

JULY 16, 2018, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

5:20 p.m. Council Chamber. Members present: J. Fields, J. Pearson, B. Stoneberg. Others present: A. Christianson 1 and 2, K. Gorseger, A. Kenyon, D. Parker.

Call to Order:

Committee Chair Fields called the meeting to order and presided.

Speaker System:

Mr. Fields stated that it is his intent to get a vendor here to hear his opinion on what the City would need for an outdoor speaker system that could be used to play holiday music downtown and be used for Mardi Gras parade announcements and similar purposes. This is a busy time for the vendor, so Mr. Fields will continue with this effort.

History Notes:

Adm. Christianson stated that he hasn't yet received quotes for attractive metal plaques for the proposed history notes. A list of proposed locations was distributed at a previous meeting.

Old Business Updates:

Updates were provided on several projects previously advocated by this Committee.

Bridge Painting

Mr. Hetchler has completed bridge painting.

Holiday Cards

Plans were to do four 4'x 8' holiday cards, depicting easily recognized downtown buildings, for placement in Memorial Park from about Thanksgiving to about New Year's Day annually. None of the owners of four buildings tentatively selected has expressed interest in sponsoring these. It was recalled that, a few months back, Jim West had offered to pay for such depiction of Westcove Lanes. He will be contacted.

Lake Ave. Rail Display

Following is the current status of this project.

1. Connection of lighting has been completed
2. Ties have been placed and rails have been set.
3. The Public Works crew will haul an end loader bucket of ballast to the display tomorrow even though they are fully consumed with Mardi Gras preparations.
4. Mayor Christianson and Councilman Fields will plan to help place ballast at 5 p.m. tomorrow.
5. Mr. Morgan will oversee moving of stored rail maintenance equipment from the Enterprise Center work space to the Lake Ave. display tomorrow or Wednesday.
6. Once the equipment has been delivered to the site, Hoover Construction will use its lift to set the units in place and to re-install the fence.

Plow Sign

Although the City paid for production of and installation of the plow (on post) sign in the fairgrounds and included a mounting plate and internal wiring openings for an anticipated electronic message board to be added, there hasn't been any apparent action by Rusk Co. to do so.

Plow Museum

Former WLDY employee Amanda Domkowitz is assisting with preparation of archival footage of Ed Tomasovich describing equipment on display at the plow museum.

Vet Silhouettes

Adm. Christianson noted that, to him, the military personnel silhouettes on the ramp to the passenger train at the visitor center display are difficult to see being flat black against a red-brown background. He suggested repainting them white might help. Alternately, backlighting them with inexpensive solar or similar lights might help.

Vet's Murals

No update.

Native Carving

After his pending retirement in August, Ted East expects to be able to get to the carving of a Native American pointing upriver from a site the top end of the Brooklyn Memorial Bridge.

Bike Signage

Asst. DPW Parker has gotten a verbal okay from the Town of Grant for the City to sign portions of Gokey Rd., Tiews Rd. and Blackberry Lane in the Town's jurisdiction to link the City's Riverview Trail to the Flambeau Mine Trails.

Bike Race

The first Gravel Grinder Bike Race is planned to take place Saturday, September 8th. The Lions Club is expected to provide assistance along the race route. The Jaycees will be involved in creating some activity near the finish area in Memorial Park. Consideration is being given to adding other activities:

- Food vendors. Mrs. Pearson has contacts with potential vendors.
- Live music.
- A kids run.

Covered Bridge

The Park Board has transferred oversight of any covered vehicle bridge project in Falge Park to the Property Committee. Adm. Christianson will follow up on this.

New Business:

Governor's Fishing Opener

The Governor's 2019 Fishing Opener is expected to take place at Lake Flambeau. It was suggested that if there is to be a dinner related to this event that a local artist's fish carvings might be used as table decorations. Other local wildlife artists such as Craig Fairbert, known for his duck stamps, were also mentioned.

ATV Activity

Mr. Parker suggested consideration be given to adding an ATV based activity as these are very popular in other locales. There is believed to be a local veteran's ride that could, perhaps, be assisted in growing.

Music Event

There was discussion of a new music event that could, with Rusk County's cooperation, involve a (converted) barn tour and feature Americana music. Mr. Fields suggested that, with some work, the cattle show barn at the Fairgrounds could be used for a music event with the four extensions maybe used as follows:

- Food.
- Craft sales.
- Micro brew sales.
- Entry/exit.

Medallion Hunt

A once popular medallion hunt, sponsored by WLDY-WJBL, may be reinstated and could easily be linked to another activity.

Shoe and Canoe

Events that involve a combination of swimming or canoeing, biking and running are popular. Flater's Resort has held these, sometimes referred to as triathlons.

Other

Mrs. Pearson will seek suggestions from a friend who was instrumental in development of an event in the Birchwood/Blue Hills area.

River

There seemed to be a consensus that more activity built around the river should be developed and promoted. It was recalled that M. Hraban has, for years, suggested a fish tagging contest.

Youth Commission:

Mayor Christianson reported that the Youth Commission the City has created will meet closer to the start of the new school year.

Adjourn:

Committee Chair Field adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.