

City Council Oct. 3rd, 2016 Main Street Planters

30 planters were purchased with grant money along with FCSW in spring of 2010. 30 planters were purchased for the cost of \$200.00 each= \$6,000.00. There was money left over for plant purchase for 2 years. After which contributors gave \$30.00 per planter covering the cost of plants & planting. The contributions were generally in Memory of, In Honor of or just a donation from the public & a few of the Main Street Businesses that the planters are set by. Some soil & fertilizer have been added in the last few years.

Each spring the Chamber contacts a variety of businesses near each planter and asks them to water the planters throughout the summer. May 25 – Sept. This year has been longer due to no hard frost yet.

The Chamber empties the planters & leaves the annual grass in the center & fills them with volunteers with pine & red twig dog wood for the winter season. The BIC committee pays for the pine.

In the spring the chamber removes the pine & the circle continues.

NOW, after the 2 blocks of Main St. construction there will no longer be room for the planters. These planters have been adopted out or placed at other City/Chamber facilities. A few were placed at the back doors of a few of the Main St. merchants.

WHAT we do in the coming year is my giant question? I feel we should leave the 2 new blocks without for the 2017 season.

Then if everyone feels the need to unify the Main Street Corridor we need to look at the smaller matching terra cotta planters & keep this look like the large ones we have &/or only place the large planters we have now on the bump-outs. (Discussion with Mr. Holland)

OR there is a “hay feeder” planter that attaches to the fronts of buildings that each business owner could purchase & fill themselves.

OR the Chamber/City can purchase them & continue with fundraising.

OR sell all the Terra cotta planters & start fresh.

My main QUEST today is that whatever decision is made we need to get a plan for watering. Some of our past waterers have asked to not be in charge of their care, some are not taking the same care & some do a great job.

We need a unified look & I am asking that this comes under review & possibly the City takes charge in the watering. The Chamber has a large tank that could be attached to motorized equipment that possibly the summer help could drive down Main early before parking & heavy traffic & water, as do many cities in the area.

We could continue to fundraise for the plants or work this into a BIC/Chamber/City Budget. We do receive many compliments on the look the planters produce from visitors & citizens alike.

PLEASE help us with this mission. I have taken a hold as a Master Gardener & volunteer for most all the time the planters take. I will not always be available. It is really not a "Chamber Director's Duty".

We want this to work for everyone; Main Street Businesses, City, City Department & Chamber/BIC.

Thank you for your time & consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lyon Chamber Director