAY 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, May the 1st 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Lynn Warren called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren Steve Homeyer
 Debra Redding Jennie Cole
 Kay Tatum Walter Jennings
 Bill Weidower Jessica Watts

MEMBERS ABSENT: vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
 Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the minutes with all changes noted.
Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
 Treasurer’s Report
 05-01-2008

Beginning Balance as of March 22, 2008		<u>\$3,689.02</u>
Credits		
	Interest on Account .31	
	Total credits \$ 0.31	<u>\$3,689.33</u>
Debits		
	Check # 1145 Community Bakery \$106.22	
	Check # 1146 Mizzell Signs \$193.50	
	Total debits \$299.72	<u>\$3,389.61</u>
Ending Bank Balance as of April 22 nd , 2008		<u>\$3,389.61</u>

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Landscape Awards-Commissioner Cole noted that she had a few ideas regarding the awards and attempt to make contact with the Board of Directors to get their input on potential sites to nominate. Chair Warren reminded the group that last year, we agreed to limit nominations to sites that had not won in the past five (5) years. Deputy City Attorney, Beth Carpenter, noted that unless those perimeters were on the publication and distributed material then it should be done next year.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - Vice-chair Homeyer continues to investigate options for signage. Vice-chair Homeyer plans to bring samples of the signage options to the next meeting.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Chair Warren noted that she intended to discuss the plaque options for the water feature with Mr. Tony Bozynski, Director for the Planning & Development Department. The CBC would need to submit a proposed plaque to Mr. Tony Bozynski for approval with the City Manager's Office. Once approved, the CBC can proceed with the plaque. Vice-chair Homeyer noted that he was still working on both the irrigation and the final plants for the water feature location. Chair Warren noted that once the plants and irrigation were working that she would then begin working on a Media day for dedication. Scott Carter, Public Relations coordinator for the City of Little Rock will be able to help the CBC with the coordination of this event.

I-630 Trees-no report.

PR-Website- Chair Warren noted that she'd recently added a link to the Little Rock City Beautiful Commission website for a group called Our Earth at www.ourearth.org per their request. Chair Warren noted that she visited the site prior to its addition and it seemed an acceptable site.

KLRB- Commissioner Jennings updated the CBC on some of the ongoing projects of the KLRB.

2008 Garden Show Booth- The garden show synopsis was very successful. Chair Warren noted that she'd like to get copies of the pictures from the 2008 Garden Show uploaded to the CBC website, and asked if anyone had photos to send them to her.

Adopt-A-Street Coordinator-it was noted that more than one person should have the pick up litter equipment in case, one individual is unable to be in attendance. Commissioner Wiedower and Commissioner Watts split the supplies (vests, trash bags, and pick-up tools).

OLD BUSINESS:

Macarthur Park Update- Commissioner Tatum updated the CBC regarding the progress of their primary project. Commissioner Tatum also noted the Mac Park Run scheduled for May the 9th at 7 pm. Commissioner Tatum encourages any/all to participate if able.

2008 Action Plan-Revised

CBC Expense Procedures-Chair Warren handed out a revised expense sheet for 2008. Chair Warren met with the Planning & Development Department Director, Mr. Tony Bozynski

and Administrative Assistant, Venita Young regarding current condition and future procedure. Because of the large printing expense for the Garden Show which the city paid for out of CBC's budget, CBC agreed (which was approved at the April meeting) to purchase the new, recycleable EOB signs out of the CBC checking account. The EOB signs came to a total of \$688.01 payable to Oxford Graphics. In addition, the City would like the CBC to cover personal expenses such as the CBC logo shirts, appreciation certificates, frames, etc. CBC agreed and reimbursed the CBC city account for the expense of \$98.40 for the CBC logo shirts for new members. Expenses that directly benefit the community such as community award programs could be paid with the CBC city funds.

Former Commissioners-Appreciation Event- Chair Warren noted three potential dates for the appreciation event which are June the 5th, July the 10th, or August 7th. Chair Warren contacted all of the awardees to see which date would be optimal for the event and so far, it appears that June 5th might work the best. After the meeting Chair Warren will check with the City Manager's office to see if the conference room is available at 11:00 a.m. to meet prior to the June meeting.

Landscape Ordinance Update- City staff noted that we've begun to review the noted changes from the City Beautiful Commission's review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Information on upcoming landscape variance requests by city staff- none to date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Litter Pickup-Saturday, May 3rd (meet at 8:30 am)
Next Meeting-Thursday, June 5th

Motion: Commissioner Homeyer made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Weidower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 12:30 p.m.



JUNE 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, June 5th, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Lynn Warren called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Jennie Cole
Kay Tatum
Walter Jennings
Debra Redding
Bill Wiedower

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessica Watts
vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Minutes for the month of May 2008 will be available next month for approval. Data was lost due to virus on laptop and will be submitted at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer's Report
06-05-2008

Beginning Balance as of April 23rd, 2008 **\$3,389.61**

Credits

<u>Interest on Account</u>	.24	
Total credits	\$ 0.24	<u>\$3,389.85</u>

Debits

<u>Check # 1148 Oxford Graphics</u>	\$688.01	
Total debits	\$688.01	<u>\$2,603.44</u>

Ending Bank Balance as of May 21st, 2008 **\$2,603.44**

Chair Warren noted that current status of monies and that after meeting with the Planning and Development Department the city requests that the CBC notify of any/all city responsible expenses prior to the incurrence. Chair Warren noted the CBC should go ahead and pay the

Garden Show Annual Fee for 2009 to save the fifty dollars (\$50.00) then ask the City for reimbursement for the booth fee (\$200.00) in January 2009.

Vice-chair Homeyer noted that the CBC logo shirts are thirty dollars (\$30.00) a piece. Commissioner Weidower is the only Commissioner without a shirt presently; upon filling the other vacancy another shirt can be purchased at that time. Oxford will bill the CBC and the shirt can be purchased out of the CBC checking account; rather than the CBC city funds.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Landscape Awards(Jennie)-Vice-chair Homeyer noted that the date on the signage needs to be changed and will check on options and prices. Chair Warren noted that she'd visit with Commissioner Watts regarding her thoughts and ideas about posters versus plaque for the awards. Commissioner Cole sent an email to the Board of Directors and the Mayor about the landscape award nominations; with little to no response. Chair Warren gave the landscape nomination award forms to the Mayor's office so they could be distributed at the next Board meeting to the Board of Directors and staff. Chair Warren will contact Scott Carter about the landscape award press release; one now to alert everyone that nominations are open and one later to announce the winners. Chair Warren noted that a date for the landscape awards needs to be solidified in the month of October. It would be greatly appreciated if all CBC members can have 3 nominations and digital photos of each for the 2008 landscape award nomination list. Chair Warren noted that Vice-Mayor Hurst normally donates 3, long-stemmed, de-thorned roses for the ceremony. Chair Warren also noted, that should the CBC decide to cater the event, it would be likely to get all the food donated. Chair Warren usually prints up a flyer listing the names of the awardees for the ceremony.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - Commissioner Redding noted that she's had four (4) additional nominations for the month of June. Chair Warren noted that she had 3 to 4 that she's planning to send very soon. Chair Warren brought some Eye of the Beholder cards to leave at homes for the commissioners. Chair Warren will also send forms to Debra that ask the awardees to recycle their yard signs to include in the packet with the EOB Certificate.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Chair Warren will get the name of plants recommended by the City Horticulturist, Phoebe Stephens to Vice-chair Homeyer so he will get the plants to furnish the garden.

I-630 Trees-no report.

PR-Website-Chair Warren noted the website was going fine and that the library exhibit will need to be worked on soon.

KLRB- Commissioner Jennings noted that the KLRB is still in need of monies. The Mayor has assigned four (4) sites that are a priority (State and City spaces). Currently, the hold up is finding someone to do the design work. Also, noted was the success of the dumpster dive in the River Market Area. It was noted a lot of information was gathered from the dive and it's created a lot of interest in the community. Coming up July the 26th is a litter index survey. The KLRB would appreciate the CBC helping out and free training can be given prior to the index compilation.

Adopt-A-Street Coordinator-Commissioner Wiedower noted that Mr. Tim Heiple has a few of the orange vests and will give those to him. Commissioner Watts and Commissioner Wiedower have divided the equipment for the pickup in the event that one of them will be unable to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

Landscape Ordinance- Sent drafted changes to the Planning and Development Department on March 10th, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Warren noted that she'd like to be notified and kept up to date on any Interstate buffer removals similar to the Shackleford Crossing Mall. Upcoming is a request to remove an interstate buffer. This area in particular is a designated scenic corridor by the Arkansas Highway Department. Chair Warren noted the precedent this would set if clearing of this area is to continue. Commissioner Jennings noted that this is very serious and that the Cities overall quality of life will suffer should this trend continue. Commissioner Jennings inquired on whether or not developers were also required to provide environmental impacts of the areas they are requesting to remove. City staff stated it currently is not required.

