



**CITY OF ALLEGAN
Public Spaces Commission
Allegan, MI 49010**

**Allegan City Hall
231 Trowbridge Street
Allegan MI 49010
Wednesday, August 14, 2019 6:30pm**

MINUTES

1. Call to order: Chairperson McCall called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
2. Attendance: Judi McCall, Delora Andrus, Rosie Hunter, Paula Mintek, Mike Manning, Landria Christman, Cyndi Reed, Pete Savage

Also present: Joel Dye, Aaron Haskin, Parker Johnson
3. Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2019: Paula motioned, supported by Delora, to approve the minutes with the following amendment. Discussion Item # 7 “Paula suggested the banners should be promoting events in and around Allegan as opposed to promotion only for the organization.” The minutes were approved with the amendment and the minutes were updated to reflect the change.
4. Public Comment: CJ Jesnek the owner of On the Grid Restaurant would like to paint an angel wing mural on the side of the restaurant and asked about the rules and policies in the City. Paula stated the City has not spelled out a specific procedure for murals. Landria and Paula would like the Public Spaces Commission to see a mock-up of the mural before the painting begins. Mike thinks it is interesting that CJ would like to do an interactive mural where people could take pictures with the wings in the background. Joel suggested hitting pause on mural reviews/discussion at this time because there is nothing in the City’s ordinance regulating them right now. He would like to develop a defined process for reviewing murals and giving a recommendation on them. Cyndi Reed stated it would be good to have a review and approval process in place, and she recommended keeping the ordinance simple.

Landria, supported by Mike, made a motion to direct staff to develop an ordinance for mural policies, mural review and approval criteria. The motion passed.
5. Allegan City Dam Removal Discussion: Joel explained the decision the City Council has been asked to make regarding whether to remove the dam, keep the dam, or do a partial removal of the dam. State and Federal agencies would like a decision made on the dam by March of 2020, so the

plans for the Superfund Cleanup can be created accordingly. The MDNR funded a concept and feasibility study depicting what the river could potentially look like with the three options. The full study is on the City of Allegan's website. Several public meetings have occurred to discuss the dam and hear public comments about the options. The next public meeting will be held at Allegan City Hall on August 28 at 6:00 pm. Joel discussed the motion made at the August 12 City Council meeting to put the dam decision on an upcoming election ballot for the public to decide on what they would like to do with the dam. The City's attorney was consulted on the motion and Joel was informed that the decision to put this item on an election ballot the City Council will have to have a minimum of 4 yes votes. The City's attorney also provided information based on case law that the City Council does not have the authority to put this item to a public vote. City Council will be discussing this at their upcoming meetings. Rosie stated dams were removed along the Pigeon River and the area doesn't look very appealing. Mike stated the dam removal is final and the City must be careful with this decision. Landria stated people talk about what they going to lose vs. what there is to gain. She feels there is more to gain with the dam removed than we will lose. Judi said her biggest fear is the unknown and what the final outcome will really look like if the dam is removed. Rachel McKenzie was in the audience and suggested doing some online research about dams or watching some dam removal documentaries; she said there is a lot of good information out there.

6. Cemetery Headstone Decorations: Judi stated the subcommittee to discuss this item will be meeting in September to discuss. Pete shared a photo of cemetery fountain pieces that were located in the cemetery chapel.
7. Blessed Sacrament Section of the Cemetery: The Commission discussed the Church's request to purchase additional cemetery property for Catholic burials. The cemetery has limited space for burials and should public cemetery property be sold for the use of one religion. Mike wanted it noted that the City recently sold a section of cemetery property for a commercial business and stated maybe that was a mistake. Cyndi Reed stated she doesn't think public property should be sold for one religion's use only. Landria Christman stated she doesn't think the property should be sold. Judi McCall stated she is not in favor of selling cemetery property. Delora Andrus stated we shouldn't sell cemetery property. Mike Manning is in favor of selling property to the Blessed Sacrament Church. Pete Savage stated he has no problem with selling the Church additional property. Paula Mintek stated she is in favor of selling the Church ½ of the property they have requested. Rosie abstained from comment due to her affiliation with the Catholic Church.
8. M89/Hubbard Street Banners: This item was tabled until the next meeting.
9. Adjournment: Cyndi, supported by Delora motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be available at City Hall, 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan MI 49010 (269) 673-5511.

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