

Mandan Community Beautification Committee

Thursday, February 11, 2016

7:30 a.m.

Mandan City Hall

205 Second Avenue NW

Committee Members:

Chairperson

Damian Huettl, Citizen

Term: 2013-2016

Vice Chairperson

Laurie Leingang, Citizen

Term: 2013-2016

Tammy Lapp-Harris, Citizen

Term: 2015-2018

Amy Schmidt, Citizen

Term: 2015-2018

Brian Dehnert, Citizen

Term: 2016-2019

Vacant

Term: 2016-2019

Jim Neubauer,

Administration

Doug Lalim, Building

Inspection

Ellen Huber, Business

Development &

Communications

Keith Johnson, Custer

Health

Steve Nardello, Fire

Justin Froseth, Planning &

Engineering

Jason Ziegler, Police

Jeff Wright, Public Works

Liaisons:

Robert Decker, City

Planner

Joe Camisa, Code

Enforcement Officer

Krista Harju, Program

Coordinator

A. Roll Call:

1. Roll call of committee members and liaisons

Vice Chairperson Laurie Leingang called the meeting to order. Members indicated with a were in attendance. Also in attendance were City Arborist Kaiden Straabe and Edgar Oliveira.

B. Consider minutes from meeting held Jan. 14, 2016

Jim Neubauer moved to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2016 meeting. Ellen Huber seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Consider candidate for vacant position with term of 2016-2019 for members of the public (citizens or business representatives)

The committee received a letter of interest from Edgar Oliveira. He expressed interest in filling a vacancy on the committee for a three-year term ending in 2019. Oliveira owns the Harvest Brazilian Grill and Station West.

Doug Lalim moved the committee recommend Oliveira's appointment to the committee to the City Commission. Tammy Lapp-Harris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Discussions regarding Community Clean-up Day.

The committee discussed possible dates for Community Clean-up Day. Spring Clean-Up Week is April 30 – May 7, 2016. The Saturdays would be April 30 and May 7. Leingang noted Amy Schmidt had indicated it should coordinate with Bismarck's Clean-Up Day, which is scheduled for May 7.

Leingang, Straabe, Tammy Lapp-Harris, Justin Froseth, Joe Camisa, Krista Harju, and Bob Decker said they would be available to volunteer on either date. Neubauer and Huber will be available on April 30. Kaiden Straabe also indicated he could volunteer on either date to assist as a route leader. Del Wetsch from the Mandan Progress Organization previously indicated he would be available on either date.

Froseth suggested scheduling it on April 30 and having May 7 as a back-up option in case of inclement weather. Jeff Wright agreed.

Lapp-Harris said every crew should have a sharps container. Last year, they encountered used syringes. Keith Johnson said Custer Health will provide them. He will give them to Wright. Leingang asked if volunteers should be asked to sign a waiver. Neubauer will talk to City Attorney Malcolm Brown to ask if it is necessary.

Huber said more gloves and bags will be needed.

Huber moved to commit to April 30 with May 7 as a back-up date. Dehnert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Review input on potential projects.

The committee reviewed the results of a committee questionnaire in which committee members ranked project ideas generated at the January 14 meeting. According to responses, the top priorities are enhancing the downtown business district, improving maintenance of ND Department of Transportation (NDDOT) entrances and increasing tree planting.

Neubauer said NDDOT Bismarck District Director Kevin Levi indicated he would be willing to attend a future CBC meeting to discuss options for improving entrances into Mandan. He said he could share what they can and what they can't do. Neubauer will invite him to attend the next meeting.

Huber suggested city staff discuss project options and return to the committee with information. Decker suggested reviewing the contract regarding the advertising benches. Neubauer said he could bring the agreement to the next meeting. He said he knows one other business that would like to get involved.

Oliveira said he really likes the ideas presented for downtown enhancements. He suggested they prioritize projects that can be accomplished in a short period of time or that are less complicated, such as discouraging litter, looking at improving the benches and adding planters.

Huber said she receives a lot of complaints on sidewalks that are in poor repair. Froseth said the engineering department has an annual sidewalk replacement contract. These are complaint driven. Once a complaint is received, a property owner has a designated time period to complete the repairs. If repairs are not completed the property is special assessed, and the City makes the improvements. There was discussion about a more proactive approach. Dehnert noted that Sioux Falls city staff reviewed and marked sidewalks for replacements. Huber noted that if there were interest in a broader project such as adding the pedestrian street lights, then perhaps it could all be done at the same time, but could be too grandiose.

Johnson expressed concern about the amount of salt and sand that remains on the boulevards in the spring. He felt more could be done to clean it up, as it would prevent grass from dying.

When planters were present on First Street, the businesses adjacent to the planters were responsible for maintaining them. Neubauer suggested designating a block leader to accept responsibility for the planter. Other options are a civic group or downtown association, which doesn't exist in Mandan.

Leingang noted that planters don't offer a year-round appeal. She suggested considering wrapping metal traffic utility boxes in art, because it can be enjoyed during every season. Schmidt will contact Eileen Walsh with the Dakota West Arts Council to learn about Bismarck's experience with a similar project.

Huber suggested exploring costs, funding sources and grant options for some of the projects. Boundaries may vary depending on the project including support and willingness to participate from commercial property and business owners.

City staff will look at the committee's suggestions and generate ideas for the next meeting. Huber, Leingang, Schmidt and Oliveira will then speak to downtown business owners about ideas and gauge support of possible projects.