Motion: Commissioner Jennings made a motion to oppose the clearing of all Interstates landscape buffers.

Second: Commissioner Wiedower seconded the motion.

Motion failed, no vote

Commissioner Wiedower inquired the reasoning for the clearing of this Interstate buffer. Chair Warren noted she suspected it was for visibility of the automobiles for sale. Commissioner Tatum noted she felt like there should be two (2) separate votes on this subject. First, noting the CBC is against removal or reduction of this particular sites buffer and secondly, the CBC will draft a letter to the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment stating their opposition.

Motion: Vice-chair Homeyer made a motion to oppose removing, reducing, or altering the buffer zone along the I-430 scenic corridor(s).

Second: Commissioner Tatum seconded the motion.

Discussion: Chair Warren noted that this would set a precedent for any future development along that highway corridor. The CBC feels any such approvals in variances of the landscape buffer zone would significantly change the quality of life for the city with increased noise levels and decreased visual appearance of a major transportation entrance route into our city. The landscape buffer zone was established by the city to maintain the beautiful and scenic qualities of the area and it needs to be preserved and protected.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Commissioner Jennings made a motion to draft a letter from the CBC regarding the standing of the CBC regarding the issue of the any disturbance of the Interstate buffer and send it to the following: The Planning Commission, the Board of Adjustment, the Mayor, the Board of Directors, Mr. Dana Carney, Ms. Christy Marvel, and Mr. Tony Bozynski.

Second: Commissioner Tatum seconded the motion and it passes unanimously.

Chair Lynn Warren agreed to compose the letter and will bring a copy to the next CBC meeting for review.

City staff noted that currently there are two (2) variance requests for next month.

Motion: Vice-Chair Homeyer made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Wiedower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 12:30 p.m.



JULY 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, July the 10th, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Lynn Warren called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Jennie Cole
Kay Tatum
Walter Jennings
Debra Redding
Bill Wiedower

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessica Watts
vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Dickson Flake, Agent for Arvest Bank
Steve Giles, Agent for Taco Bell
Gerald Ownee, Engineer of record
Dana Carney, Zoning and Subdivision Manager, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

APPROVAL OF THE MAY MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Tatum made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted.

Second: Commissioner Wiedower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Weidower made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

October 7th was discussed as the preferred date for the 2008 CBC Landscape Awards.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer's Report
07-10-2008

Beginning Balance as of May 22nd, 2008

\$2,603.44

Credits

<u>Interest on Account</u>	<u>.21</u>	
Total credits	\$ 0.21	<u>\$2,603.65</u>

Debits

<u>Check # 1149 Frames for CBC</u>	<u>\$ 32.00</u>	
Total debits	\$ 32.00	

\$2,571.65

Ending Bank Balance as of June 20th, 2008

\$2,571.65

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING:

ITEM NO. 1 –CBC CASE 609-NEW BUSINESS:

ARVEST BANK, 1716-1818 S. UNIVERSITY AVENUE, DICKSON FLAKE, AGENT

City staff began the presentation regarding the redevelopment of the properties located at 1716-1818 S. University. This C-3 zoned property is occupied by three (3) one-story commercial buildings. The property is located at the northwest corner of S. University Avenue and Boyle Park Road (W.19th Street). There are existing driveways from S. University Avenue and Boyle Park Road which serve as access to the commercial buildings. There is paved parking along all sides of the two (2) southernmost commercial buildings and on the east side of the north building. The overall property is comprised of several platted lots within Blocks 6 and 7, Cox's Subdivision of Taylor and Bodeman Subdivision. There are no platted building lines.

The applicant proposes to remove the existing buildings and parking lots to redevelop the site for a branch bank facility as shown on the attached site plan. The development includes a 4,000 square foot branch bank building located within the south half of the property with a future expansion on its east side as shown. Drive through lanes with a covered canopy are located on the north side of the building. A customer parking lot is located on the south side of the building with an access drive from Boyle Park Road. An employee parking lot and dumpster area are located within the north portion of the property, with an access drive S. University Avenue. A circular driveway will serve the drive through area from S. University Avenue. A screening fence will be located along the west property line. A billboard which exists within the north half of the property will remain. On June 30th, 2008, the Board of Zoning Adjustment approved the development with reduced building setbacks and buffers.

The applicant is requesting two (2) variances with the proposed redevelopment plan. The first is from the perimeter planting strip provision of Section 15-96 (a.) which requires a perimeter planting strip along any side of a vehicular use area that abuts adjoining property or the right-of-way of any street, highway or freeway. This strip shall be at least nine (9) feet wide. The parking area near the center of the property along S. University (adjacent to the drive through area) has a perimeter street planting strip ranging from zero (0) feet to six (6) feet.

The second variance is from the area provisions of Section 15-95 (5.)(a.) requiring shrubs to be spaced three (3) feet apart to achieve continuous screening. The applicant is proposing to meet the quantity of shrubs required; however, would prefer to group them so that brick pavers can be put along every other parking space to allow for pedestrian access to the adjoining sidewalk.

A portion of the required landscaping and hardscaping is shown within the public right-of-way; therefore, a franchise agreement must be obtained prior to the issuance of a building permit.

This applicant has worked hard with city staff to come as close to compliancy as possible; making over sixteen (16) changes from the original submittal. Staff is supportive of the requested variances. Staff feels the proposed redevelopment plan for the property will be quality improvement within this corridor of S. University Avenue. The shallow depth of the property, being only approximately 110 feet, makes redevelopment with minimum building setbacks and landscape strips/buffers being met very difficult. Any future redevelopment of the site would likely face the same issues as this proposed development. Staff feels the proposed redevelopment plan for this property will have no adverse impact on the adjacent properties or the general area. Staff feels the applicant is both meeting and exceeding the intent of the landscape ordinance with the redevelopment of this site. Therefore, we recommend approval of the landscape plan as submitted.

Mr. Dickson Flake, agent for Arvest Bank explained that due to the property not having much depth the applicant had to purchase 360 foot of street frontage. Chair Warren inquired about the exact location of the billboard and the future plans for its removal or restoration. Mr. Flake noted that there is an agreement in place that once it comes down that it will not be rebuilt. Mr. Flake also noted he'd met with approximately one-half of the neighborhood; for the most part they were renters of the homes. It was noted that the employee parking lot was secluded from the rest of the site and that having an additional pedestrian walkway to accommodate pedestrian traffic might be optimal. It was noted that currently, employees would be required to walk through the proposed landscape bed(s) to go towards the bank building. Mr. Flake agreed and stated that he'd be more than happy to include an additional walkway area for the employee parking lot and would use brick pavers to construct the area. Commissioner Wiedower inquired about the setback of the building. Mr. Dana Carney noted that a variance was granted for the building setback on this site. Commissioner Homeyer noted it looked like it was going to look great and that the applicant had apparently gone above and beyond on the requirements.

Motion: Commissioner Wiedower made a motion to accept the variance request as amended with the addition of the pavers to help accommodate pedestrian traffic.

Second: Commissioner Tatum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 2-CBC CASE 610-NEW BUSINESS:

TACO BELL, 8108 GEYER SPRINGS ROAD, STEVE GILES, AGENT

City staff began the presentation of the C-3 zoned property located at 8108 Geyer Springs Road is occupied by an existing Taco Bell Restaurant. The adjacent property fronting onto Nova Lane is developed as a parking lot for the restaurant. The applicant is proposing to remove the existing building and redevelop the site with a new Taco Bell. The existing parking lot and associated driveways will, for the most part, be retained, resurfaced, and re-stripped. The existing development does not comply with the cities current standards. The scope of the redevelopment typically requires full compliancy with city code.

The northern portion of the site where the building is to be located will be redeveloped to comply with all of the zoning and landscape ordinance requirements. The existing curb along the driveway will be relocated to provide the perimeter landscape depth required by ordinance. The existing parking lot located on the southern portion of the site will receive some upgrade and improvement. The vehicular use area will be resurfaced. The applicant desires to retain the existing curb and parking lot configuration. The existing perimeter landscape strip on the east side of this parking lot measures only three foot (3'-0"). The landscape ordinance requires a minimum of six foot nine inches (6'-9"). The applicant proposes to install a six foot high (6')

privacy fence along the perimeter and to plant Indian Hawthorn's that are a minimum of thirty inches in height (30") at planting within this three foot (3') landscape strip.

