

City of Sheboygan
2019-05-07

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CITY OF SHEBOYGANMAYOR'S NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP CABINETTuesday, May 7, 2019

Mayor Vandersteen called the meeting to order at 6: 30 pm at the Municipal Service Building, 2026 New Jersey Avenue. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Members present: Mayor Mike Vandersteen, Director of Planning and Development Chad Pelishek, Community & Economic Development Planner Nancy Maring, Police Chief Chris Domagalski, Alderperson Dean Dekker, Jody Kraemer, and Peter Sjollem.

Others present: Dawn Sokolowski (DPW Business Manager), Mike Willmas (Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Division), Elaine Jacks, Mark Potyen, Tina Wick, and Jenny Given.

Minutes: Motion and second to approve minutes of March 5, 2019 meeting. All ayes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Feature

Presentation:

"Municipal Services Building Tour" Dawn Sokolowski and Mike Willmas.

Mike Willmas, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Division, gave a brief overview of the Department of Public Works. It is the heart of the city because they take care of the infrastructure such as streets, traffic lights, traffic signs, garbage pick-up, tree maintenance, wastewater treatment, etc. There are 19 bridges, 36 parks, approximately 30,000 signs, 39 signalized intersections, 185,000 square feet of bridge decks, and 200 miles of streets to plow and maintain.

Dawn Sokolowski, DPW Business Manager, extended an invitation to everyone in the community to attend the DPW Open House on Saturday, May 18 this is at the Municipal Service Building and at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. There will be a demonstration of the new automated garbage truck at the open house. There will be representatives from the following divisions available answer questions that attendees have: parks & forestry, wastewater, streets & sanitation, business office & permits, engineering, buildings & facilities, and motor vehicle. She provided information about the recycling center located on premise they accept branches, yard waste, cooking oil, and scrap metal. Woodchips are free for residents to take.

After this introduction the group proceeded to tour the facility. Copies of the DPW annual report were made available for attendees, the report is also available on www.sheboyganwi.gov.

Neighborhood Association Reports

Gateway Elaine Jacks reporting: she is filling in for Henry while he addresses his health problems. They will be hosting the large item disposal program on May 25. They are continuing to manage the Gateway Garden.

Ellis They will be having their neighborhood block party at the Senior Activity Center on Thursday, June 13.

Indiana Corridor Alderperson Dean Dekker reporting: They had neighborhood and park clean-up along with hosting the large item disposal program on May 4 and it was very successful. There was a gentleman who picked up all of the scrap metal he was someone that Officer Deutsch and Officer Barber had communicated with. They are very appreciative of the help from the staff at the DPW. They did door hangers to invite the neighbors. On May 1 they had their annual meeting and elections, Dean was re-elected along with Joann Earhart, but Joann will be moving soon so they are looking for a replacement for her. Chad Pelishek reported that they have executed an agreement to demolish the gas station on the corner of Indiana and 22 nd Street and remove the canopy and

sign. The fuel tanks will not be removed at this time due to the expense, it may be budgeted for in 2020 along with environmental remediation. They have an estimate from a contractor of \$20,000 to do the tank removal and complete the associated DNR paperwork.

Near North No representatives present. Nancy Maring reporting: they had their annual meeting a couple weeks ago and got a couple new board members. They will be hosting the large item disposal program on June 1. They usually have a block party in August and they are planning on calling Alison Loewen from the library to have them do kids activities.

Maple Heights No representatives present. Chad Pelishek and Nancy Maring reported that there is interest from several people that would like to get it up and running again after Rosemarie Trester had to take a leave of absence. It is a work in progress.

King Park No representatives present. Nancy Maring reported that they hosted the large item disposal program on April 27. They did the beach clean-up on May 4. They will be having their brat fry fundraiser on May 18. Their block party will be on June 21.

Memorial Jenny Given reporting: they just had a meeting on May 2, they will be hosting the large item disposal program on May 18, and Officer Heimerl will be doing Light The Night. The nuisance property that was a problem earlier in the year has gotten quieter. There is a feral cat situation with some neighbors feeding them. They are planning their historic walk for the second Saturday in October.

Vollrath/North Point No representatives present. Nancy Maring reported that they will be hosting the large item disposal program on May 18 in conjunction with the Memorial Neighborhood. They are planning their third annual historic walk for the first Saturday in October. Their elections and annual potluck will be in June.

Historic Grant Mark Potyten reporting: they will be hosting the large item disposal program on May 11, he helped to distribute the flyers to the neighbors earlier in the week and got positive feedback when talking to people about the event. Their monthly meetings have generally been attended just by the board members and 1 or 2 others a total of about 5 people. But since they started promoting the large item disposal program, there has been an increase of interest from the neighbors. He is hoping that this event will result in an increase of getting contact info for the neighborhoods and getting them involved. They have been in communication with the principal at Grant School and are considering options of possibly adopting some of the park or putting in some playground equipment. They are discussing doing a block party and hotdog roast on school grounds. They volunteered for the Hop With A Cop Easter event at Grant School which was well received and had about 40 kids that attended.

