

## MACOMB BEAUTIFUL ASSOCIATION

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Macomb Beautiful Association met at the Old Dairy meeting room on June 20<sup>th</sup> with 27 members present.

President Penny Yunker introduced Bob Streitmatter, who is the manager of the Luthy Botanical Gardens. This six-acre property belongs to the park district in Peoria, IL. The Peoria Park District is the oldest and largest in the state of Illinois and at its conception was funded by tax money from the alcohol tax from the many breweries existing at that time. Peoria had all the elements for producing spirits-spring water, a rail and water transportation system, a large amount of grain, oak for barrels, and coal to power the brewing and distillery operations. Luthy Gardens was built in 1951, and offers over a dozen theme gardens, a Conservatory, a garden gift shop, educational programming, numerous events, a rotating sculpture exhibit and magnificent floral displays. Floral shows include a Spring Show, Orchid Show, Chrysanthemum Show and Poinsettia Show.

The Luthy Gardens is developing a long term plan to increase more native plants, to attract more insects, and to make for more cohesive and easily maintained mass plantings. They are continuing to work on the aesthetics of more consistent facility structure and the use of strong circular paths and plantings. Much of their work and programs offered center around education for individuals of all ages and include tours, floral shows, self-guided tours, cooking shows, various classes, and partnering with other different organizations around the city.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** (abbreviated due to time constraints)

**Minutes:** Secretary Barb Knox presented the minutes from the April meeting. Marilyn Saliarez made a motion to approve, David Self seconded, and motion carried. A thank you note from Sarah Looman Gibson thanking us for the wedding gift card was read. A donation of \$500.00 to MBA was received from the family of Roger Barclay to plant a tree in his memory.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer Madena Chuvala presented the treasurer's report with a cash balance of \$6,068.18. Wilma Wilson made a motion to approve, Marilyn seconded, and the motion carried.

**Membership:** Penny reported that reminders for membership dues were mailed to our business members. The correspondence offered a one, two, or three year membership which was well received. Sara will promote on our Facebook page the names of businesses who have renewed their membership.

**Tree Planting Program:** Penny Yunker reported that she had been contacted by Midwest Grass and Forage regarding the MBA tree support program. Penny assured them that they could plant a tree at their new building site on East University Drive and submit a receipt for reimbursement of half the price up to a maximum of \$50. Penny did not realize that the tree planting policy applies only to trees planted on private properties. Penny recommended that we honor her commitment to Midwest Grass and Forage and apologized for not checking the policy prior to making the commitment. Penny also offered to pay the \$50 herself.

**Gardens & Train Station:** All of the plantings are doing well and ready for Heritage Days and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Fundraising:** Sharon Lindahl reported that the Card Party cleared \$879.00. The Fall Card Party will be held Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at the Country Club.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. The **Beautification Awards Reception** will be held **September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.** at the WCIAC with punch, wine, and appetizers.
2. Marian Swisher told about her bottle brush tree which is doing very well and she highly recommended it as an addition to your landscape.

The 2018 dates to remember:

Beautification Awards	Thursday	September 13	5:00 p.m.	WCIAC
Meeting	Wednesday	September 19	11:30 a.m.	Old Dairy
Meeting	Wednesday	October 17	11.30 a.m.	Old Dairy
Card Party	Thursday	November 8	1:00 p.m.	Country Club
Meeting	Thursday	November 15	11:00 a.m.	Old Dairy
TBA		Road Trip to Luthy Gardens (rescheduled)		

Holly Head won the free lunch!

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Knox, Secretary