The applicant is requesting a variance to allow a reduced planting strip along the eastern perimeter of the site and a reduction/elimination of some of the vegetation requirements for this area. Staff feels the existing conditions of the site restrict the options for the redevelopment of this site. The applicant is willing to upgrade the property with a new structure, new screening, and new landscaping. Thus, overall the development is an improvement and a positive contribution to the neighborhood. Staff feels the applicant is upgrading an existing site that will overall impact the neighborhood positively. This site is located within the designated mature area of the city. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the landscape plan as submitted.

Mr. Steve Giles, agent for Taco Bell, gave data on the existing conditions. Chair Warren inquired about existing on site trees that the agent kept referring to and their location(s). Mr. Giles noted that the existing trees were currently not shown on the landscape plan. The applicant presented photographs of the existing conditions. The revised landscape plan gives the City of Little Rock a landscape strip along both the northern and southern property lines which improves the sites entirety because currently there is zero along these sides. Mr. Giles also noted that currently the existing Taco Bell is surrounded by commercial property with the exception of one rental home in which they intend on screening with an six foot (6') high opaque fence and additional vegetation. Mr. Giles noted that there were mature River Birch trees on the site that the applicant intends on saving. Commissioner Wiedower inquired about the intention of the back parking lot. Mr. Giles noted that currently they intend on resurfacing the parking lot. Mr. Giles noted that on the site is currently a mixture of Indian Hawthorns, Gum Trees, Pine Trees, etc. these are thick and dense with the exception of about a thirty foot (30') gap. In this area additional vegetation can be planted to help meet ordinance and Mr. Giles noted that he would gladly work with staff on satisfying the requirements. Chair Warren noted that careful construction techniques would be required otherwise, the likelihood of losing the trees was great. Commissioner Homeyer inquired about the dumpster being moved. The applicant noted that indeed the dumpster had been moved at the request of city staff. Chair Warren inquired about the intention of Taco Bell to put in an automatic irrigation system. The applicant noted that although it wasn't required the intention was for the sites entirety to be automatically irrigated. Mr. Giles noted that the existing fencing on the site would also be repaired/replaced as needed. Vice-chair Homeyer noted that the site overall would look much nicer and he believed it was a nice redevelopment of the property.

Motion: Vice-chair Homeyer made a motion to accept the variance request as staff recommends.
Second: Commissioner Wiedower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Garden Show 2009-Chair Warren ask Commissioner Redding if the information/sign-up forms will be coming to her residence or will the CBC need to request the forms to participate next year; also, noting the deadline for the reduce rate was typically years end. Commissioner Redding noted that the information is mailed to her annually.

Landscape Awards(Jenny)-Commissioner Cole noted that she'd been working on the finalization of a presentation date and it appears that October the 7th is optimal. Nataki Blocker, with the City of Little Rock, is verifying that date with the Board. Commissioner Redding noted that she had three(3) nominations with pictures. Staff noted the photos are highly appreciated. Chair Warren noted the media release can be done by Scott Carter, PR for the City of Little Rock

and she noted that she'd follow up with Mr. Carter. Vice-chair Homeyer noted that he was going to check on the cost of changing the 2007 to 2008 on the award signage and will report his findings. Discussion of using a new poster format for the awards was discussed. Chair Warren noted that her department had a lot of digital photos for non-profit use that might be used for the new poster design. Who might be available to work on a new poster design was discussed. Commissioner Wiedower noted that he'd be willing to help Commissioner Watts if she had the time to help with a design. Vice-chair Homeyer noted that there were good examples of the poster design style at Mangan Rainwater Culpepper. Chair Warren inquired about the intention of the CBC to hold a reception prior to the award ceremony. It was noted that people tend to mingle more with food/drink available. Chair Warren noted that in the past, various local restaurants have donated the food and drink. Also, noted of importance was the ease of the reserved seating for the awardees and should repeat the reserved seating this year. It was decided that if the food and/or drink could be donated then great and move forward.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - Commissioner Redding noted that she's had eleven (11) additional nominations for the month of July. Commissioner Redding was also able to compose a written informational section in the Master Gardeners newsletter. Chair Warren noted that it maybe an option to have Beth Phelps include information in one of the daily emails. Commissioner Redding noted that she would check on this option. Chair Warren noted that she intended on changing/adding some pictures to the website.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Chair Warren noted that Bemis Tree Farm will get the holly trees in next week. Discussion with Chris commenced regarding the water feature not staying wet.

Commissioner Tatum vacated the meeting.

I-630 Trees-no report.

PR-Website-Chair Warren noted the statistical information regarding the website and handed out corresponding information.

KLRB- Commissioner Jennings noted that they KLRB have a new chair, Mr. Ron Meyers. Mr. Meyers will be compensated by getting a percentage of the donor monies that the KLRB Commission acquires. Heifer International has decided to take upon one of the locations for an upgrade in the public right-of-way design. Heifer is also picking up the design and implementation bill for the site located at 2nd Street and Cumberland; so this project ball is rolling.

Adopt-A-Street Coordinator-Commissioner Jennings noted that the Adopt-A-Street program has been in place eighteen years (18), currently adopted is 135 miles which equates to a mere 10 % of city streets being adopted. Commissioner Jennings suggested one way the CBC might advertise the Adopt-A-Street program is through next years Garden Show Booth. Commissioner Jennings noted on July the 26th the KLRB Commission will be hosting the litter index. It will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon and begin at the Henson Center. It was also noted that Twin City Bank always signs on with their adjoining street with each new bank built within the City of Little Rock. Commissioner Wiedower noted that he would send an email out to remind everyone to pick up Bowman Curve.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Nomination Committee-comprised of Walter Jennings, Steve Homeyer, and Kay Tatum

Commissioner Redding noted that she would suggest making sure that any/all parties ask to hold an office be ask and show an interest in the position prior to them being appointed.

Landscape Ordinance-Mr. Dana Carney, Zoning & Subdivision Manager for the City of Little Rock discussed the redlined version of the landscape ordinance with Beth Carpenters comments, Deputy City Attorney and presented to the CBC the Planning's Department's proposed draft revisions of the landscape ordinance. Mr. Carney, noted that the CBC would likely want to set aside time at the September CBC meeting for discussion of the proposed changes. Mr. Carney has a list of individuals, corporations, and public officials that he sends all potential changes of ordinances. Mr. Carney also recommended the CBC hold their monthly public hearing in the Board room to accommodate more people. Ms. Carpenter suggested the CBC review over the next month and vote and/or hold discussion on the staff changes next month and postpone the public hearing until such time that the CBC and city staff are in consent on the document as a whole. It was agreed that waiting one additional month was optimal giving all parties time to re-review the document. Chair Warren noted that all CBC members should review the document and send their comments to Chair Warren for compilation. Mr. Carney noted that the Planning & Development Department has decided to recommend a stand alone tree preservation ordinance and intends on pursuing it soon in addition to the changes being proposed with the landscape ordinance.

Letter regarding the Interstate Buffer(s): Chair Warren noted that she will email out the draft of the letter for CBC comment/review. The CBC can then discuss and vote on the letter at the next meeting. Beth Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock noted that she will review the drafted letter for any legal red flags.

Mr. Carney gave an update of the most recent buffer variance request, the Crain dealership. Mr. Carney, noted that as to date the dealership is no longer requesting a variance; however, should a variance for any change to a Interstate Buffer surface he will make the CBC aware.

Chair Warren noted that once the letter was drafted and approved she would post on the CBC website.

Motion: Commissioner Wiedower made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 1:10 p.m.



AUGUST 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, August the 7th, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Vice-Chair Homeyer called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Jennie Cole
Walter Jennings
Debra Redding
Bill Wiedower

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessica Watts
Kay Tatum
vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Dana Carney, Zoning and Subdivision Manager, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

APPROVAL OF THE JULY MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Jennings made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted.
Second: Commissioner Cole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer’s Report
08-07-2008

Beginning Balance as of July 21st, 2008		<u>\$2,571.65</u>
Credits		
	Interest on Account	.23
	Total credits	\$ 0.23
		<u>\$2,571.88</u>
Debits		
	Check # 1150 Community Bakery	\$ 26.27
	Total debits	\$ 26.27
		<u>\$2,545.61</u>
Ending Bank Balance as of July 23rd, 2008		\$2,545.61

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING:

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Garden Show 2009-no report.

Chair Warren entered the meeting.

