

Coe Memorial Park Committee
March 24, 2021

The meeting of the Coe Memorial Park Committee was called to order at 5:10 PM.

Present were committee members Marc Trivella, Lori Chiron, Kathy Renzullo and Mark McEachern. Also present, Lori and Jeremy Stickney representing Still River Gardens.

On a motion by Marc and seconded by Kathy, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The Committee noted the Superintendent's report included an item on the selection of a tree to plant. Mark McEachern volunteered to contact Mike Zaharek regarding a new Copper Beech tree. This has been discussed and agreed upon by the Committee prior to the removal of the Copper Beech.

The Committee received and reviewed the irrigation contract proposal. A question was raised about the price of the previous year's contract. Kathy volunteered to search for that information.

Lori Stickney showed photos of the 2020 Coe Memorial Park Gardens and a fruitful discussion took place on each section of the gardens and how they might be treated in 2021. Lori noted that last year many plants were in short supply because of an increased interest in gardening during the pandemic. She expects shortages and substitutions again this year.

Some of the discussion with Lori were as follows:

A Butterfly Bush was planted last year to replace a willow planted in the memory of Margaret Keywan

Two Shadblow trees were transplanted from Main Street from the small area along the sidewalk in-front of the adjacent parking lot across City Hall Place to Coe Park last fall.

Carriage House Gardens: Marc stated that last year's planting had beautiful color and were complimentary to the Carriage House. The Committee agreed that Still River Gardens could repeat successful planting schemes from year to year.

Other gardens near the Civic Center: The Committee was divided on the use of Begonias and/or New Guinea Impatiens.

Victorian Garden: The Committee noted that massing of plants to create bolder and more noticeable patterns is desirable and favored a curvilinear design shown by Still River Gardens.

Marc suggested a heart made of flowers somewhere in the park to honor Covid19 victims and front line workers. Lori thought this was a good idea.

Garden North of Concrete Pad: Presents difficult growing conditions.

Birch Glade: Unanimous approval of the mixed coleus.

Potted Plants on Portico: Suggested last year by Brett...a good idea.

Beds near South Main: The Committee was impressed that individual Peony flower stalks were staked last year.

Civil War Monument: Always presents a challenge. The Red Sun Impatiens was not available as proposed last year and the substitute planting was not effective.

The Committee expressed its desire to avoid using Cana Lilies around the Monument. Lori Stickney will design for color and contrast without being gaudy.

General: Hostas need to be divided this fall.

Lori Stickney felt that Coe Memorial Park was not being promoted enough by the City. Marc Trivella will contact Brett Simmons about starting a friends of Coe Memorial Park Facebook page. If approved, Kathy Renzullo volunteered to set up the Facebook page. Lori Stickney also noted that the stone veneers are damaged on the outline of the Coe house. This creates an unkempt look for the park.

Lori suggested a new decorative planting bed of low bedding plants/flowers. This might be created where the old sign was located on the north side of the civic center. Her proposal for a design will be welcomed for review by the Committee.

Beech Tree and the area where it was: A discussion was held about the area where the Beech Tree was removed. It was agreed that until a new tree is planted it might be best to apply grass seed to this area

After a new Beech Tree is planted, hostas could be transplanted to create a wide circle around the new tree with mulch on the inside of the circle. A discussion of the variety of Hosta available may offer several design choices to explore.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.