

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
May 16, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Doshier, Craig Grotenhouse, Pat Pummel, Larry Stoner, Jim White, John Wrede

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Jerry Munson

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Chlebek, Bill Lass, Sharlene Mitchell

Call to Order

Grotenhouse called the meeting to order at 7:01 a.m. and welcomed Mayor Munson. Grotenhouse briefly reviewed his conversation with the Mayor regarding Beautification issues and concerns.

Munson complimented Code Enforcement staff for their City cleanup efforts. Munson spoke briefly regarding the Committee's issues and concerns as outlined by Grotenhouse. Munson requested that he be provided with a prioritized list of the Committee's issues and concerns in conjunction with an outline of the assistance the Committee would like the Mayor's Office to provide.

Discussion followed regarding the Committee's concerns with billboard and landscaping regulations, overhead powerlines, improvements to West Memorial Park, upgrading of the Welcome to Rapid City signs and project funding issues. Grotenhouse commented on the Committee's efforts to work with the Department of Transportation to secure landscaping improvements in conjunction with the Omaha Street reconstruction project. Discussion followed regarding the impact of Hubbard Mill on the reconstruction project.

Discussion followed regarding the best manner to approach such issues as billboard regulation. Munson outlined his view of the Mayor's Office participation in addressing the Committee's issues and concerns. Grotenhouse indicated that the Committee would work with the Mayor's Office to address issues in a positive manner. Lass briefly reviewed the Planning Commission request for an ordinance amendment requiring billboards to be addressed as a Use on Review. Munson left the meeting at this time.

In response to the Mayor's request, Grotenhouse recommended that the Committee members identify and develop a prioritized list of issues and concerns for submission to the Mayor's Office within 30 to 60 days.

Approval of Minutes

White moved, Doshier seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the April 18, 2001 meeting.

Financial Report

Mitchell briefly reviewed the financial report noting that Lass would address the unencumbered interest accrual under the Welcome Sign Project.

Certificate of Appreciation Program

Doshier moved, Wrede seconded and carried unanimously to approve the letter and certificate as presented by White.

Doshier moved, White seconded and carried unanimously to award the Beautification Committee Certification of Appreciation to The Plaza at 1301 West Omaha Street and Black Hills Auto at 1036 Cambell Street.

Outback Steak House Landscaping

At the request of the Committee, Lass presented the Outback Steak House landscape proposal noting that the plan meets the minimum requirement of the ordinance. Lass indicated that the site has been inspected and is in compliance with the ordinance.

The Plaza/Office Depot complex

At the request of the Committee, Lass presented The Plaza/Office Depot complex landscaping noting its compliance with the minimum requirements of the ordinance. Lass indicated that plant selection and placement accounts for the difference in appearance between the Outback Steak House and The Plaza complex.

Discussion followed regarding the impact plant material placement has on the overall appearance of the project. Discussion followed regarding consideration of a building size in calculation of the landscape point requirements.

MDU Steele Street site

At the request of the Committee, Lass presented the MDU Steele Street landscape plans noting that the plan complies with the existing ordinance and does indicate a front placement of the plant materials.

Landscape Ordinance Review Committee

Lass indicated that efforts are underway to bring all sections of the ordinance into uniformity regarding sight triangle requirements in order to permit planting of street trees. Lass indicated that a draft of the Landscape Ordinance and sight triangle issue should be available at the June meeting.

Omaha Street Reconstruction/Landscaping Subcommittee

Doshier indicated that the Department of Transportation was to have performed a review of the project and indicated that he would request a copy of the minutes of that project review meeting.

Lass indicated that Seaman has indicated that the Department of Transportation is willing to work with the Committee regarding Omaha Street landscaping issues. Grotenhouse requested that Lass contact Seaman regarding the status of the Haines Avenue landscaping contract.

Rapid City Welcome Sign Landscaping/Replanting

Lass indicated that the action taken by Council regarding the West Memorial Park project directed all available funding to the project, which Lass interpreted, would also include the March interest accrual. Lass recommended placing the Welcome Sign project on hold pending Council clarification of utilization of the accrued interest.

Pummel indicated that a local business has expressed an interest in funding the replanting of one of the Welcome Sign sites. Discussion followed regarding utilization of donated funds to fund an annual maintenance service to maintain the replanted sites. Doshier indicated that most donors assume their funds will be utilized to develop new projects; not rehabilitate or maintain existing projects. Discussion followed regarding the philosophy of accepting donations for initial project development versus donation for on going project maintenance.

Wrede moved, Doshier seconded and carried unanimously to direct Grotenhouse to prepare a letter of support for the proposed staff and maintenance increases to the Year 2002 Parks Department budget.

Discussion followed regarding securing City maintenance for the Welcome Signs. Lass briefly reviewed the maintenance proposal presented by the Beautification Committee when presenting the Welcome Sign project for Council approval. Discussion followed regarding funding annual maintenance of existing projects through donations.

The Committee recommended that Pummel apprise the potential donor of the issues regarding the utilization of donated funds for the development of new projects, rehabilitation of existing projects or secure annual maintenance services for existing projects and would request that the donation be placed on hold pending resolution of those issues.

A Subcommittee of Pummel, Doshier and Wrede was appointed to prepare recommendations regarding the acceptance of donations for use in the long term maintenance of Beautification projects and to present those recommendations at the June meeting.

Wrede volunteered to contact MDU regarding the donation and possible projects where the funding could be directed.

Code Enforcement Report

Chlebek reviewed the current weed and grass issues noting that the State of South Dakota and the City of Rapid City will be paying the Pennington County Weed and Pest Board to spray traffic islands. Discussion followed regarding weed maintenance along Jackson Boulevard and possible resolutions to the problem.

Other Business

Doshier moved, White seconded and carried unanimously to address City Council regarding approval to submit a TEA-21 grant application for placement of underground powerlines on Canyon Lake Drive from Mt. View to Soo San Drive. Discussion followed regarding phasing of the Canyon Lake Drive road project.

Lass indicated that if the City is successful with the Omaha Street/West Memorial Park project Black Hills Power and Light has indicated that they would apply that project funding to the underground powerline project on Canyon Lake Drive. Discussion followed.

Lass stated that the best time to propose the TEA-21 grant application for the Canyon Lake Drive project in conjunction with the Omaha Street/West Memorial Park TEA-21 grant application.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.