



VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Communities in Bloom Committee Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, November 12, 2025
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Allan Jackson, Chair
Susan Galvao
Janice Moffat
Teresa Omelus
Margaret Shier

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Caley

STAFF PRESENT: Corporate Clerk, Tyler Kafi
Director of Operations, Jace Hodgson

OTHERS PRESENT: Hope Communities in Bloom Members, Mayor Victor Smith and Teresa Williams

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Councillor Jackson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Jackson acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

None.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Teresa Omelus
Seconded by Margaret Shier

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED
CIB-2025-11-01

5. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Teresa Omelus
Seconded by Susan Galvao

THAT the Communities in Bloom Committee Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2025 be adopted.

CARRIED
CIB-2025-11-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Hope Communities In Bloom: Teresa Williams and Mayor Victor Smith

Teresa Williams and Mayor Victor Smith spoke about the Hope Communities in Bloom Committee, sharing insights on partnerships, budgeting, communication strategies, and community engagement. They emphasized the importance of volunteer recognition, sponsorships, and proactive planning for long-term success.

They discussed a variety of actions and ideas including:

- Partnerships with local organizations (e.g., Lions Club)
- Committee budget of \$5,000 and the value of multi-year budgeting
- Social media strategies and templates for positive engagement
- Concrete planters initiative and collaboration with merchants
- Highlighting locals and businesses in photos for better community feedback
- Finding plant suppliers and leveraging donations from businesses
- Switching vandalized planters to hanging baskets
- Importance of communication and maintaining relationships
- Volunteer-driven projects (carvings, design work, history book, merchandise)
- Weed-and-feed events supported by local businesses
- Litter pickups and berm maintenance in collaboration with operations
- Grant writing as a key funding strategy
- Sponsorship success stories and allocation of funds
- Trash-to-treasure event promotion (local advertising only)
- Pop-up event signage (sandwich boards)
- Event collaborations (Lights by the Lake, Fog Fest)

The Committee further discussed acquiring local sponsors and how critical sponsorships are for sustaining projects and expanding community initiatives.

(b) Fundraiser: West Coast Seeds

The Committee discussed the potential benefits of hosting a fundraiser with West Coast Seeds, including timing and logistics. The consensus was that the fundraiser is a good idea with minimal risk.

They further discussed ways to incentivize local businesses for partnerships, drawing inspiration from Hope Communities in Bloom's approach with concrete planters and historical plaques. Building these relationships was seen as an important step toward strengthening community involvement and support for future projects.

Additionally, the Committee agreed to invite the gardener to the next meeting to collaborate on ideas and plans. Teresa offered to donate a gift basket for the Lights by the Lake raffle draw.

- (c) Next Meeting Date: To Be Determined, tentatively the end of November

The Committee discussed what topics to bring forward at the next meeting, including issuing a call for new members and creating a group of volunteers who may not wish to join formally but are interested in helping with projects.

The Committee also considered the upcoming election and how to navigate the possibility of a future council being less supportive of the Communities in Bloom Committee. Councillor Jackson noted that similar challenges had occurred in previous years and suggested exploring alternative structures, such as forming a society, to maintain continuity and independence if needed.

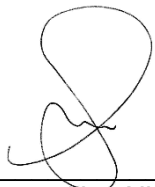
It was requested that the 2025 Evaluation Report be added to the next agenda for review.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Teresa Omelus
Seconded by Margaret Shier

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

CARRIED
CIB-2025-11-03



Councillor Allan Jackson, Chair
Communities in Bloom Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer