

**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

Edgar Olivera, Citizen  
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

**Mandan Community Beautification Committee**

**Thursday, March 10, 2016**

**7:30 a.m.**

**Veterans' Conference Room**

**Mandan City Hall**

**205 Second Avenue NW**

**A. Roll Call:**

1. Roll call of committee members and liaisons  
*Laurie Leingang called the meeting to order. Members indicated with a  were in attendance. Also in attendance were NDDOT Bismarck District Director Kevin Levi, City Arborist Kaiden Straabe and citizen S. Paul Jordan.*

**B. Consider minutes from the February 11, 2016 meeting.**

*Keith Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the February 11 meeting. Leingang seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**C. Update on plans for Community Clean-up Day.**

*Ellen Huber provided an update on Community Clean-up Day. New business sponsorships have been secured. Bearscat Bakehouse will provide donuts. Dan's Supermarket will provide water and hot dog buns. Cloverdale Foods will provide hot dogs and brats. Dakota Community Bank will provide grilling services. Financial donations have been received and will help offset costs. Scuba One will donate 300 garbage bags.*

*Amy Schmidt is working to secure door prizes. More communications encouraging participation and business donations will go out leading up to the event.*

*Malcolm Brown did not think a liability waiver was necessary for volunteers.*

*Jeff Wright noted approval is needed to enter DOT right-of-ways for clean-up.*

*Wright will provide route maps for the route leaders on the day of the event. Possible routes include: I-94 corridor, McKenzie drive interchange, I-94 corridor from Sunset Avenue to Collins Avenue, Mandan Avenue, Highway 1806, Highway 6 to 19th Street, West Main Street, Twin City Drive and the Third Street trolley area. The number of route leaders and volunteers who show up April 30 will determine the number of routes that can be covered.*

**D. Staff reports on recommendations regarding rodent harborage. See IPC 302.5. (Keith Johnson)**

*Previous language addressing rodent harborage was removed from the municipal code in 1994, because it was deemed unnecessary.*

*Malcolm Brown and Bob Decker do not believe language regarding rodent harborage is necessary in municipal code. Johnson said Custer Health can address it as a public health issue. It does not need to be included in municipal code.*

*Joe Camisa said the city housing code, Section 111-8-6.1, can be used to enforce rodent harborage. It requires residents to keep properties free of pests and rodents.*

*Huber suggested adding the information to the city website under the section addressing property maintenance. Huettl asked if there has ever been a dispute over the definition of a rodent. Johnson and Camisa indicated that has not yet been a problem.*

- E. Update on potential projects.
  - 1. NDDOT Entrances
  - 2. Downtown business district
    - i. Contracts for benches

*At the last meeting, there were questions regarding what could be done to improve the appearance at DOT right-of-ways.*

*Levi said he would talk to the Adopt-A-Highway groups. It is required to have a permit to clean-up areas along the roadway. They do not allow private groups to go within the median. Landscaping can be done, but cannot create any issues for snow accumulation.*

*The DOT could use more adopt-a-highway groups on the Mandan side. The DOT designates a certain section of a highway for a group to adopt. The group is asked to have training regarding safety in traffic areas. The DOT provides the bags and vests and will collect garbage bags along the roadside following clean-up. Shawn Lackner is the point of contact. His number is 328-6951.*

*At the last meeting, the committee discussed sand that remains on boulevards and in median areas after the winter season. Neubauer asked if there is a way to clean it up more efficiently. Levi said they sweep the streets and spray down the bridges once the winter season has ended. In the past, they have also washed the bridge to clean up pigeon droppings.*

*There was mention of the area around 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and the Sitting Bull Bridge. Wright believes this area would be under the jurisdiction of the Lower Heart Water Resource District. Neubauer noted upkeep of the area is likely constrained by time and financial resources.*

*Huber asked if the grasses could be better maintained, noting the areas along the Liberty Memorial Bridge and the Sunset exit. Levi said the DOT goes in with mowers and gets as close as they can but they do not use a trimmer. The demands are challenging to meet with the resources available. Adjacent property owners could trim or weed whip next to a fence if they wish. NDDOT might also permit them to put a gate in a chain link fence to accommodate this.*

*Neubauer asked if it would be possible for DOT to sweep the boulevards and areas under the bridges. Levi said they could help if the City took the lead.*

*The City can plant trees or bushes on the right-of-way, but there are height and width requirements. Trees cannot block the view of businesses or billboards. The City would be responsible for maintaining the landscaping. Most of the trees along the interstate near Raging Rivers were planted by the City. Levi suggested the committee come up with a plan and present it. He advised leaving some distance between the roadway and the plantings, so they would not be killed by chemicals used to clear the roadways. Huber said she hears businesses along Twin City Drive complain about visibility from I-94 due to trees.*

