

MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2022, JOINT MEETING OF PROPERTY/ COMMUNITY DEV. COMMITTEES

5:15 P.M., Council Chamber, Members present: A. Christianson Sr., N. Johnson, M. Reynolds. Others present: A. Christianson Jr., K. Gorseger, A. Kenyon, J. Kurz, R. Meszaros, C. Swearingen.

Call to Order

Property Committee Chair Johnson called the meeting to order and presided.

Solar Panels

Absent any objection, agenda item 5. was advanced to accommodate guests representing the library. J. Kurz, R. Meszaros and Library Director C. Swearingen appeared in favor of installation of solar panels on the hilltop east of the library. Mr. Kurz offered the following:

*The \$79,000 cost, which is firm for a very limited time, will be donated by the Rusk County Library Foundation Inc., and others, including a \$14,000 rebate from Focus on Energy. The Foundation previously covered the cost of a security system at the library, which has been effective in reducing theft of CDs, in particular.

*The solar array is expected to provide for about 70% of the library's power needs, saving an estimated \$400/month.

*It was decided not to pursue a system that tracks the sun as it wasn't deemed as cost effective.

*The Library Board is supportive of the project.

There was a suggestion that the 26-panel array be fenced and lighted, although it was noted that fencing might mark it as a target for vandalism.

Motion was made by Christianson, seconded by Reynolds and carried by voice vote to recommend to the Park Board that it allow library interests to locate a 20' X 60' solar panel array to be sited on top of the hill immediately east of the library. It is uncertain whether the Council needs to act on this, but it will be placed on the next agenda so that base is covered.

Fire Hall Doors/Boiler

Attention was called to a Quote to replace last three original doors at the fire hall, which is nearing 20 years old. Salt is taking a toll on the doors. Motion was made by Christianson Sr., seconded by Johnson and carried by voice vote to recommend Council approval of the Indianhead Glass quote of \$14,330 to replace the three doors.

It was reported that it has become increasingly difficult to keep the fire hall boiler running. Motion was made by Christianson Sr., seconded by Reynolds and carried by voice vote to recommend Council approval of the Rhoads Heating quote of \$11,344 to replace the boiler.

Maintenance Position

Reference was made to Rusk County's "Maintenance Manager" job description, which could for a basis for a similar position this committee has advocated be created in view of difficulty finding contractors to do timely, smaller jobs at the City's 63 buildings and numerous additional structures. Mr. Gorseger noted there is a trove of generic job descriptions that was gathered some years back, which he will locate. Motion was made by Reynolds and seconded by Johnson and carried by voice vote to advance this matter to the Personnel Committee for its consideration including, but not limited to, finalizing a job description and determining how to pay for the position.

Wetland Walkway

It was noted that people persist in tipping over the barricade at the Fritz Ave. access to the wetland walkway. The PW Dept. will see if can get Camp Flambeau to assist with the following:

- *Remove the section of walkway closest to Fritz Ave.
- *Remove (and store?) the sign calling attention to the walkway.
- *Semi-permanently attach a "closed" sign.
- *Remove remains of damaged trees located on r.o.w. near the aforementioned access.

It was mentioned that plowing snow off the parking lot across Fritz Ave. from the access area has resulted in a lot of gravel being deposited in the wetland. Plowing across streets is generally adverse to State law. Some who do so clean up troublesome ridges fairly well, while others do not or create additional work for City crews by how or where they leave the snow.

Lots Available

Adm. Chrstianson reported that lots are coming up for sale just across the access road into the industrial area ballfields. Acquiring these now could facilitate one or more of the following in the future:

- *Provision of a play area for children whose older siblings are playing on the ballfields.
- *Addition of a third ballfield at this location.
- *Addition or relocation of parking that serves the ballfields.

Some sentiment was expressed that the price seems high considering development limitations. Concern was also expressed about a buyer potentially wanting to build a home there, which would necessitate dead end utility main extensions that abutting owners likely would not want to pay assessments on. It was decided to take a "wait and see" posture for now.

Wood Carvings

There was renewed discussion of possibly having chainsaw carvings done of a lumberjack, and a Native American or a voyageur. Earlier discussion was set aside at about the onset of the pandemic. The lumberjack would be located in Memorial Park and the other carving at the south approach to the Brooklyn Bridge. Adm. Christianson stated a local carver is interested in doing them provided an appropriate log is available. It was recalled that Jake Martino/Ken Retzlaff and Al Lobermeier previously offered logs for this purpose, so could be asked again.

Façade Program Rules

Mr. Reynolds restated his desire to consider revising Façade Program rules to get closer to the original intent to focus on building exteriors. He also stated that a separate program could, perhaps, be created to assist with work that would be eliminated from the Façade Program. Adm. Christianson provided a history of the Program. A. Christianson Sr. will provide copies of the resolutions which modified the original Program rules.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Reynolds, seconded by Christianson Sr. and carried by voice vote to adjourn at 6:35.