Landscape Awards(Jennie)-Commissioner Cole noted that she'd spoken with the City of Little Rock, Parks and Recreation Department, Ms. Jacienda Jones and was given the following prices: Rental fee for a table cloth, \$2.00; punch bowl rental \$5.00; and plates/napkins for 30 people \$10.00. Commissioner Cole had a positive response from Catering to You regarding the donation of food. Commissioner Cole will get back with Catering to You regarding what/quantity/etc. they'd be willing to donate. Commissioner Cole also noted that'd she'd be able to provide a table cloth if needed. Vice-chair Homeyer noted that he had spoken with Mizzell Sign regarding the production of new 2008 Landscape Award signs. The signs would be approximately thirty dollars (\$30.00) per sign equating to one hundred and eighty dollars (\$180), plus tax for the six (6) signs (3 double-sided). Vice-chair Homeyer also noted that Mizzell Signs mentioned that they hadn't been paid for the last work completed. Commissioner Redding, treasurer, will review her records/the Checking Account and get back with Vice-chair Homeyer on the standing of that bill for Mizzell Signs. Chair Warren inquired on whether that sign price was for double sided signs or single sides. Chair Warren noted that we'd save monies by printing them one-sided only. Commissioner Jennings inquired about the amount budgeted for the plaques. It was noted that two-hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) was allocated for the 2008 Landscape Award signage. Commissioner Jennings noted that he'd much rather see a high-quality sign be purchased if the budget allowed.

Motion: Commissioner Jennings made a motion to move forward with the two-sided signs for the landscape awards, spending approximately \$180.00 plus tax.

Second: Commissioner Wiedower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice-chair Homeyer noted that he would pick up the sign frames from last years awardees.

Chair Warren noted that this expense is to be paid with City of Little Rock funds.

Chair Warren reviewed the previous discussion regarding the change of the award plaque to an award poster.

Motion: Vice-chair Homeyer made a motion to change the award/frame to a poster style format.

Discussion: Chair Warren inquired on whether the signage was something the City of Little Rock's print shop could produce. Staff noted that it may be something they can produce; however, it would cost just as it would at any other production shop. Chair Warren stated she'd check on the cost/prices of the poster style award(s) and printing cost(s) at Southern Reprographics. Commissioner Wiedower noted that his office could produce high quality printing for free on photo paper; sizes 13" X 19" and 11" X 17" in size. Chair Warren and Commissioner Wiedower will check into this further and report their findings at next months meeting.

Second: Vice-chair seconded the motion with the amendment to stay less than the cost of the previous plaque of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00), each. It passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cole inquired about the lunch normally associated with the awardees selection. Chair Warren noted that at the previous meeting, box lunches were provided.

Motion: Commissioner Cole made a motion for each CBC member to provide their own lunch for the September meeting.

Second: Commissioner Wiedower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff will check on moving the CBC September meeting to the City Board Room for the PowerPoint presentation of the nominations.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - Chair Warren distributed an article regarding the Eye of the Beholder Award that was recently published; there was a lot of positive response from the publication. Commissioner Jennings inquired whether or not the CBC currently acknowledges the individual(s) that nominate the site(s) for the award. Staff noted that currently it is not; however, the person making the nomination has been part of the information gathering process and we have that information. Chair Warren noted that she would send an email to City Director, Ms. Hendrix, thanking her for her recent nomination.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Vice-chair Homeyer stated the nursery was having trouble getting the tree type initially suggested for the space. Chair Warren noted that she'd contact Phoebe Stephens again and see if there is another tree type that would suffice for that area and get back with the CBC on her findings. Chair Warren will work up some examples of a plaque for city hall and will bring the examples to next month's CBC meeting for Commissioner feedback.

I-630 Trees-Commissioner Wiedower noted that he had worked outside of Oklahoma and there were programs set up to give trees away at no charge. Commissioner Wiedower thought it was the Apache Foundation leading this effort to get more trees planted and that he would check further on the details of this program and others that he has heard about in hopes of finding alternatives to getting trees for the Interstate plantings in the future. Chair Warren noted that all of the programs she was aware of worked by means of a 50/50 grant but she looked forward to hearing what Commissioner Wiedower finds.

PR-Website-Chair Warren noted that she is having computer problems and thus has nothing new to report on the website at this time.

KLRB- Commissioner Jennings noted that they KLRB completed the litter index and covered the entire City of Little Rock. Commissioner Jennings noted that it was a very interesting project and that he'd learned a lot of good information. Deputy City Attorney, Beth Carpenter, noted that when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was here recently, they'd commented on how they didn't see much litter within the City of Little Rock. Commissioner Jennings noted that they didn't find hardly any litter out in west Little Rock but that there was also very little adoption of streets out in southwest Little Rock. Chair Warren noted that its Twin City Banks policy to adopt the street that they adjoin at all their locations. Perhaps, one method might be to approach all of the other branch banks with the same proposal. Commissioner Jennings noted that seemed like a great idea and that he and Mr. Nash Abrams will continue to work on the adoption of more city streets for litter pick-up. Commissioner Jennings also noted that he would provide any/all feedback that he receives from the litter index.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Jennings inquired about requesting to continue on as a City Beautiful Commissioner. The process was explained and Mr. Jennings was encouraged to continue on with the Commission another term.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE:

No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Warren sent out a copy of the land use buffer letter for CBC review and Beth Carpenters review via email.

Motion: Commissioner Cole made a motion to accept the letter as presented with the minor changes.

Second: Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Landscape Ordinance-Mr. Dana Carney, Zoning & Subdivision Manager for the City of Little Rock entertained any questions regarding the latest revisions to the landscape ordinance. Mr. Carney explained that some of the changes desired by the CBC just weren't practical or breached into other jurisdictional ordinances.

Commissioner Jennings noted a paragraph that needed a break in it for mere clarity. Mr. Carney noted the change.

Chair Warren inquired about the location of the tree funds. Mr. Carney, stated that currently there are no funds going into this account and should the tree funds remain the finance department would be able to answer these type questions.

Mr. Carney noted they'd decided to take out the requirement of the owner to keep an approved landscape plan on site.

Ms. Carpenter noted that the on site detention comments were addressed in the City of Little Rock's Public Works Department and their ordinances. Therefore, needed removal.

Commissioner Cole inquired about the elimination of the requirement for a tree survey for all sites. Mr. Carney responded that until such time that there is a requirement to save trees he sees no reason to require the survey. Mr. Carney also noted that a tree survey would be part of the requirement of a tree preservation ordinance.

Chair Warren noted that the State of Arkansas requires a demolition plan with each new project which shows all of the onsite conditions, including trees, and it has been very useful in reflecting the trees that are to be saved on a site and which ones are to be removed. The fact that the trees are shown has saved numerous trees by simply shifting parking lots and/or the locations of buildings.

The certification for tree pruning , recommendation skipped.

Section 15.84, change of title only.

Tree types were discussed at length. Of special interest was the ordinance stating which tree types in the ordinance are of the native species and which were not. Staff stated they would look into this option further and get back with the CBC at next months meeting.

Ms. Carpenter stated that the CBC needs to vote on one final document; therefore, let the Planning and Development Department make the changes discussed today and re-issue the revised copy for a final document to be voted upon at the next months CBC meeting. This will put the Planning and Development Department distributing the revisions in September and open the meeting to a public hearing on the changes at the October or November CBC meeting. The document still needs to be sent to the Board of Directors for review and the Mayor.

Motion: Vice-chair Homeyer made a motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 2:15 p.m.



SEPTEMBER 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, September 04, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Board Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Warren called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Jennie Cole
Walter Jennings
Kay Tatum
Bill Wiedower

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessica Watts
Debra Redding
vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Dana Carney, Zoning and Subdivision Manager, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST MINUTES:

Motion: Vice-chair Homeyer made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted.

Second: Commissioner Cole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Emailed to city staff: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer's Report
09-04-2008

Beginning Balance as of July 24th, 2008		<u>\$2,545.61</u>
Credits		
	Interest on Account	.20
	Total credits	\$ 0.20
		<u>\$2,545.81</u>
Debits		
	No debits	
		<u>\$2,545.81</u>
Ending Bank Balance as of July 23rd, 2008		\$2,545.81

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Garden Show 2009-no report.

Landscape Awards(Jennie)-Commissioner Cole spoke with Billy Rutherford about catering and they have agreed to do so. Commissioner Cole noted that she would handle the punch for the ceremony. Commissioner Wiedower noted that he would take care of the poster(s) and framing. Chair Warren showed some examples. The size options are 11" X 17" and 16" X 20". Chair Warren noted that she'd hope we could spend less than \$75.00 each for the awards. Chair Warren shared two (2) examples of the photo at varying resolutions and gave Commissioner Wiedower a cd with the high resolution photo and poster examples. It was noted that Scott Carter, will compose a news article denoting the awardees selection(s). Chair Warren noted that she'd made the changes to the Landscape Award Nomination Form for 2009 and its located on the website for next year.

Vice-chair Homeyer noted that he would be picking up last year's landscape award signs. Vice-chair also noted that he'd cleared up the discrepancy on the past due bill. It had been paid and a receipt was shown as such. Chair Warren will get the 2007 CBC Landscape Awardees contact information to Vice-chair Homeyer so he can call prior to removing their signage.

