

Minutes of the Buffalo Community Development Committee meeting held September 1, 2022.

Brandon Berg called meeting to order with roll Call: Angela Gadzik, Kathy Hutchison (6:12), Mary Moore, Mallory Bartleson, and alternate Judy Hammons. Also, present Mike Janecek, Joe Duehlmeyer, Meg Flenker (electronic), and Tanna Leonard, City Clerk.

### **Street Scape**

Mike Janecek explained to the committee that there were questions that needed to be determined tonight and that he also sent a proposed timeline for discussion.

He explained that everything was going good with the plans but that at the last council meeting there was discussion that additional parking be combined into the project along the south side on HWY 22. He showed the committee a draft plan. The committee agreed that part of the goal was to add any additional parking that is possible would-be part of the Community Development goal. Mike would include the additional parking to the project.

Meg Flenker presented Casey's Preliminary Concept Plan to the committee. She explained that there were picnic tables with integrated shade roofs, swing bench, connectivity with Casey's, and a palette of a pollinator garden, milkweed, goldenrod, and prairie drop seed. The concern with the culvert not having a rail had continued discussion. Meg explained that railings may attract for climbing and that her plan to plant prairie grass in the area would cause pedestrian flow away. Mallory Bartleson explained that as a parent she felt strongly that a rail be added as it gives a barrier. Meg would work with Mike to engineer a railing in the area. The committee approved the plan be submitted to Casey's.

Meg also presented several sign options to replace the "welcome to buffalo" sign. The committee discussed and decided that option one would be the best option with halo lighting instead of flood lighting. The committee also addressed changing the other "welcome to buffalo" signs along highway 22 to sync with the street scape theme, tying the project together. The consensus was to remove the sign on the east side of town and create an updated sign to replace the existing sign to the west.

Angela Gazik asked questions about the life cycle of the concrete mowing edge.

Joe Duehlmeyer updated the committee regarding the lighting and his concern the pedestrian lighting would be too bright. The issue being, especially on the east end of the project the sidewalk is so close to homes and residents may complain that the light is irritating at night. Berg asked the height of the streetlight and the pedestrian light. Duehlmeyer reported that the street light height is 26' and the pedestrian is 15'. Berg explained that he was concerned with the attraction of bugs to the pedestrian lights at the lower height.

The committee recommended moving forward with lighting option 2A for the project.

Clerk explained that the timeline for September grant opportunity fell through and that the engineers could extend the timeline that was proposed by Janecek.

## **Fire Prevention Month**

Berg explained that October is Fire Prevention Month and BVFD was going to the school to give a presentation. This year they were hoping to hand out a smoke detector to every student at the school. Motion by Mallory Bartleson to spend up to \$1,500 to purchase smoke detectors for each student at buffalo school. Motion seconded by Kathy Hutchison and carried unanimously.

Bartleson also thanked BVFD for taking the time to reach out to the school and buffalo youth to share information on fire prevention. These activities are appreciated by the students and are exactly what Community Development is hoping to achieve with youth engagement.

## **Rural Housing Assessment**

Clerk briefed the Committee with updates for the Rural Housing Assessment and the need to get other members from the housing area to provide input for the committee as recommended by the facilitator. The committee would gather information and meet later in the month to move forward with the project.

## **Future Projects/Goals**

Clerk explained that she had comments from the public, other council members, and even Community Development members that were doubting and questioning the purpose of Community Development Committee. She explained to the committee that there were so many elements to Community Development and that they are different for everyone and even different for communities. It leaves the options for community development open to fit the needs for Buffalo. The committee is on the right track by identifying issues and working toward correcting the issue or minimizing the gaps. For instance, the reason that we are spending so much time on the Street Scape project at this time, is because during the 2020 survey that was available to everyone in the community there were five issues identified and the Street Scape addressed three of those issues but adding pedestrian connectivity from the west side of town to the east and updating ADA requirements to make the pedestrian traffic inclusive. Lighting was identified as a safety and aesthetic concern; this project would address this. Finally increasing walkability and parking would help business along Front Street.