Update on mini grant project ideas Chad Pelishek reported that they have

extended the deadline for the application to June 1 because many people have been very busy with the large item disposal program. He opened the discussion to hear what some of the current ideas are.

Dean Dekker stated that he has been talking to Dawn Sokolowski about the possibility of building a structure at Moose Park for the porta potty to be inside of. They are also considering some signage for the neighborhood.

Jenny Given stated that her neighborhood has been talking about putting in public art. They attempted to get permission to put a mural on the lift house at the corner of North Ave. and 3 rd Street, but that wasn't approved. They have talked to Aurora about doing something with the bus stop on their property, they are exploring that idea. They are also looking at other ways to incorporate public art within the neighborhood which could include wrapping utility poles and trying to encourage residents to put art in their yards. They would like to beautify the area of 3 rd Street along the lakefront. Nancy Maring has emailed Alliant to inquire about the possibility of decorating the utility poles but hasn't heard back from them yet.

Mark Potyten stated they have discussed the idea of putting in raised beds and flowers at Grant School that could be used as community gardens. They have talked to the principal at Grant School as well as talked to Nourish for other project ideas. The principal wants to put some additional recreational equipment in their playground. Elaine Jacks mentioned that Chris Kuehnel at GROW built the raised beds at the Gateway Garden and he might be available to

hire for a similar project at Grant School. Chad Pelishek will check into HUD regulations to see what can be done with regard to the City of Sheboygan funding a project on SASD s property.

Elaine Jacks stated that they have discussed fixing the wall next to the community garden, Chad Pelishek estimated that it would cost thousands to do that, so it s unlikely to happen as part of the grant program. She said they ve also discussed getting large flower planters similar to what s on 8 th Street and putting them on Michigan Avenue, Chad said there is money put aside for streetscaping improvements on Michigan Avenue that will be finalized soon. Elaine said that they have money from the community garden that they are in the process of determining how to spend they might fix-up the box that s there for holding tools.

Police Chief Domagalski stated that they have a grant to support extra patrols in the neighborhoods and the officers are being encouraged to use that opportunity to work overtime and address any issues going on in the neighborhoods.

Sheboygan Neighborhood Pride Update Nancy Maring reporting: End Park Neighborhood will be having their elections in June and are ready to become an Official Neighborhood Association.

BEST PRACTICES DISCUSSION (Open forum)

Chad Pelishek stated that the City recently bought the Sokowaty properties on the corner of 10 th Street and Erie Avenue and will soon be going through Common Council to deed them over to Habitat For Humanity. They will be able to build two houses and then that block will be done. Bill Sokowaty owns 19 other properties in Sheboygan and there are currently three circuit court actions against him that he has failed to follow-through.

Mark asked Chad if he had information about what s happening with the vacant Save-A-Lot building. Chad stated that he has left three voicemails with their real estate department in St. Louis but hasn t been called back. There is a local broker that has the property listed, but he doesn t have a contact person either. He even tried to get in contact with them before the closure was publicly announced to get a landscaping plan in place to address the overgrown weeds, but was not able to get in contact with anyone at the corporate office. Save-A-Lot has not provided any information about why the store closed. On a related note, Mayor Vandersteen asked Chad to talk about the grocery store market study that was recently completed. Chad said that the study looked at three possible downtown sites for a grocery store: corner of 8 th Street and Michigan Avenue, on Pennsylvania Avenue, and on 9 th Street. There is a market for a specialty grocery store of sorts, so they re following up on a few leads. There is a project in the hopper that should be announced within the next couple weeks, but it wouldn t fulfill the lower-income grocery store segment. The profit margins of grocery stores are tight, so getting something for the lower-income segment is quite challenging. They re looking at the possibility of expanding Goodside Grocery and maybe an independent chain that already has some stores in the area. Some of the large churches in the area have been looking for space, which likely would be use for only a few days out of the week, but the advantage is that they would take care of the property. Ultimately, there are lots of unknowns right now. That whole area is a priority for the Planning & Development Department. There is an interested party to purchase the old flower shop north of the day care it s slated to become a community art gallery. Communication has happened with Habitat Restore to possibly open up some of the windows on their storefront that had been covered up years ago.

Tina Wick loves what s happening in Sheboygan and that everyone is working together to clean-up the neighborhoods and she s happy to be able to attend MNLc meetings. She asked Mayor Vandersteen what s happening with the pallet situation at Trilling Hardware. Mayor Vandersteen stated that he met with Greg from Trilling Hardware earlier that day and discussed some ideas, an action plan isn t solidified but it is a work in progress.

CLOSING OF MEETINGNext meeting date: Tuesday, July 16, 2019.

ADJOURNMeeting adjourned at 8: 26 pm.