Chair Warren noted she'd send out the congratulations letters to all the nominees and carbon copy the nominators next week and then congrats letter(s) to the winners by mid-September.

Chair Warren noted that she would contact Vice-Mayor Hurst about the donation of three (3) long-stemmed, de-thorned roses for the ceremony. Chair Warren will also develop the flyer for the ceremony and send out the award letter(s) to the winners. Commissioner Tatum noted that she would be willing to take photos of the ceremony. The reception ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m., October the 7th in the City Hall Rotunda hallway. All CBC members need to arrive at 5:15 p.m. that evening prior to help set-up.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - no report.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Chair Warren is working on a mockup for the donor plaque.

I-630 Trees-Commissioner Wiedower noted that he'd researched the tree donation program in Oklahoma and found there were two (2) that may be of interest. One is the Tree Bank Foundation and the other is the Apache Foundation. Commissioner Wiedower noted that he'd check into this further to see if it might be an option for the future.

PR-Website-Chair Warren noted that errors with the website have been fixed and it is up to date.

KLRB- Commissioner Jennings informed the CBC that newly appointed Executive Director Ron Meyers is taking a job in Washington. The KLRB Commission is looking at alternative ways to handle his resignation. KLRB intends on asking the City of Little Rock for administrative help especially with the resignation and lack on monies. KLRB recently received a donation from Waste Management for \$2,500.00. Chair Warren inquired about any up coming projects that the KLRB may want/need help with from the CBC. Commissioner Jennings noted that he believed not; that currently they are regrouping due to the loss of their director.

Chair Warren noted that Commissioner Watts will need to write a letter to the Board of Directors to be reinstated on the CBC. Chair Warren noted that she had spoken with Commissioner Watts and she really wants to continue but her work is making it very difficult to do so.

Adopt-A-Street- It was noted that Commissioner Watts had ½ of the pick up litter equipment. Commissioner Wiedower noted that he'd purchased another pick-up tool recently. Chair Warren noted that she'd send an email to Commissioner Watts about getting the equipment.

OLD BUSINESS:

Out-going Commissioners (Oct.2008): Walter, Lynn, vacancy

Chair Warren noted that there is currently one vacancy on the CBC and that both Commissioner Jennings and her position would expire next month. It was noted that if Commissioner Jennings wants to re-apply then he would need to get a letter into the Board for approval.

2009 Officers: Nomination Committee-Steve (09')/Chair, Walter (08'), Kay (10'):

The Slate of Officers follow:

Chair: Mr. Steve Homeyer

Vice-chair: Mr. Bill Wiedower and Mr. Walter Jennings

Treasurer: Ms. Debra Redding

Commissioner Jennings noted that he appreciated the vote of confidence; however, he would like to pull his name from the hat and put his support behind Commissioner Wiedower.

Motion: Commissioner Cole made a motion to accept the Slate of Officers as presented for 2009.

Second: Commissioner Jennings seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2008 Landscape Awards:

City staff presented the nominations for the 2008 CBC Landscape Awards via a PowerPoint presentation. Upon review of the slide show and voting the following sites are the 2008 CBC Landscape Award Winners:

ARKANSAS RIVER TRAIL
LITTLE ROCK PARKS & RECREATION

HILLCREST HALL
GREATER LITTLE ROCK COUNCIL OF GARDEN CLUBS

WESTLAKE CORPORATE PARK

Mr. Dana Carney inquired about the replacement of the plaque for a poster format. Mr. Carney also noted that the winning sites were all very good developments; however, in the future the CBC may want to look at sites that were directly using the landscape ordinance that the CBC administers. For example, Pleasant Ridge Shopping Center spent over 2 million in landscaping material(s) and it'd be great to give sites such as this recognition. Commissioner Wiedower stated that was a grand idea and next year that can be reviewed.

Landscape Ordinance Changes:

Mr. Carney noted that all the changes requested by the CBC were made with the exception of the asterisks reflecting which trees are of a native species. However, in general city staff already encourages the use of native trees. Mr. Carney noted that today the CBC can set the October

CBC meeting as a public hearing date to hear feedback from the public on the proposed changes to the landscape ordinance. Mr. Carney noted that he'd distribute the ordinance amendments to the contact list which consists of 50-60 design professionals, neighborhood, coalitions, realtors, etc. No newspaper ad is required. The CBC will need to get with Mr. Scott Carter about any PR for the meeting which is currently set for October the 2nd, 2008.

Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock noted one minor typo in the document and it was noted.

Motion: Vice-chair Homeyer made a motion to approve the landscape ordinance amendments with the typo/error change.

Second: Commissioner Tatum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Meeting was set for October the 2nd (Has since been changed to October the 7th since many Commissioners could not make that meeting date and Mr. Scott Carter will be notified.

CBC Budget for 2009:

Mr. Tony Bozynski requested a 2009 budget for the CBC. Chair Warren composed this document for review. Chair Warren also noted that it may change after the retreat early next year.

Motion: Commissioner Wiedower made a motion to accept the proposed 2009 CBC Budget.

Second: Commissioner Tatum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

City staff noted that the CBC currently will be hearing three (3) landscape variance requests next month.

Motion: Vice-Chair Homeyer made a motion to adjourn

Second: Commissioner Wiedower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 12:57 p.m.



OCTOBER 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Tuesday, October 7th, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Board Room on the second floor of City Hall. Vice-chair Homeyer called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Jennie Cole
Ben Jackson
Walter Jennings
Kay Tatum
Debra Redding

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lee Ann Overall
Bill Wiedower

ALSO PRESENT: Dana Carney, Zoning and Subdivision Manager, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

Susan Deselle with Van Hansen Realtors, agent for Andy Hicks
Frank Riggins, Crafton, Tull, and Sparks Engineers
Myra Jones, Little Rock Realtors Association
Troy Laha, Engineer and Surveyor
Dottie Funk, prior task force member
Greg Mueller, Ashley Company
Drew Basham, Realtors Association

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Tatum made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted.
Second: Commissioner Cole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer’s Report
10-07-2008

Beginning Balance as of August 22nd, 2008 **\$2,545.81**

Credits

<u>Interest on Account</u>	.22	
Total credits	\$ 0.22	<u>\$2,546.03</u>

Debits

<u>No debits</u>		<u>\$2,546.03</u>
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Ending Bank Balance as of September 22nd, 2008 **\$2,546.03**

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING:

ITEM NO. 1-CBC Case 611-NEW BUSINESS:

A & L Energy, 11001 Interstate 30, Bruce Busada, Owner
Gary Dean, AIA with Williams & Dean, Architects, agent

City staff requested this item be deferred to the November 6th, 2008 schedule meeting. Staff is still working out technical issues with the applicant.

Motion: Vice-chair Homeyer made a motion to defer Item number 1 to the November 6th meeting date.

Second: Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 2-CBC Case 612-NEW BUSINESS:

Andy Hicks Architecture Studio, Owner located at 209 N. Pierce
Susan Deselle with Van Hansen Realtors, agent for Andy Hicks

City staff began the presentation regarding the redevelopment of the site located at 209 N. Pierce Street which consists of an existing structure which was originally constructed in 1982 as a single story 1,100 square foot single-family residence on a residential lot measuring 50 feet by 162.5 feet containing 8,125 square feet of total land area. The property was subsequently rezoned to O-3, General Office District and the rear yard was paved to provide a parking lot for an office use. The applicant is proposing an addition to the existing home with a maximum area of 1,800 square feet. A portion of the 2nd floor will span over an open parking area for 3 automobiles, creating a “carport”. The new addition will be at the rear of the property and will observe the four-foot side yard setback and the 25-foot rear yard setback required adjacent to residential property per the Mid-town Overlay. The new development will provide one building with a maximum of 2,900 square feet. On September 18th, 2008 the Planning Commission approved the short-form POD to allow the rezoning of the property and to allow the mixed use of residential and office on the site. Upon review by the City Beautiful Commission this application will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for final approval.

The applicant proposes the continued use of the driveway and rear parking lot. Some small portion of the paving will be removed or added as required to conform to the new addition. The developer is requesting the placement of a six-foot wood fence at the rear of the property along

the original alley side and along the north and south sides to approximately 25 feet from the right of way. Portions of an existing chain link fence will be maintained for security at the rear. Two mature trees located at the rear of the property will be removed to make way for the addition. The remaining trees on site will be maintained.

