

Committee Members:

Chairperson

Luci Snowden, Citizen
Term: 2018-2020

Vice Chairperson

Brian Dehnert, Citizen
Term: 2019-2021

Laurie Leingang, Citizen
Term: 2017-2019

Crystal Tretbar, Citizen
Term: 2019-2021

Jody Skogen, Citizen
Term: 2017-2019

Maria Walen, Citizen
Term: 2018-2020

Jim Neubauer, Administration

Shawn Ouradnik, Building
Official

Ellen Huber, Business
Development & Communications

Keith Johnson, Custer Health

Justin Froseth, Planning &
Engineering

Candy Fleck, Code
Enforcement Officer / Police

Mitch Bitz, Public Works

Liaisons:

John Van Dyke, City Planner

Kari Moore, Program
Coordinator

Katie Nagel, Arborist

Lori Flaten, Deputy Chief of
Police

**Mandan Community Beautification Committee
Thursday, December 12, 2019**

7:30 a.m.

**Veterans' Conference Room
Mandan City Hall, 205 Second Avenue NW**

MINUTES

A. Introductions

Snowden called the meeting to order. Members present are indicated by a . Also in attendance were Erin Ourada, replacing Keith Johnson at Custer Health after he retires at the end of the year, Chad Mizera with HDR, and Rena Mehlhoff.

B. Consider minutes from Oct. 10, 2019 meeting

Dehnert moved to approve the minutes. Walen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Consider appointments for expiring terms

- a. Laurie Leingang
- b. Jody Skogen
- c. Rena Mehlhoff

Moore noted that Skogen was traveling out of town for a funeral and unable to be in attendance. Snowden explained there are currently two open positions and three applicants. Neubauer reminded the committee that Skogen was filling Sharon Gallagher's vacant term and had only served on the committee for a year. Members took a moment to read over the letters of interest submitted.

Mehlhoff stated she has a background in communications and currently works as the Communications Specialist for Bismarck Parks and Rec. She has her Master Gardner certificate from NDSU Extension and her own certified pollinator garden.

Leingang stated she has been on the committee since it was reactivated by the City Commission, and also serves on the Leadership, Pride and Image (LPI) committee which assists with community marketing guidance. A goal of the LPI committee is to have a member on the Community Beautification Committee as well.

Leingang and Mehlhoff both volunteered to leave the room for the committee to discuss. Froseth asked if it was possible to add another member to the committee, because he felt that both Leingang and Skogen are active members bringing a lot to the table and that Mehlhoff's

knowledge and experience would add value to the committee. Neubauer stated if it is in the committee wishes to add another community at-large position, they could take it to the City Commission for approval. Dehnert agreed with Froseth. Huber added that the committee currently has 13 members, needing 7 for quorum. Adding another person wouldn't change the quorum requirements. Neubauer suggested requesting a range of community at-large representation, that way the committee wasn't tied to a specific number if future interest dwindled.

Dehnert motioned to recommend approval of changing the community at-large representation on the committee from six positions to a range of six to eight positions; to appoint Rena Mehlhoff and reappoint Jody Skogen and Laurie Leingang for three-year terms from Jan. 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2022. Froseth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Snowden brought Leingang and Mehlhoff back into the room and they were filled in on the committee's recommendations which will be taken to City Commission on Dec. 17, 2019.

D. Update on projects

a. Discuss Memorial Highway aesthetic improvement options

Froseth stated Chad Mizera with HDR Inc. was in attendance to introduce the committee to and discuss options for Memorial Highway aesthetic improvements. Mizera gave a quick overview of the project and presented some options to urbanize the current rural section of Memorial Highway. He stated there will be a traffic signal added to the intersection with Third Street and Memorial Highway, and that the intersection of 40th Avenue will be reconfigured to help improve the sight distance. The use of medians at the intersection is an option. Mizera reported that his team is looking at a trail on the south side of the highway and sidewalks on the north side. The reconstruction of Memorial Highway is 80% federally funded, plus 10% state and 10% local funding requirements. The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) has a roadway enhancement policy that allows for up to \$400,000 of federal dollars for aesthetic improvements, but that they won't fund some things such as signage.

