

MINUTES
MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE
September 19, 2001

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martin Busch, Steve Doshier, Craig Grotenhouse, Joel Jundt, Sue Larson, Pat Pummel, Larry Stoner, Jim White, John Wrede

OTHERS PRESENT: Council Liaison Ron Kroeger

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Lass, Sharlene Mitchell

Call to Order

Grotenhouse called the meeting to order at 7:04 a.m.

Approval of August 15, 2001 Minutes

Stoner moved, Jundt seconded and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2001 meeting.

Financial Report

Mitchell briefly reviewed the September Financial Report.

Prioritized Projects List / Prioritized Issues List

Lass briefly reviewed the Prioritized Projects List and Prioritized Issues List as identified by the subcommittee. Lass clarified that the subcommittee did not specify a priority order for the Issues List but elected to classify the issues as either a "high" or "other" priority. Lass indicated that the Projects and Issues lists would be utilized as the Committee's annual work program. Noting that the projects and issues lists submitted by the committee members were utilized to formulate the final lists, Grotenhouse clarified that the "high" priority issues are not ranked in order of importance.

Jundt requested clarification of the billboard issue statement. Grotenhouse indicated that the initial intent is to eliminate the expansion of billboards. In response to a question from Jundt, Lass clarified that the City Code defines a billboard as an "off-premise" sign. Discussion followed regarding clarification of the billboard issues statement.

White commented on the recent auto accident at the southwest intersection of Main and 2nd Streets and the resulting damage to the corner node. *The Committee requested that Lass research the City's policy regarding funding the repair of City property damaged through accident.*

Discussion followed regarding endorsement of the Projects and Issues lists as the Committee's overall work program. **Busch moved, White seconded and carried unanimously to endorse the Prioritized Projects List and Beautification Issues List with the addition of the Haines/I-190 Avenue Landscape project as a "Project In Process".**

Beautification Bylaws / Membership Roster / Subcommittee Roster

Busch briefly reviewed the proposed amendments to the Committee Bylaws noting that the intent of the amendments is to legitimize the Committee. Busch called attention to the requirement that an annual report be provided to the City Council for the purpose of updating the current status, accomplishments and future direction of the Committee.

Pummel moved to approve the bylaws as amended. Jundt seconded the motion.

Grotenhouse moved, Pummel seconded and carried unanimously to amend Item 10 of the bylaws to read "By December 1st of each calendar year the Beautification Committee Annual Report shall be prepared and shall be presented to the City Council by the Committee Chairperson".

Lass clarified that the bylaws must be presented to City Council for final approval.

The main motion as amended carried unanimously.

Busch volunteered to present the revised bylaws to the Legal & Finance Committee and City Council for their review and consideration.

Donations Acceptance Subcommittee

Pummel indicated that the subcommittee had no report at this time.

Billboard Subcommittee

Busch indicated that the subcommittee has not met on the issue. Busch reviewed his discussions with the Mayor regarding various options for controlling the expansion of billboards. Discussion followed regarding the utilization of the "Cap and Replace" program to restrict billboards to a specified volume. Busch recommended that the subcommittee review the "Cap and Replace" program for possible presentation as an ordinance amendment.

Larson indicated that moving the billboard issue forward will require a philosophical change by the City as a whole. Discussion followed regarding methods to generate interest in the billboard issue from the Council, general public and area businesses.

The Committee recommended that the Billboard Subcommittee meet with the Mayor to review the "Cap and Replace" program as a possible ordinance amendment.

Omaha Street Reconstruction/Landscaping

Lass assured the Committee that the Department of Transportation is aware of their interest in the Omaha Street project and that Karen Harris will notify the Committee when the landscape phase of the project is ready for review and comment. Jundt commented on the status of the project noting that construction is scheduled for 2003.

Landscape Code / Sight Triangles

Lass reviewed the current committee membership and the efforts to appoint a second Council representative. Lass indicated that Rodriguez has been approached regarding appointment to the committee. Kroeger indicated that he would also be willing to serve on the committee.

Haines Avenue/I-190 Landscaping

White expressed concern with the design of the west bound exit from I-90 to I-190. Jundt reviewed the physical constraints of the area which contributed to the final design of the exit.

Lass presented the landscaping plans for the Haines Avenue and I-190 exits. Jundt provided a brief review of the plans noting that due to budget constraints the various alternatives will not be funded. Jundt reviewed the timetable for start of the landscaping portion of the interchange project.

Red Rock Drainage Project / Landscaping

Lass briefly reviewed the information provided by the Engineering staff regarding the City policy for tree replacement.

Doshier indicated that eight trees to be removed from the area of concern and to date none have been replaced. *Doshier indicated that he would discuss the issue with Engineering in an effort to determine what could be done in the area and provide a report at the October meeting.*

Cellular Tower Plan

Lass indicated that the Planning Commission and City Council have authorized the hiring of a consultant to develop a Master Plan for Telecommunication Facilities. Lass stated that it has been recommended that the Beautification Committee participate in the Master Plan process. The Committee expressed their willingness to provide participate in the Telecommunications Facilities Master Plan process with White and Jundt volunteering to represent the Beautification Committee.

Roosevelt Park Xeriscape Demonstration Garden

Lass presented the Bureau of Reclamation garden design for Roosevelt Park. Lass clarified that the intent of the Reclamation grant was to provide information to the general public regarding landscaping that requires little or no irrigation.

Other Business

In response to a question, Jundt indicated that 5th Street should be opened by October 1, 2001.

Doshier commented on the weed problems being experienced in other area communities. Doshier requested that the Committee be provided a report on the utilization of the 2001 funding provided for weed control. Kroeger indicated that weed control is the responsibility of everyone in the City noting that City Government cannot individually control the proliferation of weeds.

Jundt reported that the I-190 irrigation system was disconnected by the City prior to the start of the I-190 interchange project. Jundt indicated that the City has not expressed an interest in reconnecting the system.

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.