The landscape ordinance requires a minimal six foot nine inch wide (6'-9") perimeter landscape strip around the sites entirety. The driveway along the southern perimeter of the site is existing and located within this minimal perimeter landscaping strip. To remove any of the paved surface area will warrant the driveway unusable due to the width reduction. Proposed along this driveway is a six foot high opaque fence only. Thus, the southern property line is unable to meet the green space requirement nor the plant material requirement and is requesting the elimination of these requirements for this area. However, the applicant has shown additional plantings in other areas of the site to mitigate for the green space deficiencies and also agreed to plant additional street trees along N. Pierce Street. These trees proposed will be located within the public right-of-way and thus will require a franchise agreement with the City of Little Rock.

Along the northern property line, the existing building on the site has a setback of four foot and the applicant would like to keep this same building setback along the sites northern entirety. This equates to a two foot nine inch wide deficiency in meeting the perimeter landscape requirement along the northern property line. However, the applicant has shown sufficient plant material in this area to meet the landscape ordinance requirements. The requirements of the Mid-town Overlay District are being met with this application.

Staff feels the request for the elimination and reduction of the landscape perimeter requirements is warranted on this particular site. The existing driveway is eleven foot (11') wide and reducing the width would warrant the driveway virtually unusable. Otherwise, the site is located within both the designated mature area of the city and within the Mid-town Overlay District area; therefore, revitalization of this area is highly encouraged and we feel the applicant is rehabilitating a stressed property. Staff recommends approval of the request as submitted.

Susan Deselle with Van Hansen Realtors presented a rendered site plan reflecting the proposed redevelopment of the site. Ms. Deselle noted there are 8 existing trees on the site that will be retained with this new development. Ms. Deselle also noted that the site in question is located close to the new Mid-town mall. Some of the existing trees will help to screen the property along the southern property line; therefore, the fence will not be continued all the way to the east because these existing trees would have to be removed.

Commissioner Redding inquired about the location of the four inch (4") Mulberry tree. The applicant pointed out their location.

Motion: Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the variance request as submitted.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ITEM NO. 3-CBC Case 613-NEW BUSINESS:

Stiff's Station Partners, LLC, 1001 Kavanaugh Boulevard, Frank Riggins, ASLA, agent with Crafton, Tull, Sparks, and Associates.

Staff began the presentation for the property located at 1001 Kavanaugh Boulevard which consists of four separate parcels totaling 22,823 square feet. There are three buildings located on the site. Building 1, fronting on Kavanaugh Boulevard containing 4,380 square feet, building 2, fronting on Markham Street, containing 3,170 square feet and Building 3, fronting on West

Markham Street and to be removed containing 1,830 square feet. The owner's objective is to lease the 4,380 square foot Kavanaugh building for commercial uses. Those uses include food and retail establishments. Plans also include the removal of the western building which will allow for an additional 10 parking space lot to serve the needs of the two remaining buildings. The current owners intend to continue the commercial uses of the two older brick buildings facing Kavanaugh Boulevard and Markham Street. They also intend to retain and improve the existing parking lot, remove the newer 1,830 square foot building facing west of the public alley and to improve that area (Parcel C), with additional parking. The resulting parking on the site would be 27 spaces to accommodate approximately 7,550 square feet of leasable space.

On August the 7th, 2008 the City of Little Rock Planning Commission approved the site per the Planned Commercial Development process. Overall, the owners intentions are to generally simplify and cleanup the existing uses and multiple zoning classifications and to upgrade the sites appearance and usability.

To accommodate the commercial uses; the proposed parking lot(s) are unable to meet the City of Little Rock's landscape ordinance in its totality. On August the 7th, 2008 the City of Little Rock Planning Commission approved the elimination of an undisturbed land use buffer and the reduction of the land use buffer along the western perimeter of the project. This area along the triangular piece of land that runs both along Markham Street and along the western most property line does not meet the City's minimal landscaper perimeter ordinance. The landscape ordinance requires a six foot nine inch wide (6'-9") wide landscape perimeter strip. Along Markham Street this amount proposed is six foot (6') in width. Along the western property line this amount varies in width but is three foot (3') at its shortest depth which is located as a backup area for the parking lot. In one additional area the parking lot encroaches into the six foot nine inch (6'-9") wide landscape strip and is five foot (5') in width. Otherwise this newly proposed parking lot both meets and exceeds the City of Little Rock's landscape ordinance requirements. The western most property line is also proposing a six foot high opaque wooden face, good side faced towards the neighboring property to help screen this parking area from the adjoining property.

The other parcel of land also lacks the room to fully comply with the minimal landscape ordinance requirements. The perimeter of the parking lot along the northern perimeter of the property reflects a landscape perimeter of three foot six inches (3'-6") which is a deficiency of three foot three inches (3'-3"). Along this northern perimeter the applicant is proposing a six foot high opaque wooden face, good side faced towards the neighboring property to help screen this parking area from the adjoining property. The applicant has agreed to saw cut and remove existing concrete from this area to accommodate the landscaping material required for this area. Although the depth required for this area is absent the required plant material for this area exceeds the amount required per ordinance.

The landscape ordinance requires the equivalent of three foot of building landscaping to be located between the building and the parking lot. The proposed plan is deficient sixty-two square foot in area and lacking two (2) trees. However, this area is also an upgrade to the site and the amount of shrubs required is more than doubled.

The owner is proposing to enclose the onsite dumpster on three sides with a wooden fence and to have gates on the front. The applicant also intends on installing large planters along Kavanaugh Boulevard; both of which are an additional upgrade to the site. The applicant is also proposing to save an existing six inch (6") Hackberry tree; although not required. Staff feels that overall the site will be an upgrade to the area and feels the applicant has worked hard with city staff to

address the majority of the onsite issues. Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

Mr. Frank Riggins, agent for the site in question presented a rendered landscape plan. Mr. Riggins noted that although in one location the parking lot in the triangular parcel of property falls to three foot (3') overall, the other areas are larger than the minimal required. Mr. Riggins also noted that this property line doesn't coincide with the sidewalk. Mr. Riggins also pointed out that there are apartments that take access off of this alley that bisects the properties. Chair Warren asked the applicant if both of the buildings will be used. Mr. Riggins responded yes, indeed they will both be used.

Chair Warren inquired about the applicants plans for fencing along the northern and western property lines. Mr. Riggins noted that a fence will be located in all of these areas. In one location a lot of privet exists near a retaining wall and this privet and wall are also to remain. Mr. Riggins pointed out that the existing onsite dumpster will be screened on all four sides. It was ask if an automatic irrigation system was included on this plan. Mr. Riggins noted that currently they are not proposing an automatic irrigation system but hose bibs to be located throughout the site for watering. Vice-chair Homeyer inquired the locations of the landscape beds vs. the paved surfaces areas. Chair Warren noted that she believed that all the landscaped areas should have an automatic irrigation system to water the new plant material, with maybe the exception of the large planters shown along Kavanaugh Boulevard. Mr. Riggins noted that he would be willing to amend his application to include the automatic irrigation system to all of the landscaped area minus the planters along Kavanaugh Boulevard.

Motion: Vice chair Homeyer made a motion to accept the landscape variance with the inclusion of all the planting areas, minus the potted plants along Kavanaugh Boulevard, being automatically irrigated.

Second: Commissioner Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion of proposed landscape ordinance amendments:

The Chair opened the floor for comments on the proposed ordinance amendments.

Gregg Mueller of the Ashley Group addressed the Commission and noted several provisions in the amendment package that he had concerns with. He said the change in the definition of tree topping which would change the limb size from 3 inches to 2 inches would hamper the ability to maintain trees in a manicured manner. He questioned the increase in CBC variance application fee from \$100.00 to \$250.00. Mr. Mueller spoke against the proposed increase in interior landscaping from 8% to 10%. He presented a case study showing the impact and stated the change would have a significant financial impact on development. Mr. Mueller spoke against the proposal to require at least 50% of plantings to be evergreen varieties, stating such a requirement would limit visibility of sites.

Dottie Funk spoke in support of the amendments and suggested several other changes that she felt were needed. She suggested a compromise might be possible on the interior landscaping, perhaps 9%, not 10%.

Drew Basham addressed the Commission and voiced many of the same concerns addressed by Mr. Mueller. Mr. Basham stated he was not opposed to requiring commercial parking lots to be landscaped as other vehicular use areas. He stated the concern about the proposal to require 50%

evergreen was more about trees than shrubs since trees would be more likely to block visibility of the sites.

Troy Laha addressed the Commission and suggested reducing the perimeter landscape strip requirements on smaller sites. He voiced concern about the proposal to change the perimeter shrub requirement from 1 for each 10 feet to 3 for each 10 feet. He also spoke against the fee increase.

There were no additional comments. The Commission determined it would be appropriate to allow additional discussion at the November meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

Welcoming and Introduction of Ben Jackson to the CBC.

