

- A. INTRODUCTIONS Mudder called the meeting to order. Those present were Mudder, Leingang, MacDonald, Ranisate, Solberg, Neubauer, Singer, Cermak, Snowden, Wigness, Decker, Bitz, Schmidt, Herman, Stromme, and MPO Executive Director Matt Schanandore.
- B. SELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR Snowden moved and MacDonald seconded to nominate Layn Mudder as chair. The motion passed. Snowden moved and Cermak seconded to nominate Rena Mehlhoff as Vice Chair. The motion passed.
- C. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES
1. *Dec. 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes.* MacDonald moved and Neubauer seconded to approve the Dec. 14, 2023 minutes as presented. The motion passed.
- D. BEAUTIFICATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM NOMINATIONS There are no new nominations at this time. Schmidt reported Curvy Flamingo and owner Becky's niece Kora McArthur were recognized at a January City Commission meeting. The other property recommended for recognition at the last meeting has not yet been recognized. Schmidt has reached out several times to the property owners to get permission to recognize them, but has heard nothing in response. She may hold off until Halloween, as this was a Halloween nomination, and bring it back up to the property owners.
- E. STATUS REPORTS
1. *Marathon Thriving Communities Grants* . Herman shared the City was awarded a \$20,000 grant for a green space project through a Marathon Thriving Communities Grant program. Schmidt shared the City was also awarded a \$13,500 grant for street pole banners to hopefully go up this spring, and the Police Department was awarded a \$35,000 grant for drones through the same program.
- F. OTHER BUSINESS
1. *Winter Business Awards.* Schmidt shared nominations were accepted through December for the Winter Decorating award, and through January for the Golden Shovel award. Railway Credit Union is the winner of the Winter Decorating award, and will be recognized at the Feb. 20 City Commission meeting. Voting for the Golden Shovel is open through Feb. 16 and the link to vote is available at cityofmandan.com/winterawards. Mudder asked about doing a contest for the Independence Day Holiday. Schanandore suggested reaching out to Mandan Rodeo Days, as they did a window decorating contest last year.
2. *Street Light Holiday Decorations (Matt Schanandore)* . Schanandore shared a handout with some concepts with a rough cost estimate. Memorial has 58 lights, Main Street has 58, and First Street has 28 light poles with decorations. Other posts that we don't decorate but do have are black lamp posts (small black, street light posts along Main Street core downtown area). He suggested some wreaths on those poles. Schanandore suggested a wire-frame design, getting rid of the tinsel design, which catches dirt and grime and hides light. There could be some garland incorporated on the side of the light. He did suggest using a larger light for Memorial Highway. The estimate to redo the whole project with LED lights is \$150,000-\$170,000. He said the City could look at off-setting some of the cost by possibly selling the current decorations, however they are worn. Bitz asked if the number on Memorial Highway would change after the reconstruction project. Wigness was not sure, but can look into it and make sure the new poles will have outlets. Schanandore explained that there are some banner style light options. The

new connecting points on the poles would need to change if switching to a new set of lights. Neubauer suggested waiting on Memorial Highway until the project is complete, or at least the design is finalized. We could potentially do it in phases with the Memorial Highway light installation. Stromme stated the same would apply for First Street, because a project is coming sometime between 2025-2027. Schanandore explained that the MPO could be the fiscal agent for the project, it could be packaged in with some sponsorship opportunities, or an ask of the Visitors Fund. Mudder asked about the lifespan. Schanandore explained the life span is longer than the current lights lifespan. Schanadore explained the MPO could own and insure, would just need help with handing. Solberg said she likes the white light of the snowflakes, but worries that the community will miss the color lights just because that's the way it's always been. MacDonald thought tying color in would be good. Stromme said he feels LED lights are cold, he thinks the project is great but would advocate for incandescent lights. There was some conversation about warmer lights with the use of LEDs. He also suggested some lights around Bearscat, with the businesses in that area. Mudder asked about North Mandan. Consensus seemed to be keeping it in the walkable areas. Herman asked about getting bracketing before hand so they could be installed in warmer weather. Schanandore suggested a group of people interested that could do some finalizing of design and timeline. Would want to shoot for end of May to order, if wanting street lights up in November. Neubauer moved to create a subcommittee to move forward with the project. Snowden seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Schanandore, Solberg, MacDonald, Stromme and Herman will be on the sub-committee. Snowden will be an alternate. Singer would like to see the brackets when they come in.

G. NOTE OF THANKS

1. *Is there anyone we should send a note of thanks to?* . No notes of thanks at this time.

H. FUTURE MEETINGS

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1. *Thursday, April 11, 2024 (7:30 a.m.)*

2. *Thursday, Jun. 13, 2024 (7:30 a.m.)*

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I. ADJOURN There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.