

JULY 6, 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, K. Gorseger, A. Kenyon, D. Parker.

Call to Order:

Chair J. Pearson called the meeting to order.

Article:

A recent news article from the Eau Claire Leader was distributed wherein that City is grappling with revitalizing older neighborhoods. The purpose of reviewing it was to illustrate that similar problems exist in most cities whether it seems so or not.

Parking Lot:

It was suggested that posts be removed from the City's Worden Ave. parking lot to improve its appearance. Many are leaning and damaged. Cutting them off at ground level may retain the post holes for a while, eliminating the eyesore, but may result in them being forgotten until they become trip hazards. Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to recommend straightening current posts and painting them to keep cost minimal.

Bike Racks:

Those present viewed design ideas for two station bike racks that could be placed downtown [or elsewhere for that matter]. Some local guys with metal fabrication skills, including an LHS tech ed instructor, came up with the idea. They believe they can do them for about \$150 apiece. That is the low end for commercially available racks, which run from about the same up to \$1,000 each. Al Christianson 2 advised that he will ask the Main Street program to share the costs on these. Concern was expressed about overuse of the Lady Smith cameo. Motion was made by Stoneberg, seconded by Moore, and carried by voice vote to forward this to the Council for consideration.

History Notes:

A mock up of a Ladysmith History Note marker was displayed. It was suggested that, perhaps, a dozen of these might be put together to draw attention to some property of local historic interest or significance. If they prove popular more could be done. Both visitors and residents alike are not often aware of local history, which can be quite interesting and increase interest in the area. It will be easy to build a self-guided walking tour around such markers. Having these made will run about \$55 each, due in part to the cost of decorative cutting on the sign tops. Eliminating the cut and going to half-size 9" in 12" signs would reduce the cost. Motion was made Moore, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to forward this to the Council for its consideration.

Mural Locations:

It was suggested that the west side of 1st St. south of Bo James' Café might be a very visible location for a mural depicting people involved in their occupations or interests. To secure use of this site a mural depiction of the owners' interests might be offered without charge in exchange. Alternately, it might be possible to locate it on the west edge of the adjoining sidewalk area, which is 10' wide. Mrs. Pearson will inquire as to the owner's interest in this project.

Amphitheater:

It was suggested that, subject to Park Board concurrence, a recommendation be made to the Council to proceed with having Morgan & Parmley prepare three conceptual designs for an amphitheater for

Memorial Park. It was mentioned that sometimes, when an idea is popular, you need to capture the energy quickly before it dies. Morgan & Parmely quoted a range from \$2,200-2,800 to do this work. Mr. Moore commented on ongoing fund-raising efforts for this project. It was agreed that it might be appropriate for the City to pay for the concept drawings and plans, but noted that it will be best if actual construction costs can be raised from donations. Motion was made by Moore, seconded by Pearson and carried by voice vote to forward this to the Council for consideration.

Façade Assistance:

Those present reviewed a draft resolution to add more flexibility to the City's façade assistance program with the intent of spurring more usage. It was noted that an unfortunate side effect is that building upgrades result in higher taxes by owners, which dampens their enthusiasm for participating. Owners could, however, view the assistance as offsetting the increased taxes rather than reducing the construction cost. This will be forwarded to the Council for consideration.

Plow Museum Sign:

Those present reviewed revised lettering for an identifying sign for the plow museum. There was agreement to forward the compromise version to the Council.

Motion was made by Pearson, seconded by Stoneberg and carried by voice vote to recommend Council approval of a Dutch door design for the service door on the museum's east end. [This will cost \$150.]

Old Bank Clock:

Adm. Christianson recalled that, after the tornado, urban designers recommended addition of one or more attractive focal points. He showed a sketch showing a clock in the farmer's market area. And, he added, one of the fond remembrances folks have who comment on the Remember Ladysmith When Internet forum is of the old four sided clock that hung off the SE corner of the old Pioneer Bank. Adm. Christianson distributed images of this type of clock he found on-line. Any effort to replace that clock would need to be with the private owner's cooperation. [Pragmatists would likely view such clock as wasteful as the digital clock on the current Pioneer Bank has superior capabilities with its thermometer and custom messages.]

A sketch prepared after the 2002 tornado, which depicts a visual upgrade to the farmer's market area, was distributed as it includes a free standing clock as a focal point. Atty. Kenyon speculated that doing the entire project as shown would be quite pricey. Mrs. {Pearson and Mrs. Stoneberg agreed that it would be a nice upgrade.

Environmental Challenge:

It was noted that students who participated in this year's environmental challenge projects will present them at Trall's End on Friday, July 15th at 10:30 a.m. It was suggested that with one of their projects involving continued work at Pioneer Park and with the expectation that future projects will also assist the City it will be a good idea if a couple City reps can attend. Adm. Christianson often attends but cannot make it this time due to a conflicting medical appointment in EC. Mrs. Stoneberg agreed to represent the City.

Fees:

It was noted that, with literature that has gone out indicating a required contribution of \$300 for mural depictions, the City shouldn't charge folks who received them more than that. That any increase should apply to future applicants. Those present agreed.