

Beautification and Climate Action Committee 2023 Year End Report

Activities of the Beautification and Climate Action Committee (BCAC)

- first meeting was in February: terms of reference and committee name were changed to better include the climate action component;
- members include representatives of PBIA, Horticultural Society, the community, Parks and Recreation staff and elected officials;
- BCAC / member projects in 2023:
 - promotion of Earth Day and community clean-up
 - community gardens / rain barrel sale
 - downtown beautification (banners, flower planters)
 - downtown events
 - flower boxes and planters throughout the City
 - maintenance of grounds, trees, flower beds particularly in Pansy Patch Park and Waterfront
 - Arboretum at the Waterfront
 - Parks and Recreation projects related to events and beautification
 - promoting a climate lens process with its inclusion in the City's new Strategic Plan
 - proposed net-zero by 2050 for inclusion in Partners for Climate Protection Milestone 2 targets.

City's climate action to date:

- continuing energy efficiencies by the Operations Department;
- awareness of climate change impacts on infrastructure;
- participation in Partners for Climate Protection 5 Milestone Framework; Milestone 1 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory completed; Milestone 2 GHG emissions reduction targets to be developed, consultant hired;
- inclusion of a climate lens as an underlying principle in the Strategic Plan.

Items to be addressed

- formation of a sub-committee of BCAC to focus specifically on climate resources and action and to include discussions with key City staff as may be appropriate to determine a good fit for the City;
- further exploration of activities as might be included in BCAC's Duties and Responsibilities (Terms of Reference) such as: climate and environmental projects to engage the community; comments on by-law and plan revisions; promotion of climate education and action in the community; increasing the City's tree canopy; continued improvement to City green spaces.