Garden Show 2009-Commissioner Redding noted that she'd remain as the committee chair for the 2009 Garden Show. The dates are February the 27th through March the 1st and titled, "Dream Gardens". The applications are supposed to be mailed this month; therefore, Commissioner Redding should have an application to present to the CBC next month.

Landscape Awards(Jennie)-Commissioner Cole noted that Commissioner Wiedower had reproduced the posters in his office and the frames were purchased at the cost of \$61.26. Commissioner Redding noted she'd mail a reimbursement check to Commissioner Cole for the full amount and then ask for reimbursement from the city. Commissioner Cole noted that she'd be able to acquire table clothes and other small items from the City of Little Rock's Parks Department for around \$20.00. Chair Warren noted that she'd printed up a number of flyers for tonight's ceremony denoting both the 2008 Award Winners and the accomplishments and projects of the CBC in 2008. Chair Warren noted that she'd be reserving seating for the awardees tonight in the Board Room.

Vice chair Homeyer noted that he'd coordinate with the new CBC members about a new CBC logo shirt for each of them.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - Commissioner Redding reported that there were 20 new awardees.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – no report.

I-630 Trees-no report.

PR-Website-Chair Warren noted the amount of site hits has tripled and continues to be a success.

KLRB- It was noted that the City Manager agreed to assign a city staff person to the KLRB committee.

Adopt-A-Street- no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Crain Dealership Update

Chair Warren noted that she'd attended the last Planning Commission Hearing to speak against the elimination of the buffer along the I-430 corridor. However, the Planning Commission voted to approve it. Chair Warren at this time thinks the letter the CBC drafted against the elimination of this buffer should be sent to the Arkansas Highway Department because landowners can currently go to them to clear out the Interstate Buffer within the right-of-way. Chair Warren inquired to city staff whether or not the CBC as a board can oppose the decision of the Planning Commission. Deputy City Attorney, Beth Carpenter noted she was sure that as a LR citizen Ms. Warren would be able to appeal. However, Ms. Carpenter noted she'd have to investigate whether the CBC may appeal in its name.

Motion: Commissioner Cole made a motion to adjourn

Second: Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 2:13 p.m.



NOVEMBER 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, November 6th, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Board Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Homeyer called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Jennie Cole
Lee Ann Overall
Bill Wiedower
Kay Tatum
Debra Redding

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Jackson
vacancy

ALSO PRESENT: Tony Bozynski, Planning & Development Director, City of Little Rock
Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

Myra Jones, Little Rock Realtors Association
Troy Laha, Engineer and Surveyor
Dottie Funk, prior task force member
Greg Mueller, Ashley Company
Drew Basham, Realtors Association
Dan Robertson, PVC Construction
Tim Daters, White-Daters and Associates
Jeff Hathaway, Little Rock Realtors Association
Ed Willis, Financial Centre Corporation

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Tatum made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted.

Second: Commissioner Wiedower seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer's Report
11-06-2008

Beginning Balance as of September 23, 2008		<u>\$2,546.03</u>
Credits		
	<u>Interest on Account</u>	<u>.21</u>
	Total credits	\$ 0.21
		<u>\$2,546.24</u>
Debits		
	<u>Ck # 1152</u>	<u>\$ 43.89</u>
		<u>\$2,502.35</u>
Ending Bank Balance as of October 23rd, 2008		\$2,502.35

OPENING OF PUBLIC MEETING:

Staff noted that the CBC Case Number 611 had been resolved with city staff.

Discussion of proposed landscape ordinance amendments:

The Chair opened the floor for comments on the proposed ordinance amendments.

Drew Basham

- If developer could do one plan and take it to one entity instead of multiple... can all variances be heard by the planning commission to expedite the process.
- Doesn't want to see the evergreen percentage changed due to the lack of visibility of the buildings.
- Believes there is only so much that can be done with the parking lots downtown and thinks the exceptions for them should remain.
- Also believes that if these changes are adopted development will go to nearby cities and not remain in Little Rock.

Greg Mueller

- Refers to page 8: tree topping section: ask to leave the language as it is at 3" in diameter can be cut.
- Noted that nothing is ever said/done to electric companies for tree topping.
- Thinks the City needs to be more flexible in pruning techniques and to allow tree topping.
- Strongly opposed the evergreen being changed to fifty percent (50%) because it decreases visibility of the buildings and it will exasperate the problem with pine needles.
- Noted the interior percentage increase equates to a twenty-five percent increase (25%).

Dan Robertson

- Believes that the City of Little Rock is one of the hardest cities in which to get a building permit and/or development started.

Troy Laha

- Referred to projects along the Interstate 30 that were undevelopable with the existing thirty foot wide (30') landscape strip required along the site.
- Believes there should be a decrease in the required side yard green space requirements with smaller sites.
- Believes the seeding and mulching verbiage needs to be re-written.
- Believes the requirement for a Registered Landscape Architect stamp should go up to five (5) acres instead of down to one (1) acre.

Tim Daters

- Noted that other ordinances had changed since the landscape ordinance adoption that has further caused the current landscape ordinance more difficult to adhere to while also keeping development costs efficient. For example, turning lanes and sidewalk requirements are taking up area that would normally be more landscaping and parking.
- These changes will further push other development outside the city limits, i.e. the larger Development of the Target/Best Buy shopping Center in Bryant. It appears it may have a zero building set back along the Interstate.
- Thinks that perhaps the commercial developments should be reviewed differently than the office development. Believes that the fifty percent (50%) evergreen requirement will block developmental signage and buildings.
- Believes that there should be a one stop vehicle to get all variances heard to save development time and monies.
- Believes the thirty foot (30') interstate buffer should be allowed to be graded.
- Believes the tree credits are encouraging preservation of trees because if a developer loses a tree then they are required to plant back numerous more.

Jeff Hathaway

- Overall, he is fine with the majority of the changes but feels like the jump from 8 percent to 10 percent on interior landscaping is substantial and will significantly hurt development within the City of Little Rock.

Dottie Funk

- In reference to the comments about there being one entity and having a one stop review Mrs. Funk is opposed. Mrs. Funk noted that it was set up that way intentionally because the Planning Commission is already charged with reviewing so much and by having a separate governing body allows for a checks and balances system. If allowed to go to the Planning Commission, many, many things would be railroad through unnoticed. The Board appointed the City Beautiful Commission to hold the City of Little Rock to higher standards and is currently the only board that has a say so in holding developers to this higher standard.
- Mrs. Funk noted to Mr. Mueller's comments about tree topping that smaller trees should be planted below power lines that wouldn't need to be topped, ever. Also, noting that in locations where this is currently, a problem perhaps he consider planting a smaller type tree.
- Mrs. Funk noted to Mr. Mueller's comments about trees blocking the visibility of signage was to plant trees that are taller to optimize visibility and that evergreen trees should help with the maintenance issue because they don't drop their leaves like deciduous trees and thus are easier to maintain.
- Mrs. Funk noted that developers tend to put buildings that are too big for a site and used the analogy of a refrigerator in that, you cant put to much in a refrigerator there is only so much room. By reducing the building square footage the ample amount of space is available for parking and/or landscaping.
- Mrs. Funk agreed that new developments are springing up in the outlying cities; however, that isn't due to regulations in the City of Little Rock. Businesses develop within cities once a population capita is met. Also, the City of Little Rock is the State Capital and thus should have a higher standard. The City of Little Rock has to make a choice about whether they want to follow to crowds or have one of the greatest cities in the US to reside and raise a family.
- Mrs. Funk noted that when Interstate 430 was built it was designated as a scenic highway and that's why the undisturbed buffer area is required next to the

freeway. It has taken a lot of citizens to say that this particular change is very important to us.

- Mrs. Funk noted to Mr. Robertson that the same arguments were heard ten (10) years ago and that overall these changes are very minimal.
- Mrs. Funk responded to Mr. Daters comment about the hardship of sidewalks in developments: she noted that sidewalks have been required for quite some time now that this requirement isn't anything new.
- Mrs. Funk noted that this new revision encouraged more tree preservation read article 3, 15-52 page 13 and that is the tree credits.

Tim Daters

- Mr. Daters wanted to clarify his comment about sidewalks in that, he meant the sidewalks being required within the development for more pedestrian connectivity, not sidewalks in the public right-of-way.
- Mr. Daters noted that he wanted to be able to grade within the thirty foot highway buffer area; thus it not be required to be undisturbed.

Commissioner Warren inquired Mr. Daters about his desire to grade within the highway buffer area and he noted that due to topography and terrain sometimes it is necessary to grade within this area. Mrs. Funk then noted that the original intent was to leave the area undisturbed. Mrs. Funk pointed out the recent court case involving The Value Place Hotel and how the City of Little Rock cannot dictate what happens within the Highway Right-of-way area.

