

MINUTES  
MAYOR'S BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE  
September 20, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martin Busch, Steve Doshier, Craig Grotenhouse, Dr. Richard Kovarik, Pat Pummel, Larry Stoner, Jim White, John Wrede

OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Harris, Dale Russell

STAFF PRESENT: Rod Johnson, Bill Lass, Sharlene Mitchell, Ginny Osborne, Lon VanDeusen, Sharon Zeller

Call to Order

Grotenhouse called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Approval of the August 16, 2000 Minutes

**Busch moved, Stoner seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of the August 16, 2000 Meeting.**

Financial Report

Mitchell indicated that there has been no change to the Financial Report.

Omaha Street Reconstruction

Dale Russell and Karen Harris, South Dakota Department of Transportation, provided a brief review of the Omaha Street reconstruction project. Russell indicated that the Department of Transportation would welcome assistance from the City regarding pedestrian access and aesthetic issues for the project.

Harris briefly reviewed the extent of the Omaha Street project noting the placement of raised medians along the route to prohibit left turning movements at specific locations. Discussion followed regarding the use of colored concrete or landscape plantings in the raised medians.

Russell reviewed the impact the Omaha project will have on the Hubbard Mill, Dan's Super Store, Wolf's Bargain Den and the City/School Administration Complex properties. Russell indicated that Omaha Street would be designed for 30-MPH standards with the signal timing modified to provide better traffic flows. Russell identified other state projects which have utilized the raised median noting the positive public reception to the design.

Discussion followed regarding the re-design of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street intersection to better handle traffic flows from Civic Center events and the possibility of allowing U-turns at certain intersections along Omaha Street.

In response to Grotenhouse, Russell reviewed the type of landscaping that would be approved for the raised medians. Discussion followed regarding the Department of Transportation's efforts to work with property owners such as Hubbard Mill. Russell reviewed the relocation of the Black Hills Power & Light utilities noting that the Department of Transportation would suggest placing the utility underground.

In response to Doshier, Russell indicated that the recommendations of the Downtown Master Plan would be reviewed for possible incorporation into the reconstruction project. Discussion followed regarding the projected timetable for the reconstruction project.

Doshier, Stoner, Busch, Pummel and Zeller volunteered to serve as the Omaha Street Reconstruction Subcommittee to assist the Department of Transportation with landscape recommendations for the reconstruction project.

#### I-190 Irrigation System

Lass briefly reviewed the information provided by the Engineering Department regarding the removal of a significant portion of the I-190 irrigation infrastructure. VanDeusen briefly reviewed the issues associated with the existing irrigation system. Discussion followed regarding the I-190 landscape irrigation requirements and replacement and redesign of the existing system to provide a more usable system.

Grotenhouse indicated that he would contact the Department of Transportation regarding the removal of the I-190 irrigation infrastructure and provide a report at the October meeting.

#### Canyon Lake Chimney Project

Johnson briefly reviewed the improvements proposed for the chimney area by the Canyon Lake Restoration Project Master Plan. Johnson identified the safety issues to be addressed in coordination with any improvement of the chimney area.

White indicated that Messinger's intent is to develop a site that is of benefit to the citizens of Rapid City. Discussion followed on the historic significance of the chimney site, funding resources for the project and subsequent public value of the project. Lass clarified that the design services volunteered by Thurston were restricted to projects of historical significance only.

Discussion followed regarding the donation, the status of the West Memorial Park project grants, landscaping the West Memorial Park "Coke" sign and replacement playground equipment at Old Storybook Island.

**Doshier moved, Wrede seconded and carried with Pummel voting No to recommend that the Beautification Committee support the landscaping of the West Memorial Park "Coke" sign and that White be asked to present this recommendation to the Messinger family for funding consideration.**

#### Rapid City Welcome Signs Landscape Recommendations

Pummel requested that the item be continued to the October meeting. Pummel requested that the Department of Transportation address the Welcome Sign proposed for Elk Vale Road.

#### Citizens for a Scenic Rapid City Report

Busch briefly reviewed the provisions of the new sign ordinance as passed by City Council. Discussion followed regarding the new sign regulations and future removal of the non-conforming signs. Wrede commented on the billboard and beautification efforts of Albany, New York area noting that photographs would be provided at the October meeting. The Committee commended Busch for his efforts on the billboard issue.

Discussion followed on the methods available for moving the billboard issue forward. Grotenhouse volunteered to address the issue with the Mayor.

#### Code Enforcement Report

Osborne provided a brief review of the current activity level of the Code Enforcement Department. Discussion followed regarding the Year 2001 weed control funding authorized by the City Council and the program being developed to address those issues.

Discussion followed regarding the establishment of an "Acknowledgment Program" to acknowledge and encourage improvement of business properties through the utilization of landscaping.

#### Keep Rapid City Beautiful Report

Zeller briefly addressed the status of the Downtown Node Revitalization project and the unveiling of the presidential statues. Zeller commented on the status of the 6th Street Bridge and encouraged the Committee members to inspect the bridge. Zeller commented on the recycling program and the storm drain stencil project. Discussion followed regarding the future of recycling, community participation in the program and the "Spruce Up South Dakota" program.

#### Other Business

In response to White, Lass recommended contacting the City Engineering Department regarding replacement of the speed limit signs on West Boulevard.

Discussion followed on the State's response to the Mt. Rushmore Road/tree billboard issue and federal billboard regulations.

#### Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.