There was much discussion on maintenance of medians and curb bulbouts, especially if using plants or greenery options. Bitz stated maintenance definitely needs to be considered.

Ideas for hardscaping, public art, low growing evergreen shrubs, raised planters in bulbouts, rain gardens, and more were suggested. Froseth said he wouldn't say no at this time to public art in the medians, but does worry about driver distraction and thinks the NDDOT would as well.

Huber asked if there were any pros or cons for Memorial Highway to have its own look or be a continuation of west Main Street. Mizera stated what he's took away is that most prefer Memorial Highway have a different look due to the corridor that it is. Van Dyke stated he would like to see some uniformity with downtown along Memorial Highway.

Mizera reported feedback is showing people want benches along the trails, and Dehnert advised including trash receptacle at the bench locations. There is also the potential for bus shelters for BisMan Transit.

Snowden asked Mizera to bring some non-landscaping ideas back at a later date. Van Dyke requested providing more specific options to choose from.

Walen stated she would advocate for greenery because Memorial Highway is not currently aesthetically pleasing. Van Dyke felt that greenery shouldn't be included in the medians, and should be something that works all year long in North Dakota weather, not just a couple months out of the year.

b. Update on the removal/refurbishing of obelisks (Van Dyke)

i. [Map of obelisks](#)

Van Dyke provided the committee with his staff report on the condition of the obelisks. There is no specific City funding source for the replacement of the obelisks in bad condition. He reported he did find the plans for the obelisks. There are 41 total obelisks and 15 of them need to be removed or replaced. Since there is no funding source for replacing, he suggests removing them unless the property owner stated they wanted to keep theirs.

Van Dyke reminded the committee Kupper Chevrolet had indicated interest in volunteering to help paint the obelisks. The Engineering & Planning department will contact Kupper Chevrolet about a possible spring or summer volunteer project for painting the obelisks that are in good condition or are being kept per property owner request. Leingang stated United Way's Day of Caring could be another option.

Bitz stated Public Works could remove the obelisks. Dehnert said he may be able to get some Bobcat volunteers to help as well. Removal does require digging and filling holes since the obelisks do have a base.

The committee agreed to removing obelisks in bad condition as time allows, and painting those that are in good condition or have been requested to keep.

E. Other Status Reports

a. Update on Library, Dykshoorn & Heritage Park Project (Neubauer)

Neubauer provided an update on the library project and stated that Wendy Van Duyne would be at Cappuccino on Collins from 5-7 p.m. this evening with display boards and more information on the project, including the greenspace options. Neubauer provided plans and drawings for the library and reported the project may be done in phases over a couple of years. The current plan is to bid in late January or early February and to break ground in the spring for the library part of the project.

F. Other Business

a. Discuss RV & Boat Parking concern (Van Dyke)

Van Dyke reported a Planning & Zoning commissioner had expressed concern over RV and boat parking on yards versus a parking pad. He brought the concern to the committee, asking for a recommendation on whether to create a code or not. He stated City Staff is opposed to creating code as it's a matter that should be handled by home owners associations where applicable, and that there are administrative challenges for enforcing this should it become code.

Discussion was held amongst the committee. Snowden suggested using the issue as an educational piece rather than putting code in place. Ouradnik made a motion to direct Van Dyke to not do anything with it. Leingang seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Van Dyke will present the committee direction to Planning & Zoning.

G. Future Meetings

- a. Thursday, February 13, 2020 (7:30 a.m.)
- b. Thursday, April 9, 2020 (7:30 a.m.)

Moore advised the committee that the 2020 dates were provided in the agenda packet and if any additional meetings were necessary in the months where there currently aren't meetings scheduled, they would be noticed.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.