

Minutes from the Community Development meeting held January 03, 2023 at 5:00pm.

Present Chair Brandon Berg, members Mary Moore, Mallory Bartleson, and Angie Gadzik. Public Works Director Josh Ferkel, Deputy City Clerk, Mayor Sally Rodriguez and City Clerk Tanna Leonard also present.

Berg called meeting to order at 5:09.

### **Street Scape Project**

Gadzik asked the committee what they felt they needed to provide to the council for information and whether to have another public input meeting. Committee discussed the information. Gadzik reported that Janecek would have numbers available by the Council Meeting and that we should meet to discuss those numbers. She also reported that there was a phone call scheduled with IDOT for the parking on the south side of highway 22 where there is currently a gravel shoulder. She explained that she was planning on asking the council if they wanted to give the opportunity for another council member to join in the IDOT phone conversation the following day. Lastly Angie wanted to provide the council funding options.

Clerk explained that there weren't that many opportunities now and that the project many have to sit for a period of time before funding could be finalized. However, that showing public commitment at this point would be beneficial in further applications. Gadzik asked how that could be obtained and the Clerk compared the project to the MRT Bike Trail and that the community hosted fundraisers to show public support. Gadzik requested that Bi-State be reached out to discuss funding opportunities.

### **Partnering with School District**

Mallory Bartleson explained that her daughter came to the meeting and spoke on behalf of the Buffalo Student Council. They were wanting to partner with the city on projects and were looking for additional funding from the city to help with some of their goals.

Bartleson also explained about the food gaps for reduced lunches and that there is a real need for students to receive meals. As schools in larger communities have more resources for this type of support, it is barely supported in rural areas.

Bartleson mentioned that after school care programs would be beneficial to help those kids that have limited care until parents are home from work. The need for childcare within our community is a huge issue. The school has considered getting a steppingstones program available for students and a mentor type program.

Rodriguez reported that she met with the principal at Buffalo Elementary and she was working on a mentor program and was reaching out to businesses that may support this type of service.

### **Railroad Crossing**

Mayor Rodriguez updated the committee that the railroad has plans to repair the current boat access, but that those updates couldn't happen until spring. Clerk reported to the group that if and when the corrections could be made to the access, the committee could pick up where they left off on the beach

improvements of the dock and restrooms. She also reminded them that there was possible grant funding for the dock upgrades. The committee was enthusiastic about continuing with the planning of upgrades in that location.

### **Future Goals/Plans**

Berg mentioned his thoughts about highspeed internet services. Clerk shared information that she had researched about other communities. Gadzik requested Berg to provide them any information possible to investigate the project.

Motion by Moore and seconded by Gadzik to adjourn at 5:52.

Minutes respectively submitted by Tanna Leonard