

A. INTRODUCTIONS Those present were Brian Dehnert, Laurie Leingang, Layn Mudder, Micaela Ranisate, Terra Solberg, Rena Mehlhoff, Madison Cermak, Jim Neubauer, Allan Decker, Kari Schmidt, Jason Herman, Andrew Stromme, Craig Sjoberg, Matt Schanandore, and Dustin Fleck.

B. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Feb. 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes.* Mehlhoff moved and Dehnert seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

C. BEAUTIFICATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM NOMINATIONS Schmidt shared that no nominations were submitted since the last meeting.

D. STATUS REPORTS

1. *Street Light Holiday Decorations (Sub-Committee).* Schanandore shared that the subcommittee decided the focus will be on Main Street first, then on to Memorial Highway after reconstruction is finished. The subcommittee had a lot of discussion about tinsel versus no tinsel. Schanandore shared photos of the current condition of the Christmas lights on the street poles, and how the tinsel can hide the light. He also shared designs the subcommittee narrowed down on. All brackets will be the same for the different options, since they are all from the same company. There are 21 lights between Collins Ave and Ohm's Cafe, and the subcommittee decided on a collection of snowflakes, with greenery and wreaths on the smaller, decorative black light poles and some green Christmas tree lights scattered with the snowflakes in the core downtown area. From Collins Ave east to Mandan Ave, the subcommittee decided on scattering a new bell, deer, poinsettia, snowflake, snowman and ornament. The size of the new lights is very similar to what the City is currently using. The subcommittee is recommending the Mandan Progress Organization make a request to the Mandan Visitors Fund. The new wreaths total about \$80,000 plus electrical costs (approximately \$100,000). New lights are estimated at \$57,507 plus shipping (determined when the order is placed). Schanandore shared that the old lights will still be used on First Street and Memorial Highway for the time being. As Memorial Highway and First Street get redone, more new Christmas street light decorations will be considered. Dehnert moved and Mehlhoff seconded to approve the recommendation from the subcommittee and recommend the MPO apply to the Visitors Fund for the funding of the project. The motion passed unanimously.

2. *BEK Sponsorship of 2024 Mandan Flowers.* Schmidt shared that BEK has agreed to sponsoring the Mandan Flowers again in 2024. The flowers have been ordered, planted, and should be up around the end of May. Neubauer shared that staff did look in to how much time the City has in to the flowers during the summer months for maintenance. It came out to \$18,000-\$20,000.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. *Community Clean-Up Month (Kari).* Schmidt reported 10 of 17 routes have been claimed so far, equaling to about 83 volunteers. Volunteers can sign up to claim a route at cityofmandan.com/littercleanup. Leingang asked about staff time with the new configuration. Schmidt shared that it now takes less staff and time to make it work and seems to be something that works better for the volunteers as well.

2. *Street Pole Banner Replacement Project Update (Kari).* As a follow up from last meeting, Schmidt shared that the street pole banner designs with the committee and explained that the banners have been received and a few are already up on street light poles along Old Red Trail and Sunset Drive.

They will be put up along Memorial Highway and Main Street too, as time allows. Cermak thanks Herman and the Public Works crew for their work in putting the banners up on the poles and seeing this project through.

3. *Spring Clean-Up Week is April 13-20.* Neubauer explained that Public Works does run a magnet down the landfill road to collect debris to help decrease flat tires. Schmidt shared from a committee perspective, the messaging for Spring Clean-Up Week includes items for clean-up should be placed no more than 24 hours in advance of your regularly scheduled garbage collection day, to help cut down on blowing debris. This week continues to be an all-hands on deck approach from Public Works staff.

4. *Project for Bobcat Day of Community Service (Brian).* Dehnert reported he has been in contact with Parks and Recreation for a maintenance project at the dog park. He and Dustin Fleck will work out the details. It should be sometime in June, however Dehnert was not sure on the exact day, as of our meeting. The obstacle course will remain. Leingang asked that Bobcat be recognized for their continued service projects in Mandan.

5. *Other Business to come before the board.* Mudder asked about the statue outside of Black Lions Bar. Stromme shared that he and the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) District Engineer met with the owner of Black Lions last year and the response was that the NDDOT policy doesn't allow for advertising in the right-of-way and saw the statue as advertising for the bar. Main Street is a primary state highway and falls under the NDDOT's guidelines. Stromme did remind the owner about the previous conversation and asked if this was intended to be the Lions permanent spot, if he wanted to see if NDDOT would approve. Schanandore asked about the MPO asking about the policy and pointing out some issues with it, as public art is becoming more and more of a draw for tourism. Stromme would like to think about it. Neubauer shared it's a fine line between funding and the City's relationship with NDDOT. The issue with the statue is not that it's a statue in the right-of-way, it's that NDDOT sees it as advertising for the business in the right-of-way. There were some questions about how this differs from sandwich boards that are all out in the right-of-way for different businesses.

Leingang asked about the lack of a City Forester and asked if Bitz as Fire Chief and Public Works Director was a permanent position. Neubauer shared the City advertised for a long time for an arborist and forester, and received no interest. That position was reconfigured within Public works, and the City is now working with Herman as Grounds Maintenance Superintendent on looking at his position getting an arborist designation and then after so many years working to get the forester designation. Bitz is temporarily serving a dual leadership role as Fire Chief and Public Works Director. The City did advertise and offered the Public Works Director job to an applicant but it was turned down. Since then, the Assistant Public Works Director position was advertised and there are interviews scheduled for that position soon. The City plans to readvertise for the Public Works Director position as well.

Neubauer shared that the City will be recognizing Marathon Mandan Refinery as an outstanding supporter during Tuesday's City Commission meeting, thanks to their generous donations in 2023 (BRINC drones for Police Department, green space project, and street pole banners).

Neubauer also shared an update on the boat ramp. The process is moving along. Trees have been removed and parking is being outlined. Corp of Engineers approval is still needed. The hope is for some work to be able to be started this fall, but more than likely it will be next spring. Fleck said during the public input meeting, the only negative feedback was traffic on the road.

F. NOTE OF THANKS No notes of thanks at this time.

1. *Is there anyone we should send a note of thanks to?* . There were no notes of thanks to be sent out.

G. FUTURE MEETINGS

1. *June 13, 2024, 7:30 a.m..*

2. *Aug. 8, 2024, 7:30 a.m..*

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