

Bee City Minutes

February 17, 2021

Members Present:

Bill Link, Mary Tinder, Randy Tinder, Marsha Meredith, Mary Beasley, Cindy Maguire, Kathy Ruitter, Julie Boente, Paul Mihalek, Christine Sanderson, Cindy Tipps

Bill Link called the meeting to order. The November minutes were approved. Link -1; Ruitter – 2.

Action items for next meeting:

1. Kathy Ruitter is developing a week of activities to celebrate Arbor Day and Earth Week. She will present the overview at the March meeting.
2. Cindy Tipps will contact Andrea Duncan regarding the Bee City Speaker Bureau
3. Paul Mihalek and Cindy Tipps will contact the CUSD schools regarding participation in the Arbor/Earth Day activities. Cindy Tipps will contact Connie Neiman, U of I Educator.
4. Bill Link will check into the Public Works grant to see who owns designated pieces of land that we can work with.
5. Mary Tinder will send out notices to Site Stewards thanking them for past participation and encouraging them to continue their work this year.

Bit O’Honey

Members agreed that the November Zoom Conference was remarkable for the collaboration and information presented. Thank you, Kathy Ruitter for all the work you did in imagining and organizing it!

Mary Tinder reported that our native plant list is nearly completed thanks to the work of Dr. Marlin who used the Robertson bee research to develop the list of plants specific to our area. It will provide a list of 15-20 plants, 4-5 of which we’d love to see in everyone’s garden. She also highlighted an upcoming collaborative project between MJM and Bee City. Plans are for a major pollinator garden around the Carlinville Welcome sign at their new location.

Discussion

Swarming: The Buzz from Bee City and Bee Campus

- Mary Tinder updated members about the Bee City recertification document due this month. Thanks to the Tinders, Cindy Maguire and Bill Link, the document and check are in the mail. The document explains this year’s accomplishments in raising pollinator awareness and celebrating our achievements, as well as addressing other requirements for continuing certification.
- The Pest Management plan has a good first draft, but will need tweaking, particularly with regard to mosquitoes.
- The Bee City Speaker’s Bureau is waiting to be more organized. Dr. Marlin, Mary Tinder, Bobbi Bates, Bill Link, Arvin Pierce and Cindy Tipps have made presentations to various groups, but the Bureau would like to have more presenters. Cindy Tipps suggested that Andrea Duncan would be a valuable resource. She also suggested an informational pamphlet as a handout.
- Kathy Ruitter (with her usual enthusiasm and inclusive vision) outlined a pollinator awareness event to celebrate Earth Week and Arbor Day (stretching from April 18-24). Tree and Bee City and Tree and Bee Campus will work together to offer educational events for the public. Ideas include tree planting at one of the schools, a possible bee exhibit at Blackburn, and zoom presentations for a full week of pollinator awareness. Cindy Tipps offered to check with Connie Neiman, U of I Educator, for school-related ideas. She and Paul Mihalek will contact the primary school for participation.

- The agenda item regarding developing suggestions for different sized areas was tabled for March.
- Bill Link gave an update on street signs, a requirement of Bee City. Signs are located throughout town at the Amtrak station, 108 East Welcome sign, the garden at City Hall and other sites.
- Bill also spoke about the Public Works grant received by the City to refurbish/restore/renew abandoned or neglected lots and houses. It would give Bee and Tree City land to work with. He mentioned that it would involve establishing rules for development and organizing a group that would commit to the projects for 5-10 years. He will look into who owns pieces that we can work with.
- Since the Carlinville Bee City goal is to be a mecca for pollinators by 2025, we are working to develop a Pollinator Survey that would help in planning how to do this. The Interact Club will work on the survey this summer. Bill Link, as Public Works Manager and Bee City Co-Chair, gave us his version/vision of what the City could look like from the Amtrak station all the way to the Square. It was a wonderful trip of possibilities.
- Mary Tinder will email all previous Site Stewards thanking them for their participation last year and asking them to commit for this year. We discussed how to show appreciation for different kinds of participation in Bee City projects.
- Bill Link described the development (and challenges) of a garden in front of City Hall in memory of Mayor Demuzio.
- Mary Tinder reported on a new grant she solicited from Walmart. (Way to go, Mary!) The money will stretch to include the MJM garden, the Demuzio garden and community gardens. She promised Walmart that the money would include the purchase of bat houses (purchased from them). Marsha Meredith offered to look into more information about bats and put it on our website. Kathy Ruitter added bat information to her list of topics for Earth Week. Cindy Tipps suggested a small Pollinator Pocket Garden for the Square that would include the 4-5 Robertson-suggested plants and include educational signage.
- For Bee Campus Information, Kathy Ruitter reported that since the campus has been under Covid restrictions, it has been closed to visitors (with restrictions) which has limited involvement. She and BU intern, Christina Sanderson are working on a series of articles regarding trees and bees in Carlinville.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beasley

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 17, 2021: 7:00 PM

THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING - unless you hear differently.