

Minutes for September 23, 2009

Present: Ray Berg, Alan Dyer, Sue Fielder, Jody Flowers, Karl Racenis, Russel Rhoton, Dawn Steele, and Pat Vaillencourt

Call to order: 7:03

Pledge of Allegiance: 7:04

Approval of Agenda: Berg, Fielder 2nd carried

Approval of Minutes-August 25, 2009, July 28, 2009, tabled

Public Participation-Open & Closed

Old Business:

1. Downtown Tree Selection

Discussion on Cleveland vs Capital Pear trees

Capital varieties grow narrower and taller. The Cleveland is more resistant to fire blight, and the Capital have low growing branches and undesirable shape according to Fielder. Berg moved to go with prior decision of Cleveland for the reasons already stated and to ask McLennan's Landscape for their professional opinion. Vaillencourt will email McLennan's comments to DDA members and contact SHPO as needed. Flowers seconded.

Discussion: Racenis feels we have spent enough time on our decision for the trees, and suggests the Capitals can be trimmed to a desired appearance.

Motion: approved

Racenis: opposed

2. Streetlight at Main and Adrian Streets

Based on the info provided by MDOT and confirmed by Bergman and Associates, sufficient Right-Of-Way does exist at the southeast corner of Main and Adrian Streets to add a streetlight and allow discussion on trees. Feedback from the adjacent property owner has indicated that he does not object to the addition of a streetlight and potentially new trees. The adjacent property owner has indicated he will do further research to better determine his property line.

Placing the additional light parallel to the other lights along the south side of Main Street would be preferred.

Flowers made a motion to add a light to our streetscape plan and keep the same trees. Berg supported. Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Tree in front of mill. See above.

2. A non-motorized transportation grant application discussion.

Fielder reviewed the points on the grant application. We do not have enough time to complete the application for 2009 funding, but recommends consideration in 2014. The Grant has a five year funding cycle. The additional time would allow us to seek sources for the matching funds and more fully develop the plans for a walking bridge across the River Raisen at the site of the old railroad right-of way. Fielder did talk with Clinton on their footbridge in their park and provide some web-site examples.

3. Discussion on Main Street bridge and the dam.

Racenis suggests major investment in Main Street bridge may be expected in the next several years. Options regarding the removability of the dam, creating a gradual rock cascade, etc were briefly discussed, but did not result in particular recommendations.

Next meeting will be October 20 at 7 pm in the Council Chambers.

Adjournment: Flowers moves to adjourn, Berg supports, carried 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Steele, Secretary