

JUNE 27, 2016 PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5:15 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: A. Hraban, M. Hraban, B. Morgan. Others present: A. Christianson, K. Gorsegner, D. Parker, M. Reynolds.

Call to Order:

Chair M. Hraban called the meeting to order.

Rail Yard:

It was noted that, although a "loader" wasn't seen, a tractor pulling a rock rake was observed working at the rail yard earlier in the day.

Ranger Station:

It was noted that, if the old ranger house were to be saved, DNR has an old Smoky the Bear costume to offer. The RCHS could make any or all of the following related items available for display:

*bear hides *bounty books *buffalo hide coat *deer mounts *deer tags *Doc Lee's deer antlers
*wooden deer

While the RCHS is willing to loan these items the curator does feel that if it does so they will actually get less exposure if the display is only accessible by appointment. The HS is already pressed to have enough volunteers to staff the current museum. And that number is declining.

[The accepted bid to rehab the house was \$3,400, not including the roof, which was an additional \$6,625. So, the total for this building is \$10,025.]

It was recalled that two bids had been received to re-roof the house and concrete block garage at the ranger station: one for \$15,615; the other for \$15,800.

It turns out that there is a flag light on the former ranger house, which was simply turned off.

It was noted again that this old building has more significance than many in the City's history. The consensus of opinion was that the entire Council should tour the building before deciding its fate.

Mural:

The Interim Postmaster didn't indicate any issue with erection of a 60' mural on the west side of the hedge. The worker who trims the hedge did, however, express a desire to keep it for the bird habitat it provides and noted it might be difficult to trim if the mural were right up against it. An option could be to put up a 30' two sided mural south of the planters on the west side of the same lot. That frame should only cost half as much.

Speaking of 60' erections, Mr. Morgan advocated consideration be given to a large lumberjack statue such as the one in Eau Claire's Carson Park as a fourth Welcome to Ladysmith sign.

Mrs. Pearson advocated considering alternate mural locations that might serve double duty by serving as a visual screen.

The consensus was to recommend that another 30' depiction mural be committed to, but that a specific site not be identified as yet. In view of costs to build the mural frames and light the murals it was further suggested that depiction prices be increased from \$300 to \$400, which still doesn't recover the cost of what was to be a self funding project.

Old Smoky:

It was reported that Phil Ruege has been painting white highlights on Old Smoky and it looks good. Mr. Parker passed around a swatch of some tough fabric that could be obtained from the paper mill to make a curtain for the open back end of Old Smoky, which was built that way to provide unimpeded access to coal augered from the trailing coal car. In winter such curtain was closed to keep heat in the cab.

Armory:

The City has received mixed signals about the future of the local armory so will follow up to learn which is most accurate. Whatever happens isn't likely to be too soon.

Millings:

It is anticipated that near the end of July, or early August, Monarch Paving will deliver 5-6 loads of U.S. 8 millings to W. 13th St. where it will be spread and rolled to reduce fugitive dust that troubles residents at the apartment complex at W. 13th and Baker.

Stumps:

There was discussion of removing conifer stumps at the corner of Cemetery Rd. and C.T.H. J to improve appearances. A hired skid steer mounted power rake might make quick work of restoration.

Property Sale:

After reviewing a list of City-owned property, the Committee recommends that for sale signs be placed on the fence fronting the former Finish Line tavern site. A vacant lot under power lines along W. 5th St. N. was another mentioned as not having use to the City.

Unkempt Lawns:

It was suggested that, starting next year, folks with unkempt lawns be contacted sooner in the growing season and that the City have an arrangement in place with a private vendor to do the mowing and invoice the City which can, in turn, invoice the owner. Names of folks who mow lawn for hire were mentioned. The City does not have the manpower to do these itself. The same property owners seem to be involved year after year.

Walk:

Attention was called to small piece of bad walk adjacent to the P.O. It may be that D C Crete can attend to this at the same time as the planned driveway off Miner Ave. into the veterans mural parking lot.

Zoning:

Zoning Administrator Gorsegrner reported that the folks with all the lawn care for equipment in the yard at 705 1st St. S. say they are just selling off inventory accumulated from a repair business that is no longer operating since the owner had a heart attack.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by A. Hraban, which was seconded by Morgan and carried by voice vote the meeting adjourned at about 6:20 p.m. in deference to an upcoming Council meeting.