

DECEMBER 27, 2016, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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

Plow Museum:

Those present viewed a 4 minute plow museum promotional video and were advised that Discover Wisconsin is seeking feedback so it can wrap this job up. The following were among considerations mentioned:

- Maybe a tag line can be added mentioning that donations will be welcome.
- Nobody who commented liked the background music selected.
- Those who commented feel opening and closing statements about the purpose of the two videos should be added.

Ed Tomasovich noted, in response to a question, that he has already had several major items donated since the plow museum has opened. This has included five plows in real nice shape, and one 35' windmill. Some horse drawn plows may be in the offing. At this rate he may not be able to assimilate them. Horse drawn plows may be easier to display on the previously discussed "shelf". It was noted again that the walls are quite bare and might represent an opportunity to hang vintage signs and photos of plows working on local farms, if those can be found. [Note: A recent news article forecast that plows, as we have known them, will disappear in the next decade.]

Downtown Campfire:

The Main Street Director reported that the first downtown campfire held the night of Winter Magic went quite well and has resulted in other Main Street communities asking how it was done. At one point three (contained) campfires could have been used. A couple participants offered to tend additional fires if more than one were to be used. Another participant went and got more wood.

Table Umbrellas:

Photos of Miner Park were passed around. It was noted that colored table umbrellas might add some interest to the somewhat stark setting and that, unlike the Flambeau River Overlook, wind might not be a problem with buildings on both sides. Mrs. Stoneberg advocated adding floral designs on adjoining walls if the adjacent owners (Farrington, Ralston) would agree.

Rail Displays:

Mr. Morgan suggested sending a local crew to pick up the second motorcar the City paid for and bring it back to Ladysmith from Chisago City, MN. Mr. Tomasovich's winch equipped trailer may work for this purpose. It has capacity to pull on a vehicle weighing up to 3,700 lbs. Mr. Morgan hopes the motorcar can be picked up within the next month. Mr. Tomasovich indicated willingness to help, but added that he doesn't use this vehicle when roads have salt on them.

Mr. Morgan also said the items (carts, shipping crates) to be displayed in the planned Lake Ave. rail display are nearly ready. [Attempts to identify someone who can make stencils for lettering the crates hasn't been successful as yet.]

Holiday Decorations:

It had been noted that, in its first couple of years, the Memorial Park holiday display consisted primarily of privately sponsored and locally made, seasonal scenes and greeting cards, which were painted; often on 4'x 8' sheets of sign board. They were also set up by volunteers. Since then, no more painted items

were added. In recent years the popular display has been shrunk for cost reasons and this year Camp Flambeau did some set up in lieu of the City crew. Mrs. Pearson had noted that basing painted greeting cards on vintage holiday cards might be very appealing, if these can be found. Those present agreed with that. It was reported that boxes of vintage cards seem to be available at Books A Million if they haven't sold out. Mr. Möörë will try to pick some up on the 28th. If he is unable to, Mrs. Stoneberg's will do so on the 29th.

Mrs. Stoneberg advocated that more money be set aside from the general fund reserve and that dollars be added annually to cover the cost of replacing decorations that deteriorate and are removed. It was noted that this is a choice the Council can make. The past couple years this set aside has been \$2,000. [Maybe a cost to TIFD #8?]

Over the years a number of residents have advocated restoration of the garland and decorations over Miner Ave. Local chat sites continue to affirm this desire. Real conifer garland or "roping" was previously strung on wires that ran between light poles and/or buildings. Most of these anchors were lost in the tornado as were some of the very buildings they were affixed to. They would likely need to be between light poles if redone. Some of the older poles removed when the new ones were set up could, perhaps, be refurbished to serve just this purpose although, by the time new bases would be set up, it might get to be a costly venture. Cost estimates will be put together. Clearance would also be needed from Xcel to be sure they would allow connecting to their poles on one end of each. [If there are issues they are likely to involve insurance or minimal specs to which light poles may be built that don't allow for extra wind loading.] [These inquiries has been initiated.]

Mr. Morgan reported that, next year, Ace Hardware plans to put holiday lighting around the fence that encloses Old Smoky and, perhaps, the shelter as well.

At the end of the meeting a donation was made of holiday decorations just purchased at close out.

Farmer's Market:

As has been mentioned, the farmer's market user group is heavily in favor of relocating to a new facility at the downtown gateway parking lot, if the City is amenable. Like the Lake Ave. rail display this could, perhaps, be built off drilled posts, using existing asphalt pavement as its floor. TIFD #8 seems a likely source of funding as this will be expected to draw people closer to the heart of downtown compared to the current facility at the west edge. Those present viewed a schematic Morgan & Parmley prepared, which indicates the footprint of such new pavilion. A copy is attached.

