

Bee City Minutes November 20, 2019

Members Present:

Bill Link, Marsha Meredith, Mary Beasley, Julie Boente, Cindy Maguire, Kathy Ruitter, Katie Vest, Nancy Mihalek, Paul Mihalek, Arvin Pierce, Mark Wade, Bill McClain

Bill McClain opened the meeting with an educational Bit O'Honey. He shared his concerns regarding a seed packet he received from the Sierra Club, labelled Bee Seeds. He read off the list of enclosed seeds and pointed out how many were not native to our region and those that were invasive. He encouraged gardeners to be careful in considering what they should and shouldn't plant. M Meredith suggested he return the packet to the Sierra folks along with one of the envelopes we passed out at the Halloween Parade. It would be a good example of what a native seed packet should really include.

Yea, We Did It!

- Website: Cindy Maguire commented on the beauty of the Bee City website. Members applauded M Meredith and K Ruitter for their creativity and expertise. Kathy reported that the website had 148 visitors in the first month and 694 page views. Our Facebook page has 107 followers and 463 engagements. Kathy encouraged members to submit pictures and posts and invite friends to like us. She and Marsha are working to make a link between the College and the City.
- Halloween Parade: Julie Boente was recognized for the great idea of Bee folk joining the Tree folk in the Halloween Parade. A good number of people participated and passed out candy and packets of bee seeds. (Packets compliments of BU's pollinator gardens, K Ruitter and students.)
- Make Carlinville Beautiful: Bill Link reported that *MCB* was recognized by the Chamber as Organization of the Year and received a plaque to commemorate the designation.
- Hear that Buzz? Bill Link reported that he has been stopped frequently by people interested in learning more about Bee City. He is interested in discussing how we can educate the community about BC.

Discussion

New Members. Marsha Meredith mentioned that the website has attracted comments from interested viewers. She introduced Katie Vest, a CHS student who is currently participating in the County CEO project. Katie is working on a project called Bee City Bodyworks and is interested in learning more about what Bee City does and what connections she can make with it. Marsha suggested that our website might like to regularly feature a Bee City/Campus member who is involved in work of their own or other projects.

Bee Campus

Kathy Ruitter reported from Bee Campus that we have been mentioned in the Xerces newsletter twice. Marsha said that Dr. Jim Bray and Arvin Pierce will be teaching a class on Pollinators in the spring semester and Kathy mentioned that community members can audit a class at BU for a small fee. Arvin Pierce reported that he is working with several dedicated students on the Bee project.

Bee City

Members reviewed the list of requirements that are on our Bee City To-Do list and began to discuss who will be doing what according to their interests. Marsha encouraged members to review the Volunteer

Interest Sign Up Sheet to see what group(s) they volunteered for. She will add names, revise the list and send it out. Groups will choose their leader and make reports at each meeting.

- *Developing an Integrated Pest Management Plan.* Bill Link and Arvin Pierce are designated to get a Pest Management Plan group to agree on a proposal for us, coordinating with Julie Boente, Dick McClain, Mag Tetzlaff, Mary Tinder, and Cindy Tipps - the members who indicated an interest in the topic. Arvin explained that such a plan takes coordination and requires discussion, especially if it includes a change in what really needs to happen.
- *Developing a Speaker's Bureau.* As a result of presenting Bee and Tree City information to the Rotary and fielding questions on planting, plants, pollinators, etc. Bill Link suggested that we create a Speaker's Bureau. Members also thought it would be a good idea to begin our meetings with a short presentation by one of our own local "experts". Arvin Pierce, Mary Loveless, Steve Boente, Paula Robinson and K Bennett were the first names to be suggested. Topics include bats, seeds, bulbs, garden size and gardening process.
- *Developing a local Native Plant list.* Mary Tinder reported via email that Dr. Marlin will assist us in developing a local native plant list. Our list will include Dr. Robertson's information as well as that of the follow up studies.
- *Planning our Pollinator Events.* Kathy Ruiter exploded with ideas that will help educate and activate the campus and community. Her vision is to be as inclusive as possible and to coordinate as much as we can with established groups. Working with the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension, she has scheduled an All Gardener's Day for Saturday, March 14, 2020 at Blackburn. It will include seminars and demonstrations and will be held at the Mahan Science Center. Other events in Kathy's thinktank are: Earth Week - a collaboration between the College, the Carlinville District and the Park District and will include plantings at Blackburn (and schools?) on Friday, April 25; "Plastic Mania", a recycling celebration on campus; and a Kids Corner at the Macoupin County Spring Festival. She would also like to see activities created and implemented for the Carlinville Market Days and the County Fair.
- Finally, recycling was discussed a bit, with hints that something good might be happening in town regarding this.

The group decided that it will meet on the third Wednesday of the month following the Tree City meeting. Meetings will be held at 7 PM at City Hall. There is no meeting scheduled for December.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2020: 7:00PM City Hall.

If anyone has other items they'd like added to the agenda, let Bill Link, Mary Tinder or Mary Beasley know. We will always try to keep the meetings to a one-hour timeframe