F. Update on status of revised language in a proposed garbage container ordinance

Neubauer said there has been some negative feedback on the recycling containers. Some property owners have said they don't want the container. Others have said the containers are too heavy or voiced concern that containers aren't picked up in the alleyways.

Given these complaints, Neubauer doesn't know how well the garbage container ordinance would be received at this time. One commissioner felt it may be the wrong time to tell residents where to put their garbage container.

Huber noted the requirements for storage locations for commercial properties is softened in the new language. For example, existing businesses would no longer have to have a three-sided screening area by 2017.

Neubauer suggested clarifying the language in 119-1-8 to indicate recycling containers provided by the city or contractor, rather than garbage containers, which are not currently provided. Johnson said the language is already inclusive and would regulate the storage of both recycling containers and future garbage containers provided by the City or garbage hauler. Additionally, it was discussed that there may need to be future guidance to citizens on what to do in windy situations.

No garbage tote requirement is included in the ordinance. Schmidt suggested requiring the larger tote now. She said Mandan is one of the last communities in the state that allows people to put out bags. She said it is a major litter concern, and the containers could help decrease litter.

Neubauer has had conversations with Armstrong Sanitation about their plans to provide a proposal to the City to provide totes to Mandan residents. It might require an extension of the contract. Schmidt asked if the City can provide the totes. Neubauer said the cost was more than the City could afford. He added that contract terms with Armstrong Sanitation have always been reasonable.

Custer Health doesn't enforce garbage collection complaints in any cities that are utilizing the totes. It makes those complaints go away. Mandan is the only Morton County community where they need to address garbage complaints.

Decker suggested presenting the ordinance, as written, to the City Commission and updating the language at a later time if needed.

The committee agreed to wait to recommend the ordinance to the City Commission until June or after a proposal was received from Armstrong Sanitation.

G. Report on status of revised language in a proposed ordinance for outdoor storage in industrial, commercial and residential properties.

H. Report on status of presentation of summary to City Commission regarding proposed property maintenance code.

I. Staff reports on recommendations regarding rodent harborage. *See IPC 302.5.*

J. Staff reports on Dutch Elm and Ash Borer Disease, PARDS program, and boulevard trees.

Kaiden Straabe provided a map outlining areas in the community affected by Dutch Elm disease, highlighting those areas that were hit the hardest. To replace all of the trees removed due to disease in the area of 6th Street to Collins Avenue it would cost about \$40,000, which includes the purchase of 296 trees and fence posts. That price does not include labor pay or the cost of equipment and materials. Realistically, Straabe felt 200 trees could be replaced after further evaluation. Some boulevards may not be wide enough or utility lines may prevent planting.

The PARDS program has already raised \$1,600 this year. A letter requesting donations from businesses will be sent to businesses later this month. Straabe plans to send the letter to Mandan businesses and Bismarck businesses that do business in Mandan. Bismarck provides a map outlining where trees are planted each year in the letter requesting business donations. Straabe would like to see a similar map included in future letters to businesses. An article encouraging donations was published in the February issue of the Mandan Messenger.

Straabe checked with other communities on how they have secured funding for similar tree planting programs. Fargo does not have a cost-sharing program, but they will plant a tree on the boulevard if a property owner requests it. Bismarck has a similar program and asks for donations of \$500 or \$1,000 from businesses. They match all donations. Last year, Bismarck raised \$9,000. In Jamestown, the Beautification Committee raised most of the money. They raised \$9,000 in the first year.

The City is planning to change the name of the program. PARDS was a minor league baseball team. The previous forester named the program after the team. Straabe welcomed ideas for renaming the program. He suggested waiting to change it until next year, since some communications have already been published this year. Bismarck calls their program Partners in Tree Planting. Straabe suggested using a different name, so it is not confused with Bismarck's program.

Wright suggested applying for grants to help pay for the replanting of trees affected by Dutch Elm disease. Straabe is only aware of grants that require a city match for the removal and planting of trees. Straabe said there is a grant through the Forest Service that can be used for the removal of trees or the planting of new trees. In previous years, the City has used the money for tree removal. The grant will provide up to \$10,000 and requires a city match. Schmidt said she supports applying for the \$10,000 grant for tree planting.

Straabe said it may be difficult to require property owners to maintain the trees adjacent to their property if planted by the City. A city ordinance requires homeowners to maintain the boulevard trees adjacent to their property.

Decker updated the ordinance pertaining to Dutch Elm disease. The new language prohibits planting of American elm, Siberian elm and tree varieties susceptible to the disease.

Wright moved to recommend the ordinance as presented to the City Commission. Schmidt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Staff report on code enforcement ordinance.

L. Other Business

M. Future Meetings

1. Thursday, March 10, 2016 7:30 a.m.
2. Thursday, April 14, 2016 7:30 a.m.

N. Adjourn

Neubauer moved to adjourn. Wright seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. *Consider signage to discourage littering*

ACTION ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

1. *Keith Johnson will provide sharps containers to Jeff Wright for Community Clean-up Day.*
2. *Neubauer will ask City Attorney Malcolm Brown waivers should be required for Community Clean-up Day.*
3. *Neubauer will invite NDDOT Bismarck District Director Kevin Levi attend the March meeting.*
4. *Neubauer will bring the contract pertaining to downtown advertising benches to the March meeting.*
5. *City staff will look at the committee's downtown project suggestions and generate ideas for the next meeting.*
6. *Straabe will provide information trees affected by Dutch Elm disease city-wide.*