Clerk provided a list of activities that CD has completed over the years as a reminder to those that have participated and those new members that may not be aware of items that have been discussed or worked on. Committee members asked to include it into the minutes.

### **Activity Community Development**

2022 Kids Camp -Kids attended a 6-week ½ day program at YMCA Camp Abe Lincoln - \$4,810

2022-July – CD members volunteered at cyclist pancake breakfast donation of \$455.50

2022 Rural Housing Assessment Grant – Awarded Spring 2022- Ongoing

2022 Donated \$500 to Easter Egg Hunt

2021 Street Scape - Ongoing

2021 April -No interest loan to Community Center- \$50,000 for upgrades and updates that the center would pay back.

2021 Kids Camp -Kids attended a full week at YMCA Camp Abe Lincoln – Fully funded.

2021 January- Covid 19 Support for local businesses - \$200 in gift cards were purchased from Clarks Landing, Janie's Riverview Café, Judy's Barge Inn, Doc Side Chiropractic and Fitness, Terry's Barber shop and The Jeweled Leaf Floral Shop. Gift cards would be donated to the Buffalo Volunteer Fire Department St. Patrick's Day Dance - \$2,000.

2021 January Boat Ramp/Dock- Proposed estimate of \$72,000 for a 24'x80' dock at the Maple Street Crossing. Still no word on working with the Railroad.

2021 Dollar General- \$5,000 towards feasibility studies for access for Dollar General.

2021 Beach Toilet – Hammons and Blessing investigated pit toilets at the beach – Installation was \$28,320 and \$18,320. No action taken as the price was higher than expected, installation wasn't guaranteed because of the need for a semi to set the toilet, also location was in question.

2020 August- Members discussed the results of the survey and identified the following projects as ideas for Community Development and assigned a member of the committee to conduct feasibility report to provide at the next meeting.

Sidewalks

Boat Dock

Lighting on Front Street

Lighting on Jefferson Street

Business Opportunity

Restrooms at Beach and Vacant Lot

Property Tax Incentives

2020-No YMCA Camp program due to COVID

2020 August - a decision was made to cancel the Halloween event due to COVID

2020 February – Updated and resent survey to the community with expenses under \$100 approved.

2020 February - Continued work on Buffalo Bucks and the Brochure.

2019 October – Mallory Bartleson and family hosted a Halloween Bash at the BCC costs \$631.26

2019 July – YMCA Kids Camp \$4,000

2018 October – Halloween Bash at the BCC with Mallory Bartleson and family cost \$629.64

2018 July YMCA Kids Camp \$4,000

2018 April Community Development Committee hosted a fundraiser event for Kids Camp earning \$1,000

2017 June YMCA Kids Camp \$4,000 - \$317.06 received in donations

2016 June YMCA Kids Camp \$4,000 – \$543.10 received in donations

2015 Picnic Tables for Beach Front \$5,876

2015 YMCA Kids Camp \$4,000 – Donations \$315.47

2015 Interest Free Loan to BVFD - \$235,096.79

2014 YMCA Kids Camp \$4,000

2013 YMCA Kids Camp \$4,000

2013 Committee established, rules, objectives and goals determined with the facilitation of Bi-State

Future Goals also included increasing tax base due to the economy and spending, addressing the elementary lunch supplement, youth engagement, incentivizing businesses growth, housing, and childcare issues.

Committee will address updating the 2013 CD demographics and future goals as the ten-year mark is moving closer.

Committee will also look at participating in the rural childcare study after the completion of the rural housing assessment is completed.

Committee will meet on September 8, 2022 to further discuss the rural housing program and September 26, 2022, to discuss the streetscape project.

Motion by Gadzik to adjourn at 8:30pm, seconded by Bartleson and carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Tanna Leonard, City Clerk