Commissioner Warren noted that she had spoken with ASLA, Mark Robertson and he had mentioned he'd like the CBC to address sustainability and look at amendments on the first page.

Commissioner Warren also noted that perhaps the fee remains the same and for each additional variance a fee of \$25.00 be added; its something to be reviewed in further detail.

Vice-Chair Wiedower noted that with every variance request brought before the CBC things such as: topography, shape of the lot, and/or other things that cause a hardship on are site are taken into consideration. It has never been the intention of the CBC to run developers off. Vice-Chair Wiedower noted that as an Architect that has worked in numerous other cities he doesn't feel that the City of Little Rock is any harder than any other place. Vice-Chair Wiedower noted that if you look at cities that are the best to live in such as Charleston, Portland, Seattle, etc. they have much more stringent rules and take much longer to get building permit approvals. Vice-Chair Wiedower feels the CBC is working on making LR a sustainable place to live that was the intent of the landscape ordinance to make LR a beautiful place to live.

Commissioner Warren noted that all of the variance requests granted in the past are located on the CBC's website for further information.

Tim Daters noted that it would be great to have a clearinghouse of multi-level review. Director, Tony Bozynski pointed out that developers come in from other states and comment on how quickly the City of Little Rock handles and reviews new building permit applications. Mr. Bozynski noted that he'd heard that Fayetteville was the hardest to work with within the State of Arkansas. Mr. Bozynski noted that currently, the City of Little Rock has a five day turn around and that is way above average for building permit review for any city and that currently, developments are required to go through a sub-division hearing to get feedback about changes needed for full compliancy prior to the Planning Commission hearing. This is opportunity for developers to work with staff to get the development closer to compliancy with various city ordinances and get feedback.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

OLD BUSINESS:

Welcoming and Introduction of Lee Anne Overall to the CBC.

Garden Show 2009-Commissioner Redding noted that as to date no application/bill has been sent yet for the booth.

Landscape Awards(Jennie)-Commissioner Cole noted that the 2008 CBC Landscape Awards were over and everything has been wrapped up. For example, the equipment returned, the bills paid, etc. Commissioner Cole noted that she felt like this committee is more of a two person task and especially someone that has optimal computer skills would've been quite helpful. Commissioner Warren noted that was something that could be discussed further at the 2009 Annual CBC retreat.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - Commissioner Redding reported that there were 21 awardees to date and that in the fall there is typically a decline in nominees.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Chair Homeyer noted that he'd pick up some hollies and install them as a backdrop to the fountain.

I-630 Trees-no report.

PR-Website-Commissioner Tatum noted she'd met the 1st award winner for the CBC pageant and maybe able to get some photos.

KLRB- Vice-chair Wiedower volunteered to be a backup attendee for the KLRB Commission.

Adopt-A-Street- Jessica Watts gave Vice-Chair Wiedower the rest of the supplies. Commissioner Warren noted she plans to send out another letter requesting four (4) additional litter retrievers. Chair Homeyer volunteered to be Vice-Chairs backup for this committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Homeyer noted he had Vice-Chair Weidower's CBC logo shirt available.

Name badges need to be ordered for the following Commissioners: Staff will handle.

Bill Wiedower
Lee Ann Overall
Ben Jackson

Vice-chair Wiedower will get with KLRB and see what/if their Commission can do to help with the Board request and get back to city staff upon the receipt of an answer.

Motion: Vice-Chair Wiedower made a motion to adjourn

Second: Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 1:15 p.m.



DECEMBER 2008

The City Beautiful Commission held its regular meeting Thursday, December 4th, 2008, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall. Chair Homeyer called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Warren
Steve Homeyer
Debra Redding
Ben Jackson
Bill Wiedower
Jennie Cole
Lee Ann Overall

MEMBERS ABSENT: vacancy
Kay Tatum

ALSO PRESENT: Christy Marvel, Plans Development Administrator, Department of Planning & Development, City of Little Rock
Beth Blevins Carpenter, Deputy City Attorney, City of Little Rock

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER MINUTES:

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes noted.

Second: Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE PROPOSED CHANGES:

City staff continues to collect data, work with the planning department staff and city hall.

Motion: Commission Warren made a motion to bypass the comments from city staff until the January CBC meeting.

Second: Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Per Debra Redding, Treasurer:

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission
Treasurer's Report
12-04-2008

Beginning Balance as of October 24th, 2008		<u>\$2,502.35</u>
Credits	Interest on Account .01	
	Total credits \$ 0.01	<u>\$2,502.36</u>
Debits		
	Ck # 1151 Jennie Cole for frames(Rein.) \$ 61.26	<u>\$2,502.35</u>
Ending Bank Balance as of November 20 th , 2008		<u>\$2,441.10</u>

Commissioner Redding noted that she'd spoken with Ms. Venita Young in the Planning and Development Department and the remaining funds in the CBC budget from the city is \$831.96.

Commissioner Cole inquired about the source of the funds within the CBC checking account. Commissioner Warren explained the source(s).

Discussion was held on the option of pre-paying for some of 2009's expense; for example, the website expense and/or lunches for the retreat.

Motion: Vice-chair Wiedower made a motion to pre-pay for the CBC website; pending approval from the Planning and Development Department on whether or not the funds could be spent in this manner.

Second: Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: UPDATES:

OLD BUSINESS:

Garden Show 2009-Commissioner Redding noted the price for the garden show had gone up fifty dollars (50) this year for a total of two-hundred and fifty (250) dollars which has been paid.

Landscape Awards(Jennie)- Vice-chair Wiedower will get a PDF of the poster design for the 2008 CBC Landscape Award to Commissioner Warren for the CBC Website.

Eye of the Beholder (Debra) - Commissioner Redding reported that there were 21 awardees to date and she is checking on one address. Chair Homeyer noted he would sign the new awardees letter and get a copy to Commissioner Redding.

Future Projects

City Hall Rear Entry Garden – Chair Homeyer noted the trees were to be planted next week. Bemis is donating the trees and Chair Homeyer is installing them.

I-630 Trees-no report.

PR-Website-Commissioner Warren uploaded the following to the CBC Website: agendas, proposed 2009 calendar, Landscape Ordinance review meetings, hearing results for Landscape Awards, photos from the 2008 Landscape Awards, project page for donors, and revised contact list.

Commissioner Warren also passed out an updated Contact List for Commissioners.

Commissioner Warren also noted that Gail Owens, in City Parks and Recreation, is retiring and has all the archived information for the CBC. Commissioner Warren noted she'd attempt to get all that information transferred over to the Planning & Development Department prior to her retirement.

KLRB- Vice-chair Wiedower was unable to attend last months meeting; however, his business partner intends to update him soon. Vice-chair Wiedower noted he would get with David Hathcock in the Public Works Department to see if the area in front of the skating rink is adopted yet. If not, the CBC might could solicit the skating rink to adopt that area of street(s).

Discussion commenced regarding the new “change boxes” located in downtown Little Rock. It was noted the CBC might want to consider sponsoring a change box or sponsoring the downtown partnership. It was noted it was a great cause; however, not something the CBC could financially support.

Adopt-A-Street- It was noted that CBC is to only pick up Bowman Curve on odd months only. Vice-chair Wiedower has been unsuccessful with catching prior CBC Jessica Watts to retrieve the pick up tools; however, will continue trying. Commissioner Warren noted she’d revised the letter to Walgreen’s requesting the pick-up tools.

Interstate Buffer Letter to the AR Highway Department:

Extensive discussion commenced on the Interstate Buffer Letter to be sent to the Arkansas Highway Department. It was decided to dissect the letter and polish it prior to mailing.

Motion: Vice-chair made a motion to send the letter to the AR Highway Department after the dissection and polishing had transpired.

Second: Commissioner Warren seconded the motion.

Failed to due no vote. It was decided to revisit the letter next month and then call for another vote at that time.

NEW BUSINESS:

2009 CBC CALENDAR:

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to accept the 2009 CBC Calendar as submitted.

Second: Commissioner Cole seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Vice-chair Wiedower will get with KLRB and see what/if their Commission can do to help with the Board request and get back to city staff upon the receipt of an answer.

2009 CBC Retreat:

Discussion commenced on an optimal date to have the annual 2009 CBC retreat. It was noted that Mr. Tony Bozynski, Director of Planning and Development had requested the retreat be held during the work week, during the day for more participation from city staff. Therefore, the date of January 21st and 3:00, location at Mangan Rainwater Culpepper was tentatively discussed. Chair Homeyer noted he would work on an itinerary for the retreat and also check on the date/location of the retreat and get back with the CBC.

Motion: Commissioner Warren made a motion to adjourn

Second: Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 12:55 p.m.