

JANUARY 30, 2017, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:15 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: R. Moore, B. Stoneberg, J. Pearson. Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, B. Morgan, D. Parker, M. Reynolds.

Plow Shed

Adm. Christianson reported that he is slated to meet with the County Property Committee March 10th, to seek its support for development of a plow shed that will increase the plow museum's display capacity by about two thirds. It is anticipated that making a "plow shed" available might result in significant additional plow donations. Adm. Christianson would like to go with Mr. Tomasovich to meet with a prospective plow donor and be able to offer suitable display space and assure the donor of recognition for pieces that might be donated.

Mrs. Stoneberg questioned if we should wait and see how many visit the plow museum before putting more money into it. Mayor Reynolds countered that increasing the number of units on display should increase visits. Just constructing a well drained gravel pad remains an option. While that is probably a suitable solution if items that have been out in the open for years are to remain so. If they are to be repaired and repainted like the current collection has been, however, then they will warrant better protection to maintain that condition. Those present seemed to concur that all who have donated to the museum should be recognized whether they donated equipment, materials or services.

Support was expressed for increased marketing of the museum. Thus far, the primary means of marketing has been distribution [by Ed Tomasovich] of flyers at farm shows, tractor and steam engine shows held in central Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota. It is estimated that some of these events draw as many as 10,000 people.

When asked how he would propose such shed be paid for, Adm. Christianson responded he would suggest use of Mining Fund dollars. It was noted, in response to a question about what the County is doing, that the County budgeted funds to install security fencing and do gravel [actually blacktop] work in 2017.

Miner Park

Those present looked at some folk art ideas that a local artist associated with the Fine Arts Center Gallery would be willing to do to add color to Miner Park. A few were selected. Adm. Christianson will seek information on cost of materials and supplies the City will need to cover. He will also seek permission from the property owners adjoining Miner Park to paint such art on their buildings.

Rail Displays

Those present were asked if they have any creative ideas on how luggage would be protected from the elements if it were to be added to the carts to be displayed at the planned Lake Avenue Rail Display. A question was raised whether protective acrylic sheets on the building sides or spraying the items with a clear coat would help. These approaches likely have considerable limitations. It may be best to focus on using more durable freight in addition to the crates that have already been built and treated with linseed oil. To this end Mr. Morgan noted a wooden barrel has already been obtained and that adding a couple smaller farm plows is another option. With proper signage these plows could also serve to call attention to the plow museum. The barrel will require some repair to its rings.

Holiday Decorations

Those present selected a half dozen holiday greeting card ideas to be enlarged onto 4'x8' sheets for use downtown, in Memorial Park, or both. These will not be exact replicas of the original cards and will have different messages. There was also discussion on how to price these. Dividing \$1,509 by six suggests \$251.50 each, or \$250 rounded. No objections were stated to this pricing. It was reported that a local attorney has already expressed interest in sponsoring one if it is "lawyerly". That could be accomplished by painting an attorney's office as the backdrop for a group of carolers; one of the scenes selected.

Farmer's Market

Those present were provided notes put together by the Farmer's Market manager in regard to how that group might support a new or improved facility and how such new or upgraded facility might help meet City goals and objectives. These notes will be discussed further at a future meeting. It was suggested that, if plans for the locomotive shelter were used, costly engineered drawings might be avoided. Using this style structure in this application would also promote uniformity.

Veterans Silhouettes

The Fine Arts Center Gallery has provided a quote of \$855 to make five veterans silhouettes to ascend the ramp into the passenger car at the rail display. Two of the five would be a nurse pushing a wounded soldier in a wheelchair, although the latter might get lost behind the railing unless set just before the ramp starts. Another would be a soldier atop the ramp platform saluting three others marching up the ramp with rifles shouldered. A total of six. The Gallery may prepare patterns for cutting the silhouettes out of metal, which Northern Machine might be able to do. Then the Gallery could paint them black. Cost estimates will be adjusted accordingly. There is some preference for doing these in more permanent metal, so a revised cost estimate will be sought based on that.

Mr. Morgan restated his desire to have an engineer and conductor painted to appear in the locomotive and a passenger car in the rail display. He prefers they be in full color rather than appear as silhouettes.

Folk Art

Those present looked through some folk art a local artist would be willing to work on with only actual costs charged for materials and supplies. Four depictions were selected from among several ideas the artist had provided. [The Fine Arts Center Gallery later provided a cost estimate of \$620 to do these.]

Camping

There was discussion of campsites at Wagon Bridge Landing, and of potentially allowing limited camping in Falge or Memorial Parks. And of allowing a private campground owner to manage these on the City's behalf. There are currently three tent campsites at the boat landing that were built circa 2001 as an Eagle Scout project. These probably need to be upgraded/maintained. A handful more could be added.

Bridge Painting

No update.

Historic Pioneers Mural

Those present seemed to support re-installing the historic pioneers mural (banner?) in Miner Park. It was replaced on the east side of the former True Value by the second veterans mural. [The following had also been suggested as possible locations

-On the west side of Express Nails.

- On the west side of the Curiosity Shop; over some of the gray vinyl siding.
- On the Old Ladysmith Bakery site, where a new frame would be needed to support it.
- On the east side of the Miner Theatre.]

Events

There was discussion of developing additional events and promotions at those times of year when activities that draw visitors are lacking. Some possibilities were mentioned.

Uniformity

Mrs. Pearson advocated uniformity in signage and, to that end, indicated the Park Board will be switching to a blue background with the main entrance sign at Memorial Park.

Full Size Covered Bridge

It was mentioned that painting the covered footbridge in Falge Park bright red might increase its already popular role as a photo (graduation pictures, etc.) backdrop. If that proves to be the case, consideration could be given to constructing a full size counterpart along Falge Park Drive, where the culvert currently is. That small area could be dredged to create "water under the bridge". Being near Hwy. 27 and perpendicular to it could be a real eye-catcher and draw the attention of passersby who might take photos there to document their stop. A picture of that style bridge from this month's issue of Country Magazine was passed around. This idea was first floated here in 1991. The City is in possession of construction plans for the Smith Rapids Bridge, a covered bridge in Price County, so might be able to use those to avoid the cost of new plan preparation. Those present seem to like this project idea.

Cut Outs

Adm. Christianson stated that the Christmas cutouts he thought the Fine Arts Center Gallery was making were for Thanksgiving instead. The Gallery has, however, provided a quote of \$680 to do a life size snowman and Santa with their faces cut out so that folks can take photos with their own faces in them. It was suggested that Mrs. Santa be added along with a pair of elves and that the elves faces be cut out, but not those of Santa or Mrs. Santa. Similarly, it was suggested that there be 3-4 snowmen with the faces cut out on just the kid-sized ones. [A revised cost estimate of \$769 was provided later.]

Plow Museum Sign

Adm. Christianson noted that, while returning from Chippewa Falls, he saw a real tractor mounted atop a large post denoting the tractor repair business on the premises. A real plow atop a post on the SE corner of the plow museum site might serve to do the same. [It would be considered an on-premises sign.] While a windmill planned to be erected nearby should reinforce the agricultural nature of the museum, this is another way to do so and provide an instantly recognizable visual of what is inside.

Home Remodeling

Main Street Director Christianson passed around a photo of a dwelling on the SE corner of E. 8th and Lake, which ICAA is using grant funds to rehab for the purposes of making workforce housing available and to reduce the blighting impact it had on the surrounding neighborhood.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at about 6:45 p.m.