

APRIL 30, 2018, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:15 p.m. Court Room. Members present: J. Fields, J. Pearson, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorsegner, A. Kenyon, L. Klink.

Call to Order:

Chair Fields called the meeting to order and presided.

Sound System:

Mr. Fields and Atty. Kenyon led discussion of rules that apply when playing music in public forums, such as playing holiday music over loud speakers downtown. While it is generally quite expensive to buy the right to do so through licensing agencies like ASCAP, CSAP and BMI it appears it might be possible to do for \$348 yearly. Mr. Fields will continue to investigate on our behalf. Another option may be to get permission from local artists like Mario Friedel to play original music they have recorded. It was noted that ASCAP is suing the radio station in Hayward at this time. Mr. Fields will also procure cost quotes for weather proof speakers.

Farmers Market:

Chief Julien and Adm. Christianson feel that it is hard to predict traffic patterns that may result from relocation to the parking lot west of the Government Center. This market season will be a learning experience. Adm. Christianson did say he feels adding a driveway at the east end will create a hazard. Making that driveway one way in only may reduce that hazard. Taking out four east end parking stalls to direct traffic back to the alley is another option. Exiting the current driveway on the west end provides better sighting distances, although that is not without hazards either owing to the close proximity of both the Lake Ave. intersection and the mid-block alley and turning movements emanating from both. Those present agreed that, for now, we will observe how it works and adjust as may be necessary.

Old Holiday Decorations:

Adm. Christianson stated that there are a lot of fond memories of old Miner Ave. holiday decorations expressed on Facebook. He shares those, but all of the following work against ever seeing them again:

- Many anchors in buildings were lost in 2002 tornado.
- Xcel doesn't want stringers on its light poles.
- Light poles are not located across from each other.
- City's insurers don't want City anchoring anything in privately-owned buildings.
- Large old style decorations are apparently no longer made, although monitoring Ebay might reveal used ones for sale.

He suggested, however, that it might be possible to replicate that look in a visible area such as around the same parking lot where the farmer's market is to be relocated. This could be done by erecting old light poles (we have in stock) there after they are repaired and using our limited supply of remaining vintage decorations. [Real roping a/k/a garland is still available through Barokas in Fifield.]

Status Reports:

The following updates were provided as regards several projects currently in progress, or under ongoing discussion.

Bridge Repainting

Observers have reported seeing rust already coming through the new bridge paint. The water side isn't even done yet. If buffing rust out with naval jelly works maybe the Camp crew could spend a day on that endeavor. The contractor says he will be at work on the water side the third week of May, weather permitting.

Holiday Cards

Four downtown building depictions were approved to be added this year. A question was raised how the four shown were selected. It was stated that FAC Gallery selected them; presumably because they are easily recognized structures. To his credit, Mr. Ruege was able to find sponsors for each of the holiday cards made last year. It was suggested that Pioneer Bank and Fifth Quarter might also be easily recognized in painted depictions.

Salt Shields

It has been suggested that scenes be painted on plywood for placement around the four sides of the Victory Tree to serve the dual purpose of being winter salt shields. A Proposal to make these was provided. Those present reviewed a few vintage street scenes artists suggested might be used. The Committee prefers to do same patriotic themes that would complement the nearby veteran's murals.

Lake Ave. Rail Display

Those spearheading this project are anxious to get the ties and track in to enable placing the vehicles. Adm. Christianson needs to get his two sticks of vintage CR&M track cut.

Plow Sign

This sign is done, but RCHS may need assistance with placing vintage windmill that is also planned.

Veteran's Silhouettes

These are done and were seen at LHS. Once frost is out they will be placed by the Visitor Center rail display so the figures appear to be ascending the ramp into the train.

Vet's Murals

Depictions on the Brooklyn mural at E. 3rd and River are up.

Native Carving

Mr. East will be retiring mid-summer and hopes to get at this carving after that. It may be easier to secure a log locally than to take Al Lobermeier's offer of one from his property. Another option, and maybe City can do both, is to have Artisans print a mural of the photo of the actual concrete one. A preference was expressed to install the new carving at the south end of the bridge where the original had stood (near Rusty Timber), and a real size (10-12'?) photo in or near Memorial Park.

History Notes

A copy of possible text for several Ladysmith Historical Notes was distributed for review. These would be like downsized historical markers placed in appropriate places around the community to tell our local history. These would be educational for residents and, maybe, interesting to visitors. It can be surprising how little even long-time residents know of our past. placards could be printed on to call attentions to locations of historic Like where the "bloody bucket" murder really happened. These might be configured like interpretive signs along nature trails mounted atop 4x4 posts with screw on acrylic covers fabricated by ADF. While there may be cheaper ways to make these, a preference was expressed for using quality materials such as anodized aluminum panels with or without photos. It was suggested that Wisconsin Screen press might be able to make these.

History Walk

These snippets of local history might be used as the basis for a "history walk" that might be of interest to residents and visitors. A trifold type flyer could be used to link these to. About ten such placards were made several years ago, with the \$60 cost paid largely by building owners. The ink used on those exposed to the sun quickly faded, and none more were made. Perhaps UV resistant acrylic covers could be made?

Future Project Options:

Covered Bridge

Adm. Christianson stated that although he knows some will consider it a total waste that a covered bridge over Falge Park Drive would be a real eye catcher for travelers. [A photo opportunity in waiting.]

Cut Outs

Mayor Christianson suggested that scenes with cut outs for faces such as those used over winter might also be popular for photos at the Mardi Gras. These might be placed near the Memorial Park entrance. Scenes could involve any of the following:

- Mardi Gras queen
- Lumberjack
- Water skiers
- New Orleans Mardi Gras style hats or outfits

Connecting Trails

Mr. Parker has contacted the Town of Grant seeking permission for the City to install signs along portions of Gokey and Tlews Roads to make them connecting biking/hiking trails between Riverview Trail and the Flambeau Mine Trail. While there is nothing preventing riders from using these sections signage should assist the unfamiliar in finding their way.

Community Center

It was recalled that, at the recent hearing on seeking CDBG monies for street upgrades, that Amy Kelsey also stated that community centers are CDBG eligible. As such, there is at least a chance that some assistance could be garnered for making adaptive reuse of the elementary school. Adm. Christianson will seek to make contact with the school district about exploring this possibility. DPW Gorsegner stated that he would like to show school reps what can quickly happen to a building that is not heated or properly winterized, referring the former armory.

Continuity

Atty. Kenyon recalled that an urban designer who looked at our downtown many years ago suggested that one thing we could and should do is be consistent. He discovered seven different type of fence along City properties in the CBD and suggested all be converted to black metal or, better, wrought iron, for its quality and durability. That speaks to use of quality materials for longevity.

Amenities

Atty. Kenyon also repeated his previous comments about our City needing amenities to attract and retain millennials. He also suggested that immigration might still be a reasonable way to return growth.

It was noted that a lot of great ideas have been floated at these meetings in the past, but getting things done seems difficult.