

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, May 8, 2025  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Council Chambers, Village Office  
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Allan Jackson, Chair  
Susan Caley  
Susan Galvao  
Janice Moffat  
Teresa Omelus  
Margaret Shier

Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer  
Jace Hodgson, Director of Operations  
Kalie Wiechmann, Communications and Community  
Engagement Coordinator (until 11:16 a.m.)

**ABSENT:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

Councillor Jackson acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

Susan Galvao requested to add "Garden Tour" as an item for discussion.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Teresa Omelus**  
**Seconded by Susan Galvao**

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY**  
*CIB-2025-05-01*

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Teresa Omelus**  
**Seconded by Susan Galvao**

THAT the Communities in Bloom Committee Meeting Minutes of April 3, 2025 be adopted.

**CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY**  
*CIB-2025-05-02*

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**6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

(a) Presentation from Catherine Kennedy, BC CIB, via Zoom

Catherine presented an overview of the history, vision and mission of the CIB program at the provincial, national and international levels.

The six criteria are:

1. Community Appearance
2. Environmental Action
3. Heritage Conservation
4. Tree Management
5. Landscape
6. Plant & Floral Displays

The Committee should select three criteria to have the judges focus on and consider how best to showcase those. The judges look at 80% of the community. Practicing the tour route in advance is helpful, and it may be beneficial to have a specialist at each spot. Consideration should be given to how the judges will be transported around the community. Plan for approximately 3-4 hours of the tour. The judges can only evaluate what they're shown, not what you're telling them will happen in the future or what has happened in the past. The Community Profile book can be used to demonstrate past events and/or future plans.

(b) Earth Day in May Debrief

The Committee agreed that it was nice to make connections and introduce people to CIB. The hope is for the event to continue to grow in the future.

(c) Garden of the Week

The Committee discussed the judging criteria, schedule and marketing ideas. An updated schedule will be sent out to the Committee. The Committee agreed that the criteria was helpful. Staff will prepare judging packages for everyone once the Miracle-Gro packages have arrived.

(d) Garden Tour

Susan Galvao brought forward the idea of having a community garden tour to get community involvement and practice before the judges come. The idea would be to have a set day in June. An entrance fee could potentially be charged and it comes with a map that has a description of the garden, and maybe one of the stops has refreshments. Edible elements could be incorporated. It could increase interest in the judges' tour in July. The Committee discussed incorporating recipes as part of the edible gardening.

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(e) Lagoon Garden Bed & Community Planting Day

The Director of Operations advised that there is a new garden bed going in at the lagoon near the boat launch and there is budget as part of the lagoon redevelopment project to put in new plantings.

The Committee agreed that Tuesday, June 3, 2025 would work for a community planting day. Committee feedback was that red and white HHS in begonias would work, and to incorporate edible elements into the garden near the picnic table and move any pollinator plants further away from the picnic tables.

The Committee discussed a potential manure sale.

(f) Canada Day Parade Float

The Committee agreed to keep the float simple this year and march with a banner or use a regular pickup truck instead of trying to source a flat deck trailer.

(g) Beach Clean-Up Day with Students (tentative Date May 26, 2025)

The Committee can attend and assist students with the beach clean up day. They will arrive at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort at 12:30 for lunch and then participate in beach clean up.

(h) Judges' Visit – July 8/9, 2025

The Committee agreed that a small welcome event in Woods Park would be a nice way to greet the judges. The Committee agreed to focus on Community Appearance, Heritage and Plant and Floral Displays for the evaluation criteria. The Committee discussed reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce and the Post Office for tour stops.

(i) No Mow May (Susan Galvao)

There is an opportunity for the Committee to look at incorporating waterwise, drought resistant plants, and consider moving away from monocrop lawns towards biodiverse lawns by mixing plants such as white clover into the lawn. It can help the Village move away from herbicides and help pollinators. This could be a project for next year.

(j) Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

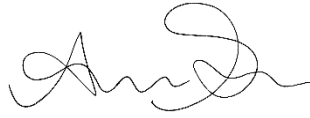
The meeting be adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

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Councillor Allan Jackson, Chair  
Communities in Bloom Committee



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Amanda Graham  
Corporate Officer