

To: Mayor & Members of City Council

From: Woodstock Environmental Advisory Committee

Re: Amendments to City Beautiful Awards Policy

AIM

To seek approval to amend Council Policy PR011 – City Beautiful Awards.

BACKGROUND

The City Beautiful Awards policy was created in 1985 to give recognition to those private, institutional, and corporate citizens who have taken the time to beautify and maintain their properties, thereby contributing to a more attractive neighbourhood and community. Eligibility is based solely on the property being within the City of Woodstock limits and visibility of same from an adjoining municipal street or streets. Properties may be entered by the owner or nominated by an outside party. All entries are subject to verification by the Awards Committee. Recognition is given to the Best of Class and Runner-up in the following five categories: Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, Best "New" Landscape, and Residential.

COMMENTS

The Woodstock Environment Advisory Committee (WEAC) would like Council to approve an additional category entitled “Environmentally Friendly.” This category would review and judge the applications to determine the most environmentally friendly garden. Criteria would be based on absence of invasive species, absence of use of pesticides and fertilizers, inclusion of maintenance and/or water-free plant species, as well as fauna-friendly (e.g. pollinators) plant species. Initially, all types of gardens (residential, commercial, industrial and institutional) would be judged under this category. It is hoped that the creation of such an award will encourage property owners to be environmentally conscious in their landscaping and to reward those who already are.

WEAC members would complete the work necessary to review the applications, complete field visits and interview the garden owners to provide a recommendation to the City Beautiful judging panel for award recipients. WEAC will provide funding out of its budget to cover the award for this additional category.

A “tracked changes” version of the City Beautiful Awards policy is attached to this report outlining the recommended revisions.

ATTACHMENTS

PR011 – Amended City Beautiful Awards – tracked changes

RECOMMENDATION

That Woodstock City Council approves the amendments Council Policy PR011 – City Beautiful Awards.

Approved by: Woodstock Environment Advisory Committee