

**OCTOBER 17, 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING GUIDE**

5:15 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: R. Moore, B. Morgan for B. Stoneberg, J. Pearson. Others present: A. Christianson 1, A. Christianson 2, A. Kenyon, C. Nichols, D. Parker, M. Reynolds, P. Ruege.

**Call to Order:**

Committee Chair Pearson called the meeting to order.

**Military Mural:**

It was reported that about 45 people have expressed interest in additional military mural depictions; some for more than one. So, putting up one that will have 50 or 60 might be doable. The last location discussed was at the parking lot west of the P.O., where a two sided structure 30 feet long could be erected, essentially across Miner Ave. from the large one.

A key issue is what do we charge for new depictions? Depictions alone are running \$250; painting supplies \$70; mural frames \$100; and, lighting about \$70 on average. A total of \$490, suggesting a fee of \$500, which may significantly reduce interest. There was discussion of possibly subsidizing charges for City residents, while recovering the full cost from non-residents. As with graves. The likelihood of gray areas are a concern. How are former residents or family members of long time residents dealt with?

It was noted that mounting nailing strips on the side of a building that is also lit by nearby streetlights can result in savings of nearly \$170 on the \$490 cost. The original intent was for these murals to be self supporting. Can they be money makers? Should they be? The west side of the Ace Hardware complex has a large blank wall, but receives very limited traffic.

**Rail Display Proposal:**

A question has been raised whether it may be feasible to use TIF funds for a proposed new rail display project. Adm. Christianson replied that the City has justified spending a great deal more than this project would cost to work on rail displays in and adjacent to TIFD #9, on the basis that they attract visitors and potential investment into the Hwy. 27 retail corridor. There is a fair amount of vacant or underutilized property in TIFD#8, which encompasses the tornado damaged portion of downtown. Beautification projects to help attract investment into this area are eligible for TIF assistance. The decision whether or not to do so is the Council's.

It was suggested that, perhaps, the current farmer's market pavilion might be moved for reuse to house the above mentioned new rail display planned to be located at the downtown gateway parking lot along Lake Ave. and an all- new farmer's market pavilion be built. [The current pavilion is four and one third times the size of what is planned for the rail display.]

**Restrooms:**

After noting it is more of a Park Board item, Adm. Christianson said recent issues with the Falge Park restroom lateral have brought his attention to other possible shortcomings. It is quite distant from other park facilities. Making it a little more attractive might make the long walk seem just a bit shorter. The following might be a couple ways to do that.

- Paint the dark brown doors a light sand color.
- Plant the hillside west of it with a ground cover like white and lavender Phlox.
- Plant half whiskey barrels with marigolds to place around it.

**Plow Donations:**

It was reported that plow museum curator Ed Tomasovich has been offered five additional plows, all of which are said to be in very good shape, and two of which are not of the variety now on display; one being horse drawn and one being a disc plow. While the other three are of the type currently displayed each is a different model or variation of those already displayed. As such, it is anticipated they will be accepted into the collection although, perhaps, to be left largely in their current state. Ed would like to see a gravel pad placed in back of the museum to display them. Those present are all in favor of accepting the donation. It was suggested they be covered as they will deteriorate in time. It was suggested that a mezzanine inside might increase display capacity. This will be investigated.

**Campfire Night:**

Adm. Christianson reported that he provided Spectrum Insurance with a description of the proposed "Camp Fire Night" plans and that firm's representative [Joe Lonsdale] replied that "I don't see any issues". Main Street Director Christianson responded to a question by stating that it is his intent to personally take responsibility for this or, if he is unavailable, get someone else to do so.

**Alcohol Use on Public Property:**

Both Mrs. Stoneberg and Mr. Reynolds questioned the need to have alcohol at public events. [This subject is on the Legal Affairs Committee's upcoming agenda.]

**Holiday Decorations:**

It was recalled that, owing to the poor condition of some holiday decorations the City has had for some time, there was talk of relocating remaining ones downtown. The Fine Arts Center Gallery has repaired/repainted some of these to extend their useful lives. [This is a hot topic on the Remember Ladysmith When internet site. While folks who remember the old decs miss the garland and bells that were strung across Miner Ave., they also miss the large display of years past in Memorial Park. So, eliminating them anywhere will likely not be well received.]

There was brief mention of the former Reeves holiday display. Mrs. Stoneberg will inquire whether there might possibly be any willingness to make it available for City use. The owners were quite frustrated by thefts and vandalism when they last had it set up.

A question was raised about the status of playing holiday music downtown. The speakers that were mounted on top of the north exterior wall of City Hall were shot. It may be possible to replace those, but an issue arose over needing licensing to play the music. It is believed this can be arranged thru WLDY-WJBL, albeit at a price. Mrs. Stoneberg will also look into this with the station manager.

It was noted that others might also be willing to donate lights or displays of made aware of the need for them.

**Occupational/Personal Interest Mural:**

Two existing streetlights on that side of 1<sup>st</sup> St. should illuminate this proposed mural. The owners of this property had anticipated a depiction of local stock car racers would be placed off the west end of Bo James' Café. The property owner's tow truck might tend to block it at this location. [Maybe it can be set up higher than current murals.]

**Farmer's Market:**

While no promise was made that anything can or will be done, Farmer's Market Manager Martha Smart took a copy of the MSA sketch of a concept for enlarging the pavilion so she can share it at the Market's annual planning meeting, which is coming up soon. She noted the vendors would really like additional covered space shown. Her primary concern with the sketch is that adding only to the south of the present one will make it very tight between the building and fence at the south end. If the current building could be moved further north and then be added on to it should fit the available space better.

**Overlook:**

There was brief discussion of three colorful table umbrellas for the tables at Flambeau River Overlook. A quote of about \$1,780 includes weighted bases and shipping. The purpose is to add more color and interest to draw attention to it. This could, perhaps, be a cost to TIFD #8. Adm. Christianson still needs to talk with Subway Manager Schoonover about calling attention to available seating. Mr. Ruege suggested consideration be given to replacing the time worn wooden table there with durable concrete tables.

**Motorcar Railway:**

Adm. Christianson stated that he sent out a letter to abutting owners seeking input on a potential motorcar railway line between Memorial Park and the fairgrounds. He was not entirely surprised that they were adverse, but was surprised that all were, and to what extent. One spouse was said to be so upset that she literally went crying to a neighbor about it. He went on to say he has no intent to pursue this location further. He will further investigate the Flambeau Mine site instead.

**Bridge Painting:**

It was noted that a very favorable Proposal has been received to hand paint the Brooklyn Memorial Bridge. It does contain conditions, however, which Mr. Christianson will follow up on with WisDOT.

**JREC:**

Mayor Reynolds advised that consideration is being given to relocating Jump River Electric Cooperative's facilities to Hayward, which would result in loss of an estimated 30 good paying jobs locally.

He also noted someone is considering making a downtown building available for a youth community center.

**Appearance:**

Chuck Nichols appeared in regard to recent approval of the location of a data tower. He described issues such towers and other microwave emitters cause for folks like him who have implantable cardiac defibrillators, or ICDs. He asked that careful thought be given to try to locate such towers way from places people are likely to be, like in Ace Hardware, and that the Council decision be reconsidered if it can be. Mr. Nichols was thanked for his input.

**Adjourn:**

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