

OCTOBER 5, 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:15 p.m. Council Chamber. Member present: R. Moore, B. Morgan for B. Stoneberg, J. Pearson. Others present: A. Christianson 1, A. Christianson 2, K. Gorseger, D. Parker.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair J. Pearson called the meeting to order:

Campfires:

Main Street Director A. Christianson appeared to ask consideration of allowing occasional campfires in a portable fire pit that would be set up at a specific site downtown. Miner Park was mentioned. The intention is to have music involved; most likely a single guitarist. The portable fire pit would be removed, along with the ashes and any other debris, immediately following each use. He will discuss specifics further with both the police chief and fire chief. He would take personal responsibility for all aspects. The purpose would be to help get more younger workers to come downtown and think of it as a fun place. While a local tavern keeper's attempts to do something similar haven't been approved, the unresolved issue has been one of inadequate access and egress through an attached building. [Maybe a trial run would be useful.]

Alcohol Use:

The campfire discussion led to mention that Ladysmith is perceived by some to be a lot more restrictive than other communities as regards consumption of beer and wine in public spaces, usually during public events like Mardi Gras. While beer and wine may not be sold in City parks, without necessary licenses, they may be privately consumed in those parks specifically listed in our ordinance. Downtown green spaces like Miner and Centennial Parks are not on that list, but could be added to it by Council action. City ordinances also allow beer and wine to be consumed on boulevards along the Mardi Gras parade route during that event only. That could, perhaps, also be expanded to include other occasions such as Leaf It To Rusk Festival. It was suggested that the Legal Affairs Committee give consideration to these changes and advise the Council.

Sculpture Project:

It was recalled that, at the Committee's August 15, meeting, RCMH Administrator C. Oland made a presentation inviting the City to consider getting involved in a traveling sculpture program in an effort to make the downtown more attractive. Up to 10 sculptures might be leased for one year and be set up in highly visible locations to become an attraction in and of themselves. Some might be sold to local sponsors. Others would be replaced with different ones at year's end. Those present were asked their thoughts on this. It was mentioned that the Main Street Organization Committee heard the same presentation. While that Committee felt the specific program suggested might be too costly they like the general idea and are investigating an approach that could involve less expensive locally made sculptures.

Rail Display Proposal:

Those present were asked their thoughts on Sue Moore's recent offer/proposal to contribute \$5,000, possibly more, toward development of a small, new rail related display in the downtown gateway parking lot. The proposed site just across the sidewalk from the tornado memorial, at the center of the lot, would involve removing four small gardens and an area of pavers. The pavers might be reused at the same location or be used elsewhere on the site.

Adm. Christianson is seeking cost estimates as follows:

-General construction materials-Tony Lumber-just over \$4,000.

- General construction labor, equipment and incidentals-Hoover Construction.
- Wire two City supplied vintage light fixtures and an outlet to accommodate holiday lighting-J L Electric.
- 11' x 21' x 6" concrete slab-D C Crete.
- Six 10' sections of black metal fence to match that in Miner Park-Northern Machine.
- Construction/painting of numerous shipping crates-Camp Flambeau.
- Lettering of above mentioned shipping crates

Regarding lettering the shipping crates, it was mentioned that Stanton Signs or the LHS tech ed department may be set up to cut stencils.

A concern was raised that people might stop once to see a static display but an interactive display might cause them to stop again in the future. A plywood railroad engineer depiction with a face cut out so family members could take photos of each other was mentioned as a possibility. There will be an attempt to come up with other ways of making it more interesting.

Several fund raising ideas were mentioned for this project, including but not limited to the following:

- a progressive dinner at downtown restaurants
- a small train horn that can be blown
- wine and cheese tasting at the current rail display
- a City medallion hunt, or similar

A question was raised whether a hand pump driven rail vehicle could be added to the display. Mr. Morgan responded that one was believed to be sitting out in the rural area, but wasn't located when looked for some time back. Another attempt to locate it may be made next spring before vegetation comes on. When available, they sell for about \$10,000. A question was asked whether one could be built from plans if plans were secured. Mr. Morgan went on to say that he is trying to work out a deal to obtain two more section cars (a/k/a motorcars, speeders, putt putts) from Eric Thompson, who traded for a combine car owned by the City.

History Markers:

During a discussion a few weeks ago of developing a local history marker program, it was suggested that a second local quote be sought. One had been received from The Sign Shop. While that second quote has been requested, it has not been received.

Occupational/Personal Interest Mural:

It was reported that mural artist Kelly Meredith is willing to get right at 2-4 occupational or personal interest (hobbies) mural depictions that could serve as examples to determine how much interest there might be in more of these. The plan would be to place this mural on the west side of 1st St. south of the Bo James Café. Mrs. Pearson will seek photos from the abutting landowner for the first depiction. Two existing streetlights on that side of 1st St. should illuminate these.

Pavilion:

Those present reviewed a sketch depicting how the current farmer's market pavilion might be expanded to the south to more than double its size. The sketch shows a taller center section. Another section to the south would be a mirror image of the current pavilion. A cost estimate has not been sought pending response to the sketch. Adm. Christianson will review the sketch with a farmer's market rep to get input as loss of green space and other aspects might be deemed more detrimental than beneficial.

River Overlook and Use:

A photo of the Flambeau River Overlook was passed around with some colored table umbrella cutouts added. These were depicted in the original concept sketch to add color and interest, but have never been purchased. These could help draw attention to it as a place to have lunch or just enjoy the fantastic review view. Chances are very few visitors and even many residents are aware it is there.

There seemed to be consensus that, although the Flambeau River is probably our best natural feature, it remains underutilized. It was recalled that, several years back, City sponsored pontoon rides were investigated. It is thought that insurance costs resulted on it being dropped from consideration. Mike Hraban had also advocated tagging fish for release into the Ladysmith Flowage. Tags would indicate prizes those catching these fish would win. The purpose of this promotion would be to increase fishing on this portion of the river.

It was also noted that there has been a good deal of talk recently about allowing limited stay camping in Memorial Park, as it once was, and also Falge Park. [Carnival workers do it.] It is believed the lady that ran the Park Cabins managed it. Similarly, a local campground manager could oversee it, collect fees, keep records and share in the revenue, which might reduce or eliminate any claim of unfair competition.

Street Names:

While noting he tends to have far greater interest in local history than many, Adm. Christianson stated that most residents don't know Ladysmith was previously named Corbett, Warner and, in some folks' estimation the best, Flambeau Falls. While Corbett Lake and Corbett Ave. have that name etched in our history, the other two names seem all but forgotten. He suggested that, if and when the opportunity arises, maybe in some new subdivision, that consideration be given to naming streets for Flambeau Falls and Warner.

As no facility is believed to have an address on E. 14th Street S., between Weather Shield and the paper mill, and as the actual falls in the river were located where the Ladysmith Hydro Plant now is, at the north end of E. 14th St., it might be comparatively easy to rename E. 14 St. S. as Flambeau Falls Drive (or Street).

Adjourn:

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