

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, May 19, 2016

7:30 a.m.

Veterans' Conference Room

Mandan City Hall

205 Second Avenue NW

A. Roll Call:

1. Introductions.

Laurie Leingang called the meeting to order. Members present are indicated with a . Also in attendance was City Arborist Kaiden Straabe.

B. Consider minutes from the April 14 meeting.

Keith Johnson moved to approve the minutes from the April 14 meeting. Brian Dehnert seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Report on Community Clean-up Day.

Amy Schmidt reported on Community Clean-up Day. The April 30 event was a huge success, with 171 volunteers registered and 451 bags of litter collected, an increase from about 300 bags the previous year. Many local businesses donated door prizes and food for the event. Schmidt is in the process of writing thank you letters to businesses for their donations.

Ellen Huber received a comment from a member of the Chamber staff who commended Mandan's effort to make it a fun activity and provide an appreciation meal.

D. Update on potential projects.

- 1. Idea generation and prioritization for NDDOT entrances**
- 2. Downtown business district**
 - i. Report on contracts for benches**
 - ii. Update on project ideas**

Kevin Levi from the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) attended the March meeting to discuss potential projects that would improve the appearance of the gateways into the Mandan. The discussion was centered on six entrances: Highway 6, Highway 1806, Memorial Highway, Main Street, Sunset Drive and McKenzie. The committee continued the discussion and reviewed photos from the gateway areas.

Concerns for the areas of Highway 1806 and Highway 6 included fencing maintenance, weed control and grasses that were not being sufficiently maintained.

Near the east Main Street entrance, grass clippings are visible on concrete areas. In other areas of town, grass clippings are seen in rock beds. Dehnert suggested removing the dead trees in

this area and spraying for weeds.

There are a lot of weeds, including some noxious weeds, near the McKenzie Drive gateway. Joe Camisa will issue a letter to the NDDOT notifying them of wormwood and spurge in the area. In addition, the median is often full of litter.

The committee discussed the possibility of planting trees and shrubs near the Memorial Highway entrance. Dehnert suggested the green space area northwest of Memorial Bridge. Straabe said if the City plants trees and shrubs, it is the City's responsibility to maintain them. If NDDOT plants them, NDDOT will maintain them. He said litter could collect in shrubs and reminded the committee to be mindful of where they plant, as trees could block signage. Other concerns included litter and weeds.

Leingang suggested placing trash receptacles along the walking trail, as it may encourage people to dispose of litter. Schmidt suggested inviting a park board member to a future meeting to discuss it further. She also suggested placing signs discouraging litter in the area. Huber said that most of the areas that would benefit from these signs fall in the NDDOT right-of-way.

A welcome sign is proposed as part of the Memorial Highway corridor project. In addition, way-finding signs will be in place in July.

The committee also discussed the area near the Sunset Drive entrance. The upkeep under the I-94 bridge needs improvement. Weeds and grasses are growing out of the concrete and there is graffiti under the bridge. There are also dead trees and a lot of weeds in the area. The committee would like to see the dead trees removed. Huber has received many complaints about the upkeep of the chain-link fences near the intersection of Sunset Drive and Boundary Road. In addition, a local church has an off-premise sign at the intersection that is in poor repair.

Steve Nardello said temporary traffic lights and the signage contribute to the unsightliness of the gateway. There is no specified date to when permanent signals will be put in place.

Dehnert wants the NDDOT to clean up the gravel alongside the roadway. He thinks it might help grass grow.

Huber suggested prioritizing the Sunset Drive and Memorial Highway entrances, as they have the highest traffic counts. Jim will e-mail NDDOT and point out areas for improvement, prioritizing the Sunset Drive, Memorial Highway and McKenzie entrances.

Jim Neubauer will work with Froseth and Camisa to draft a letter to the NDDOT outlining the committee's concerns. Camisa will talk with BNSF about removing dead trees. If necessary, Neubauer will follow up with a letter.

Neubauer will invite representatives from the Mandan Park District and Lower Heart District to the Community Beatification Committee's June 9 meeting.

Neubauer recently spoke with Rick Knodel from Signs & Wonders. Knodel asked what the committee would like for him to do with regards to the contract for benches. The committee discussed its expectations. The bench sign contract will continue until March 31, 2017. In the meantime, Knodel needs to remove benches without current advertising contracts within 60 days

from first notice. He cannot use the benches to advertise for his own business. He can include a small area with information on how to rent the bench. Dehnert recommended an area no larger than 2 inches in height. If he has open benches, he should contact the City to see if there is anything the City would like to promote.

Huber noted there is another bench company with advertising benches in the community. The benches are also in poor repair. She suggested determining ownership and addressing the concern.

Dehnert moved to require removal of advertising benches not under an existing contract within 60 days from first notice. Froseth seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Doug Lalim presented a potential addition to the sign policy regarding bench signs. The proposed language only allows for one advertising space per bench. It also addresses size, sign area, upkeep and requires that signs only promote Mandan businesses and events. Huber suggested including language regarding public right-of-way versus private property locations. The committee agreed the policy should be a city ordinance.

Lalim will add subsection 10, "Signs in the public right-of-way require City Commission approval." He will also update subsection 9 to read, "Signs in the public right-of-way must advertise Mandan businesses or events." The policy will appear before the Planning and Zoning Commission in June. Lalim will bring it back to the Community Beautification Committee meeting at the July meeting.

E. Update on Dutch Elm and Ash Borer Disease, PARDS program, and boulevard trees. *The ordinance regarding Dutch Elm and Ash Borer Disease has been approved and adopted by the City Commission. Straabe has been enforcing it. Lowes is no longer selling green ash trees. Straabe is still seeing cases of Dutch Elm Disease, especially in the area near the TP Motel. He has not seen any cases of Ash Borer Disease.*

The City raised \$5,000 in donations for the Pards tree-planting program. Five donors who gave \$500 or more will be recognized at the June 21 City Commission meeting. Three donors who gave at least \$1,000 will have their names included on a perpetual plaque that will be hung in the City Commission room. Three residents have so far been reimbursed through the program for planting boulevard trees this year.

F. Update on administrative procedure for code enforcement ordinance. (Joe)
A draft ordinance is being circulated among city staff for comments and edits.

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

H. Other Business

I. Future Meetings

1. Thursday, June 9, 2016 7:30 a.m.
2. Thursday, July 14, 2016 7:30 a.m.

J. Adjourn

Neubauer moved to adjourn. Froseth 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)*