*Leingang asked if there can be an alternative to planting grass by fences or other areas that are hard to mow and trim. She asked about vines, rock or lower shrubs. Levi said they haven't found a good alternative. Leingang likes the vines along the Expressway entrance into Bismarck. Levi said vines could be used on the fence alongside the interstate near Moritz. The city would have to maintain the plants.*

*If an area can't be mowed safely, then concrete or asphalt are options. Neubauer asked about colored or stamped concrete. Levi suggested looking at the treatment on Tyler Parkway in Bismarck. Levi also noted that some people don't want long grasses mowed because they provide a habitat for pollinators.*

*Neubauer asked if the city could put littering signs along DOT roadways. Levi said he would look into it.*

*Schmidt has noticed an increase in litter along the highways. It is often shredded from mowing. She asked if DOT employees pick up trash prior to mowing. Levi said employees are told not to mow over those items. DOT will try to get out there early this spring and try to clean it up.*

*Nardello recommended being more proactive, rather than reactive. He suggested enforcement of littering laws, particularly for contractors, such as garbage haulers. Wright said commercial trucks are required to be covered at all times, and asked if signs were needed for enforcement. The committee agreed it would like to see signs prohibiting littering along the highways.*

*The local fine for littering is \$20. It is considered a moving violation. Olivera suggested increasing the fine to discourage littering. Schmidt recommended increasing fines and stricter enforcement of litter laws.*

*Jason Ziegler said it is difficult to enforce. When reporting an occurrence of littering, the person who is littering must be identified. The fine amounts might not equate to the costs of locating and charging an individual for littering. He said signage is not necessary for enforcement.*

*City crews clean the overpass and underpass areas of pigeon droppings every few weeks in the summer time.*

*Construction sites are only required to cover garbage containers on windy days. Leingang suggested changing the language to require containers to be covered regardless of weather. Camisa said it would be difficult to enforce. Neubauer suggested building inspectors monitor the containers to ensure they are kept covered. He also suggested that Doug Lalim could visit with the Bismarck Mandan Home Builders Association about the need for contractors to cover dumpsters.*

*Neubauer located the contract regarding signs and benches. The existing contract was signed in 1988. The benches belong to the company selling the advertising space. Roughrider Signs and Awnings indicated it would be interested in pursuing a contract with the City regarding the benches. Olivera felt they were undesirable. Nardello agreed. If it is determined benches are needed in the community, it could become part of the downtown beautification efforts.*

*According the contract, neighboring properties must approve the content on the signage.*

*Olivera moved to recommend termination of the existing agreement. Schmidt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

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

*A draft ordinance with language addressing Dutch Elm and Ash Borer diseases will be circulated among city staff for review before presenting to the City Commission.*

*Kaiden Straabe sent 68 letters requesting donations for the PARDS program. Since sending out letters last week, Armstrong Sanitation has provided a \$1,000 donation. Information was also published in the Mandan Messenger and a press release was distributed earlier this year. As of March 10, \$2,600 had been raised for the program in 2016.*

*Since 2008, 660 total trees have been removed from private property and boulevards. The disease hit hard around 2011 and 2012. Trees are still being removed, but the number has declined. The disease levels in 2016 won't be known until trees start to bud.*

G. Staff report on code enforcement ordinance. (Joe)

*Decker and Camisa will give the draft ordinance regarding the administrative procedures another review before sending it to city staff for final approval. It will then be submitted to the City Commission.*

H. Other Business

I. Future Meetings

1. Thursday, April 14, 2016 7:30 a.m.
2. Thursday, May 12, 2016 7:30 a.m.

J. Adjourn

*Leingang moved. Schmidt seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. *Report on status of presentation of summary to City Commission regarding proposed property maintenance code. (Discussion postponed until concerns regarding recycling are addressed)*
2. *Report on status of revise language in a proposed ordinance for outdoor storage in industrial, commercial and residential properties. (Discussion postponed until concerns regarding recycling are addressed)*
3. *Update on status of revised language in a proposed garbage container ordinance. (Await potential proposal from Armstrong Sanitation on containers)*
4. *Consider signage to discourage littering*

**ITEMS FOR FOLLOW-UP:**

1. *Schmidt will try to secure door prizes from businesses.*
2. *Wright will provide a map of routes to the committee.*
3. *Huber will add language to the city website under the section addressing property maintenance. It will include language from the city housing code that can be used to enforce rodent harborage.*
4. *Decker and Camisa will circulate a draft ordinance with language addressing Dutch Elm and Ash Borer diseases among city staff for review before presenting it to the City Commission.*
5. *Decker and Camisa will give the draft code enforcement ordinance another review before sending it to city staff for final approval. It will then be submitted to the City Commission.*