

A. INTRODUCTIONS Those present were Laurie Leingang, Layn Mudder, Micaela Ranisate, Terra Solberg, City Administrator Jim Neubauer, Business Development & Communications Director Madison Cermak, Code Enforcement Officer Allan Decker, Fire Chief/Public Works Director Mitch Bitz, Building Official Jordan Singer, Rena Mehlhoff, Luci Snowden, Ruth MacDonald, Communications Specialist Kari Schmidt, Grounds Maintenance Superintendent Jason Herman, and Planner Andrew Stomme. Brian Dehnert and City Engineer Jarek Wigness were absent.

B. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes.* Cermak moved and Snowden seconded to approve. Roll Call vote: Aye 12, Nay 0, Absent Dehnert & Wigness. The motion passed.

2. *April 5, 2024 Sub-Committee Meeting Notes.* Snowden moved and Neubauer seconded to approve. Roll Call vote: Aye 12, Nay 0, Absent Dehnert & Wigness. The motion passed.

C. BEAUTIFICATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM NOMINATIONS There were no nominations received. Members were encouraged to nominate properties as they see fitting the scope of the program. Snowden is keeping an eye on a house being worked on. Stromme suggested commercial properties like Buckin' Bean and Kids in Motion Pediatric Therapy, once the projects are complete.

D. STATUS REPORTS

1. *Spring Clean-Up Week Recap.* Bitz shared the numbers from the Spring Clean-Up Week which were also included in the packet. He said it was a busy, successful week and crews battled rain. The Heart River Correctional Facility had four workers helping clean-up crews each day through the week.

Leingang asked about the life of the landfill. Bitz said they are working with Toman Engineering to run some numbers, but the landfill is good for at least another 20 years, but that will go by fast.

2. *Community Clean-Up Month Recap .* There were over 200 volunteers that cleaned up all 17 routes in May, plus a few other areas staff identified as needing attention from additional volunteer groups. Schmidt shared that this tends to work better than just doing it on one day, as volunteers are able to do it on their own time and willing to work in smaller groups. In past Clean-Up Day events there have been routes that didn't get cleaned, or the volunteers were unable to get through the whole route. The new month-long structure helps ensure all routes are taken care of, and works well by only requiring a few City staff to organize, versus many. Schmidt shared the way the month-long events works is volunteers sign up and claim a route to clean as a family or group. She works with individuals to get them part of a group or will split routes to make it work for those not participating in a group. Schmidt will send Herman a calendar invite so he knows when bags need picked up and he works to either pick them up himself or get a crew member out to the site to collect the bags. Neubauer noted that we'll need to make a note around the Memorial Day weekend to make sure bags get picked up before Memorial Day. Herman shared that this is a great help for Grounds Maintenance. Schmidt will plan a day for committee members to help sort supplies and get them ready for volunteers to pick up next year, as that seems to be the area where some assistance is needed.

3. *Mandan Flowers Update.* Herman and crew got the hanging flower baskets hung up on June 4. He did note that it was a little different hanging up the baskets with the new banners, but with some

slight adjustments it worked and looks good. They are currently watering twice a week, but will keep an eye on heat to see if they need to increase that. There were three people that put the baskets up and it took about three hours to hang them. They are trying to improve the water pump system to speed up the process. This should help lower the labor hour for the Mandan Flowers project. Staff has determined the City spends approximately \$18,282 a year in watering hanging flower baskets and planters, along with rental of equipment to hang and take down the baskets, and maintenance for the project. The \$5,000 sponsorship covers the majority of the cost of the flowers.

Stromme shared that Conttontail Way Greenhouse (owners Allan & Debby Dykshoorn) donated the flowers in planters along Main Street (5) and City Hall. He will be recognizing them at the June 18 City Commission meeting.

4. *Volunteers Taking on City Landscaping Areas.* Herman stated he has a group of 4-5 ladies (Mary Himmelpach and friends) that will be taking on all city-owned landscape areas starting on June 17. They will pick up garbage and maintain the area. We'll see how this goes. Herman did bring up the Main Street bulb-out areas and they group may do those as well.

5. *Street Light Holiday Decorations.* Neubauer shared that Matt Schanandore is requesting a Visitors Committee meeting to consider the purchase of the street light holiday decorations. They will work to get a meeting scheduled. The request includes some additional fixtures for the park.

6. *Mid-Year Update from Code Enforcement Officer.* Decker shared some typical issues: grass, impounding vehicles, bikes, one goat call, chickens, cats and dogs. The Humane Society is taking most of the cats. there wen not many snow complaints this year. Code Enforcement has received quite a few junk complaints so far this summer. They are having good luck getting people to clean up after notification. Code Enforcement goes out after Spring Clean-Up week and takes care of those that still have junk out on the curb. There have been some overgrown trees and cracked sidewalk complaints. The City has a new officer and is looking to hire another. Mudder mentioned that Dakota Farms is getting "weedy." Code Enforcement has been in contact with Legacy Law Firm, O'Reilly Auto Parts, and Family Dollar owners to clean up their properties. They do receive a lot of online submittals and phone calls.

There was some discussion on the City's annual sidewalk project. The Engineering Office is accepting additional projects to be completed this year. Information is available at cityofmandan.com/sidewalkproject.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. *Bobcat Day of Community Service - Dog Park Project (June 10).* Bobcat's Day of Community Service at the Dog Park went well. Volunteers stained tables and benches, filled and seeded low spots, relocated pea gravel to the obstacle course area and spread 225 tons of black dirt among other things. Leingang would like to formally thank Bobcat for the projects they have done in the community. Schmidt will get a thank you out on social media, as well as in the monthly newsletter.

2. *Any other business to come before the board?* . There was a question asked about volunteer projects for the City. Public Works does have somewhat of a list for volunteer projects, but they aren't currently "big" projects. Staff will continue to discuss and hope to get a list going so when volunteer groups calls, we can get them a list of projects.

Singer shared the apartment building that caught fire in April is being demoed and cleaned up.

Staff shared that an alley beautification project is in talks with downtown business owners. The project would expand one to five blocks in the core downtown area, to include art, debris removal, etc. to make the area more pedestrian friendly. The Northern Plains National Heritage Foundation is interested in providing some matches in funding to help procure art and artists for the alley project. It's estimated that a project could cost about \$100,000 per block for art alone.

The library installed a mosaic near its entry. Some additional mosaics are planned for on the east end of the library building near the playground.

F. NOTE OF THANKS

1. *Is there anyone we should send a note of thanks to?* . Stromme suggested sending Molly McLain a note of thanks for her work on the mosaic.

G. FUTURE MEETINGS

1. *Aug. 8, 2024 (7:30 a.m.)* .

2. *Oct. 10, 2024 (7:30 a.m.)* .

H. ADJOURN There being no other business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned.