

**KEEP MIDLOTHIAN BEAUTIFUL MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 15, 2018**

Meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Present: Karen Kreis, Helen Lekavich, Kristen Ramirez, Maria Kolacki, Kathy Caveney, Sandy Crowley, Superintendent Nick Weinert, Theda Reed, Chris Parker, Jerry Gillis, Sr., Katie Libowitz, Tina Huddleston, Gail Martinez, Diane Banta, Rita Sareny, Chief Dan Delaney, Marsha Amraen, Juan Ramirez, Ruth Rinehart and Rebecca Deneka.

Approval of the September 20, 2018 Minutes – Motion to approve the September 20, 2018 Keep Midlothian Beautiful Minutes was made by Katie Libowitz and seconded by Kathy Caveney.

**Discussion:** There was one correction to the Minutes on Page 2 regarding volunteer tracking forms. It states that it is for cleanup and should be expanded to include community service, beautification and recycling. Both Katie Libowitz and Kathy Caveney amended their motions. There was no further discussion.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: All in Favor. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Update of Executive Director – Karen Kreis received an email from Mayor L'Heureux advising that Maria Kolacki would no longer be the Executive Director since she is unable to devote the time and duties required to be the Executive Director. We are in transition now and she will help us through the transition. The job description is near completion and will be presented to the Village Board soon. She noted that it will be a part-time position with flexible hours since this position has a lot of community outreach, education and attendance of events.

Helen then noted that if you are on Facebook, please look us up (KeepMidlothianBeautiful-Illinois).

Karen Kreis discussed setting the first-year goals and objectives. She asked Kristen Ramirez for an update on the status of the garbage cans with the smoking receptacles. Kristen noted that they are extremely expensive, and our current garbage vendor was unable to assist. There are limited garbage cans with smoking receptacles on top but was able to find a combination purchase of a plastic receptacle with a smoking chimney. The set would cost \$250 each. It was suggested that the eight metal older cans we have in storage could be repainted, decorated, etc. and the smoking receptacle be eliminated. Our schools or other volunteers could assist with this project. There was a long discussion on the garbage can decorations and possible businesses to be provided to. Katie Libowitz suggested the possibility of having sponsors for the garbage cans. She would be willing to purchase a garbage can and on one side of the can would be her business name and would be in front of their businesses. The Committee was in agreement. It was then suggested that a paragraph be included in the business license renewal letter introducing the KMB program and asking businesses to partner with the Village and then see if they would be interested in purchasing a garbage can. This will be considered.

Keep Midlothian Beautiful and thank you for not littering signs were discussed. Kristen suggested a Keep Midlothian Beautiful and Please Do Not Litter sign with dimensions of 24 x 18 would be \$42.20 or \$506.00 for 12 metal signs. The sign for the fines, which would be underneath the larger sign and be 24 x 12 would be \$18.10 additional. After further research, she found coroplast signs (plastic corrugated

signs) with the same design and that cost would be \$250.00 for 50 signs and two-sided would be \$316.50. Sandy Crowley suggested the signs be placed also under the flashing speed signs that are along 147<sup>th</sup> and on Pulaski since everyone looks at those.

Motion to approve the purchase of signs from Traffic Control and Protection Inc. and to order an amount of signs to be determined later not to exceed \$1,200.00 was made by Jerry Gillis, Sr. and seconded by Kathy Caveney.

**Discussion:** There was no further discussion.

**Roll Call:** Ayes: All in Favor. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Karen Kreis advised that in October a letter went out to all multifamily property owners and maintenance companies regarding Keystone and Karlov Avenue providing information on Keep Midlothian Beautiful, keeping the property clean and explained our partnership and if not followed, citations may be issued. She went down some of the streets and there are still piles of garbage and asked the Building Department and Police Department to investigate and issue citations. Chief Delaney confirmed that they would visit the properties. She also noted that Superintendent Sparrey has mentioned that this area is problematic since the garbage from Keystone and Karlov properties get into Natalie Creek, which clogs the creek and its flow. We want compliance for residents and businesses to take care of their properties and if they do not, then we will need to cite them. Chief Delaney noted that the property owners on Keystone have their own small dumpsters and have put them in parking spots but were overflowing. It was actually the garbage company's fault since they were not picking up the garbage. He further advised that they met with the building owners and they are just as frustrated as we are with how it looks. He suggested an enclosed garbage facility surrounded with a small fence which would keep the garbage inside. Sandy Crowley suggested taking pictures of the violations and send the pictures to her. She will make sure that the Building Department and Police Department are aware of the violations and will keep track of the addresses so that when we meet with our Department Heads monthly, we make sure they are talking to the officers and code enforcers to watch the properties.

Nick Weinert noted that owners of buildings do not always schedule enough pickups for their garbage. They will also not hire anyone to police their property. Food service is also a problem since people toss their garbage out of the window. He has received approval from the Village Board to hire a Code Enforcement Officer. He explained that he divides the Village into quarters and the Code Enforcement Officer monitors one quarter of the Village at a time and that this is more effective.

The Great American Clean Up was discussed. This is through Keep America Beautiful and could replace our Clean Up Day. On Clean Up Day we have difficulty getting volunteers, a lot of effort goes into planning it and then only a few people show up. The Great American Clean Up is typically in April but we can do it in May. Karen wanted everyone to think about how we can reinvent our Clean Up Day. It was suggested that we move the Clean Up Day to April. Everyone agreed. She will have more information at the next meeting. Earth Day is April 22 and Earth Month is April 2019. There was then a long discussion on who could participate. Helen Lekavich suggested recycling contests, prizes and teams.

