

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 Oliveira, 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, April 14, 2016

7:30 a.m.

Veterans' Conference Room

Mandan City Hall

205 Second Avenue NW

A. Roll Call:

1. Introductions.

Damien Huettl called the meeting to order. Members present are indicated with a . Also in attendance were Deputy Police Chief Jason Bier; John NarDawahl, NarDawahl's Tattoo Emporium; Mary Ann and Lance Preble, Preble Medical Services, Inc.; and Rick and Kathy Knodel, Signs & Wonders.

B. Consider minutes from the March 10, 2016 meeting.

Jim Neubauer moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2016 meeting. Edgar Oliveira seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Eighty people have registered online for the event. A church group is looking to provide additional volunteers. Many businesses have donated prizes. Posters promoting the event have been placed throughout the community.

D. Update on potential projects.

1. Idea generation and prioritization for NDDOT entrances

2. Downtown business district

i. Update on contracts for benches

ii. Update on project ideas

At the last meeting, the committee moved to recommend terminating the contract for advertising benches. Representatives of Signs & Wonders, the company that owns the benches, and business owners using the benches for advertising spoke to the committee.

Knodel plans to refurbish the signs. He suggested relocating them to other main thoroughfares throughout the community, where people may be waiting for public transportation. Neubauer said the City has to abide by ND Department of Transportation regulations for those areas. Brian Dehnert suggested Signs & Wonders work with the City and the DOT to determine where benches would be of best use.

Knodel said other parties have been moving the benches to places that would not be of benefit to businesses, such as facing the buildings rather than streets. He asked why nobody has contacted Signs & Wonders with concerns. Most signs have the company's logo on the back. The only way to move the benches is to lift them, which results in wear and tear on the wood and concrete. He is apprehensive to improve the benches, as he is concerned they will continue to be damaged. He requested the City contact Signs & Wonders if they need to be moved.

At a recent meeting of the Mandan Architectural Review Commission, it was decided all portable signs should be clearly labeled to identify ownership and a point of contact. Ellen Huber recommended having a placard on each bench that clearly indicates ownership. She further recommended

creating points of contact at both Signs & Wonders and the City for any questions regarding sign placement or repair. She suggested, if the benches stay, that the City work with Signs & Wonders to use the benches for promotion of community events.

Signs and Wonders representatives indicated the benches showcase Mandan businesses. They said they only promote ad placements to Mandan businesses. Some advertisements are paid in advance. HIT, Inc. has paid for advertising through January 2017. There is no provision within client contracts addressing the possibility of contract termination with the City. The average cost for advertisement is \$40 per month. The maintenance of the sign is the responsibility of Signs & Wonders.

NarDawahl uses a bench to advertise for his business. He says it is the best use of signage that follows the city sign policy. City policy does not allow for signs below 6 feet. The bench is very conveniently placed for advertisement. He feels it has drawn a lot of attention and helped direct traffic to his business, which is located on a lower level. It provides small businesses with an affordable form of advertising. He sees people sitting on the benches. He would like to see the benches repaired. He pays \$42 per month.

Mary Ann Preble uses a bench to advertise for Preble Medical Services, Inc. Employees use the bench for visual way-finding at the corner of Collins Avenue to direct customers to the business. They would like to see the bench stay. They have a commitment through March 31, 2017.

Knodel suggested allowing individuals who would like to keep the benches to purchase them and phase out the other benches. He offered to remove the signs not being rented from Main Street. Huber said there are issues with allowing private items in the public right-of-way.

Committee members discussed the advertising benches. Huettl said he doesn't view the well-maintained benches, such as the NarDawahl and Preble benches, as eyesores or problems. Dehnert suggested leaving the signs used by businesses downtown for key advertising and moving the other signs to public transit areas in the community. Bob Decker said if benches are allowed, it should be linked in some way to the sign code. Lalim will look into signage options for basement businesses.

Huber suggested leaving the benches in place through March 31, 2017. It would allow notice for existing advertisers and provide time for research into other possible placements. It would allow for the sign policy to be reviewed and potentially revised. Decker suggested eliminating the bench contract and modifying the sign ordinance.

The committee discussed temporary signage. Lalim and the Mandan Architectural Review Commission are working to develop an ordinance to better address temporary and temporary off-premise signage.

Huber moved to recommend allowing the advertising benches to stay through March 31, 2017. In the interim, any benches being used for advertising must be repaired within 60 days. Those not being for advertising would be removed from Main Street with the opportunity for possible relocation to areas conducive with the CAT bus route. Dehnert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lalim suggested incorporating a new section in the sign code regarding benches in the public right-of-way. Huber suggested requiring all outdoor advertisers to appear before MARC. Signage on private property must be reviewed by a building official. The City cannot force businesses to remove benches on private property unless they place advertising on the benches.

City staff will determine how to advance the committee's recommendations. The 60-day timeline for repair will begin once notice is given.

E. Update on Dutch Elm and Ash Borer Disease, PARDS program, and boulevard trees.

F. Update on code enforcement ordinance. (*Joe*)

G. Consider signage to discourage littering and possible increase in fine.

H. Other Business

I. Future Meetings

1. Thursday, May 12, 2016 7:30 a.m.
2. Thursday, June 9, 2016 7:30 a.m.

J. Adjourn

Keith Johnson moved to adjourn. Neubauer 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)*

FUTURE ACTION ITEMS:

1. *City staff will determine how to implement the committee's recommendations regarding downtown advertising benches.*
2. *Doug Lalim will look into signage options for basement businesses with regard to the City sign policy.*