Reasons the farmer's market group prefers the near courthouse location include the following:

-Whereas the current pavilion provides, at most, 8 spaces for vendors to back up to sell their wares under partial cover, a new one could accommodate up to 25.

-There is a desire to be farther away from the railroad. Mr. Morgan stated that train noise is 105 decibels trackside, while the accepted hearing safety standard is 65-70 decibels.

-There is inadequate room to grow and lack of handy customer parking at the current location. The near courthouse location offers 14 stalls on Krist Oil property and another 20 east of the WI Bell building, which are seldom used.

Adm. Christianson will seek cost estimates so that information is available if this option is to be considered further.

It was noted, in response to a question, that the farmer's market vendors have not paid to use it; that the assumption has been that the market draws people into both the community and downtown where they are then likely to spend at other businesses as well. [The current pavilion cost the City little or nothing as it was built with donated labor and materials after the 2002 tornado.]

A question was raised whether the planned Lake Ave. rail display will block the view of a farmer's market pavilion; if the rail display is built in the north center part of the lot. As the display shelter is to be 20' long, and the farmer's market pavilion could be up to 130', the latter should be readily visible regardless. A raised center section, as had been proposed at the current site, will enable adding signage and banners/flags to call attention. Temporary banners/flags could also be erected at the corners of Hwy. 8 and E. 2nd and E. 3rd Streets on days the market is open.

A question was also raised whether an entry/exit would need to be added at the east end of the lot. [Doug later estimated that a new 16'x22' opening there would cost \$3,014 to construct, including demo of existing improvements.]

Veterans Murals:

It was previously reported that the farmer's market group would be pleased to have a veterans mural trackside if they are to remain at that location. Location options have been discussed for quite some time and, in the meantime, the City has slipped down the mural artist's work schedule. [The location will be noted in promotional materials and app forms as this is something applicants want to know.] There was a consensus that inside the chain link fence at the current farmer's market site is the best location as it affords adequate room to relocate the mural currently on the east side of the former True Value and allows for a very sizeable and visible mural that could accommodate a large number (over 100 depending on setbacks) of depictions. It is understood that the mural will need to be set back on both ends to allow a clear view of approaching trains. Adm. Christianson will contact the CN about this. Motion was made by Pearson, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to recommend Council approval of locating the next mural by the chain link fence on the west side of the farmer's market, to include relocating the 20 depictions on the east side of the former True Value to this new location.

Bridge Painting:

It was recalled that Mike Hraban reported at last Monday's All Committee meeting that some folks are interested in repainting the Brooklyn Memorial Bridge dark blue rather than black in remembrance of Deputy Dan Glaze (and other fallen officers?). There was discussion of whether this would be in memory of all fallen officers and firefighters, which most felt would be a good idea. There did seem to be agreement that it should be a solid blue rather than black and blue.

It was also recalled that, at the All Committee meeting, a depiction of the covered footbridge in Falge Park painted red was shown. There seemed to be agreement this would be a nice upgrade [and practical in extending the life of the footbridge]. As the Lions Club originally built this bridge in 1993, Mr. Moore will ask the club at its December 28, meeting if it is interested in assisting with this proposed upgrade. Availability of power at that location is also being investigated to facilitate holiday lighting to outline the bridge and its windows. There is power in the nearby pump house so extending it should be an option.

Metal Sculptures:

Those present were provided review copies of a draft "Equipment Lease" pursuant to which metal artist Vic Rouleau would fabricate 10 metal sculptures, which would be leased to the City for \$25 each annually. The artist would have them advertised for sale, but without the concrete bases, which would

be installed by and remain property of the City. Mr. Rouleau will base his prices on an assumption that the City will cast in place 3'x 2' burial marker type bases that will raise the 4-5' tall sculptures somewhat, while anchoring them. Ideally, local donors would buy some to allow them to remain in place, where they are, permanently. Any that would be sold and removed would be replaced with new ones of the same or different designs. It is anticipated that most will be of plants (sunflowers) and insects (bees, butterflies, dragonflies), which members have seen in front of Rouleau's property along Highway 27 S. The City would want to approve each design before it is made. Mr. Rouleau and Atty. Kenyon will both be asked to review and comment on the draft lease, which Atty. Kenyon provided the sample for. Motion was made by Stoneberg seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to recommend to the Council that this Equipment Lease be approved in concept.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at about 6:30 p.m.