

## **JUNE 22, 2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

P.M. Council Chamber. Members present: R. Moore, J. Pearson, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorseger, D. Parker.

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Pearson.

### **Parking Lot:**

Adm. Christianson noted that the tilted posts in the Worden Ave. parking lot lend an unsightly appearance, adding that if we are to enforce property upkeep rules we probably need to lead by example. He suggested that options might be include adding wooden or steel guard rails. If new rails are to be added many of the posts may need to be trimmed off or, better, replaced. It was suggested that, perhaps, the posts can simply be removed. The posts were required at one point to keep vehicles from encroaching onto adjoining railroad property. That may no longer be an issue with the east line being inactive.

It was recalled that, a number of years ago, a summer worker was assigned to downtown cleanup. And that, more recently, a church sponsored group had done downtown cleanups.

It was suggested that a local Adopt A Street effort be promoted as Rockwell did with Doughty Road. Blaze orange safety vests were provided and the City packer truck crew picked up trash bags left along that road.

### **Sale of Property:**

It was noted that the City has several for sale signs intended to be posted on City owned property no longer deemed useful or necessary. It was suggested that an asking price be established for the former Finish Line Tavern site, which fits into that category. The Property Committee had discussed a price, but didn't set one. Motion was made by Pearson, seconded by Stoneberg, and carried by voice vote to recommend that the Council approve placing for sale signs on the board fence fronting that property.

### **Mural:**

It was reported that there is interest in at least 18 more veteran depictions than even the current frame extension on the north side of Miner Ave. will accommodate. It appears that a 60 ft. mural could be erected on the east side of the parking lot west of the P.O. without impeding vision. That would allow 30 depictions at that location.

### **Cart:**

It was recalled that Bruce High students are rehabbing a vintage rail cart for display at the visitor center. The cart was damaged in the 2002 tornado. It is anticipated that the cart will be delivered soon and that the student efforts will be noted in a news photo.

### **Façade Assistance:**

Recalling Marie Steenlage's recent comments to the City Council, Adm. Christianson asked if the Committee could support revisions to the façade assistance program guidelines for the purpose of increasing use of the program and dollars set aside for this purpose. There is apparently need to replace the roof on the Gerard Hotel and it is unclear if maintenance is eligible and whether it being visible makes it part of the façade. A similar inquiry was made in regard to the old Methodist Church roof. In the case of the Miner Theatre more dollars are needed for interior improvements, like newer seating,

even though that is probably removable business equipment, which often isn't assisted because it can disappear so easily. It was mentioned that another downtown business, Expressions, was interested in assistance with purchasing display shelving, which is also business equipment.

Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to recommend Council approval of the following changes to façade assistance guidelines:

- Allow visible roof work, including replacement with like kind, to be considered as façade work.
- Increase façade grant participation rate from 20% of total cost to one third.
- Allow use of façade assistance program for both interior improvements or business equipment up to same level as exterior improvements.

**Museum:**

Three plow museum sign options prepared by Dennis Wiemer were reviewed. Owing to somewhat different opinions a compromise of font and color was generally agreed upon to be forwarded to the Council with a recommendation to approve.

A schematic for painting the overhead doors to create the appearance of exterior wooden bracing were also reviewed along with a cost quote. The quote needs to be raised by 15% to account for wood grain texture that needs to be worked around, which the vendor did not realize was there when providing the initial quote. Motion was made by Pearson, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to recommend the Council approve expenditure of \$413 to paint the two overhead doors on the east end to appear as if each is a double shed door.

Interest was also expressed in painting the east end service door to appear as a Dutch door.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.