

WATERLOO BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026
6:45 p.m.
Second Floor Conference Room

Attendance: Chairman Jim Trantham
Committee Members: Joel Vogt, Jim Hopkins, Kyle Buettner, and Gary Most.
Absent: None.
Attendees: Mayor Stan Darter, J.R. Landeck, Matt Buettner, Tina Charron, Jordan Riley, Sarah Craig, Sarah Deutch, Nathan Krebel, Mechelle Childers, Tina Woodcock, Pam Jacobs, and Shelby Mathes.

Meeting called to order at 6:45 PM.

Agenda Item 1: Petitions by Citizens on Non-Agenda Items: None

Agenda Item 2: Non-Profit Grant Application – History Museum of Monroe County.

The committee reviewed a grant request submitted by the Monroe County History Museum for security system improvements and honeysuckle removal. It was noted that this is the third consecutive year that the museum has applied for grant funding. Mr. Shelby Mathes, representing the museum, stated that several security cameras are currently not functioning. He also explained that removing the honeysuckle would improve the visibility of Bellefontaine Springs for visitors. Committee members expressed concerns about the same organizations receiving grant funding year after year, noting a desire to avoid grants becoming line items in organizational budgets. An additional concern was raised whether honeysuckle removal could be considered routine maintenance rather than eligible grant expenses. It was also mentioned that if funding demand grows or other projects compete for limited resources, borderline projects would need to be reviewed more closely. Funding for this project is planned for the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget.

Motion was made by Alderman Kyle Buettner and seconded by Alderman Vogt to recommend approval to fund the project at the projected cost of \$7,247.09, slightly below the requested amount of \$7,500.00. It was also suggested that if budgets tighten, such repeated grants might be done less often, perhaps every two to three years, and a thorough review is necessary for projects that are deemed borderline. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Non-Profit Grant Application – Monroe County Historical Society.

This request continues prior historic preservation work, which was referred to as the shutter project. The current grant proposal covers repairs to the fascia trim on the gable ends, the front door trim, and the porch cap ends. The maximum funding request of \$7,500 was submitted, matching the program limit. However, concerns were raised about the lack of a detailed cost breakdown, with a call for more comprehensive, itemized estimates to ensure transparency and accountability. While there was general support for the project, a precise breakdown of the costs was requested before a recommendation for approval.

Motion made by Alderman Most and seconded by Alderman Hopkins to table the Non-Profit Grant Application from the Monroe County Historical Society until a more detailed list of expenses and work could be provided.

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Non-Profit Grant Application – Monroe County Fair Association.

A question was raised on the status of the Fine Arts Building, during which it was indicated that the majority of the work had been completed. The flooring became an urgent need and was completed ahead of the grant application. Since the nonprofit grant program requires applications to be submitted prior to project initiation, this submission would not qualify for the grant. A discussion included an inquiry into other planned capital projects at the fairgrounds. It was noted that the current request is for \$5,000, below the maximum allowable grant amount of \$7,500, leaving \$2,500 potentially available for additional projects. It was suggested that the Fair Board consider applying for the full amount for the recently approved cattle building, for which the City Council has already approved materials and waived permit fees. Ms. Jacobs stated that she would present the suggestion to the Fair Board and complete the required application and supporting documentation.

Motion made by Alderman Vogt and seconded by Alderman Hopkins to **reject** the Non-Profit Grant Application from the Monroe County Fair Association for the Fine Arts Building Floor.

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Comments.

Nathan Krebel distributed an updated Waterloo Beautification Program activity list.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alderman Most and seconded by Alderman Vogt. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Submitted by Mechelle Childers