Pairing of Board/Steering Committee Members with like interests – Karen Kreis believed that whatever your interest might be, the pairing of individuals with the same interests should be working together and form a sub-committee and promote small projects.

Helen Lekavich discussed the Adopt-A-Street/Alley Program. If you are irritated about the litter on a street or alley, this could be your passion. Once a month you would be committed to take care of that street, block or alley and we will put up a sign advising that this was your project.

At a Board Meeting in October, they presented three Appreciation Certificates. The certificates were presented to Theda Reed, Ruth Rinehart and Betty Warner.

Helen Lekavich suggested that when you see people who regularly are cleaning up daily, to present them with a certificate. If you see someone doing something nice, reward them.

Outreach was then discussed. There is information on the website. We now have a Facebook Page (KeepMidlothianBeautiful-Illinois). Everyone can go on it and like it and then will receive updates on KMB. We also now have brochures. We want to expand and are hoping to have a collage of pictures and information for the next brochure.

Rebecca will be meeting with each of the Deans of the schools and will start activities for the kids to be involved in. They will come up with an event and will provide poster contest information. School District 143 has been promoting KMB with the teachers. Last night, they honored our School Board Members and each of them received a Keep Midlothian Beautiful Certificate.

Katie Libowitz suggested that information needs to be provided to residents and business owners that if they are interested in getting involved, please contact us. This can be done on Facebook or email. Katie also suggested putting participation information on the garbage cans with an additional sticker. Sandy Crowley suggested a Smart Phone Scan Bar and also Twitter and Instagram to attract the younger generation. Our Facebook page will be added to the website.

Karen Kreis was pleased to present the new brochure developed by herself and Helen Lekavich. The brochure completely explains our affiliation with Keep America Beautiful. Everyone was impressed with the design and information provided. Helen asked that the brochure be placed on the website.

Karen Kreis noted that there was an option on the Oak Park Block Party Request Permit to get a representative from Keep Oak Park Beautiful to attend and thought it would be a good way to get our neighborhoods involved. This will be added to the Block Party Request.

Tool Set Kits were discussed. Helen noted that everyone does not always have the proper tools they need for cleanup. We thought about putting together some typical tool kits and then individuals could sign them out for the summer or a certain period of time. The tool kits could include rakes, snippers, pokers, shovels, buckets, etc. Everyone was in agreement and this will be introduced in the Spring.

Rita Sareny asked who should receive the Volunteer Hours. Karen Kreis noted that they must be reported on our Dashboard so Karen Kreis suggested they be given to her. She then asked about a possible Dumpster Survey or Log. She saw many alleys behind businesses that had an abundance of litter but did not know who to give the Log to. Sandy Crowley advised she would take the information and log the findings in so that we can keep track of the addresses and follow-up. Rita then read her current report. On August 28<sup>th</sup> she did a survey of some of the business dumpsters and found some unsightly areas. There was only one business that had a recycle dumpster for cardboard, which was

Factory Bedding and Furniture (3844 W. 147<sup>th</sup> Street) and noted that the property is very clean. She called Republic and they advised that the recycle dumpsters originally were cheaper than the regular dumpsters, but now are more expensive and that is one reason businesses do not have them. She was provided with information on the recycling process and noted that the recycling is shipped to China. Once in China, many times they do not accept many of the items as they used to and then we have to pay to ship the garbage back. She also noted that many of the single totes are contaminated. Everyone needs to be reeducated on recycling procedures and what can and cannot be recycled. Karen Kreis suggested that a representative from Republic come to a meeting to reeducate what is acceptable and what is not acceptable. Rita also suggested using old recycling bins, which were much smaller, and use them for newspaper and magazines only so that it does not get mixed up in the contaminated recycling. There was a long discussion on the types of products to be recycled.

The next Keep Midlothian Beautiful Meeting will be on January 17, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade will be on December 1, 2018. Helen explained that the KMB float will be a black Avalanche and will be a version of our flower boxes. We will be using greens, sticks from the creek, pinecones and it will be like a giant moving flower box. If anyone would like to join, they are welcome.

Karen Kreis reminded everyone that the Natalie Creek Ground Breaking is on Monday.

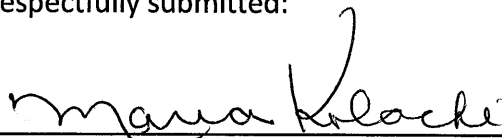
Helen Lekavich noted that five years ago we started this in April with flooding and no one would have ever thought that five years later we will be doing something huge for this community. She quoted: "If you don't think something small can make a difference, you have never been in a sleeping bag with a mosquito."

Diane Banta, from the National Park Service, then presented both Helen Lekavich and Karen Kreis, who represented Floodlothian and the Village, with a plaque of Appreciation and Partner of Excellence Award.

Karen Kreis noted that Diane Banta was from the National Park Service and has made our Natalie Creek Trail a reality. She was instrumental in getting us the Phase I for the Invest in Cook Grant. We have now selected an engineering firm and we are off and running. We have the Natalie Creek Trail that consists of five communities with an ultimate goal to connect to the Cal Sag Trail. Helen commented that this is something that they told us would never happen.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to everyone. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



---

Maria Kolacki  
Deputy Clerk