



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

**Griswold Auditorium
401 Hubbard Street
Allegan MI 49010
Wednesday, July 18, 2019 6:30pm**

MINUTES

1. Call to order: Judi McCall called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.
2. Attendance: Judi McCall, Paula Mintek, Pete Savage, Rosie Hunter, Delora Andrus, Mike Manning

Also Present: Aaron Haskin, Joel Dye, Sarah Perrigo

Absent: Landria Christman, Cyndi Reed
3. Approval of Minutes from May 8, 2019: Pete, supported by Paula, motioned to approve the May 8, 2019 minutes. The minutes were approved.
4. Cemetery Discussion: The Commission discussed headstone decorations, natural elements vs. artificial flowers, etc., heard comments from the public and they were provided with several emails from people who are against eliminating artificial flowers and decorations in the cemetery.

Lori Querback speaking on behalf of several people who have spoken to her explained that many parts of the cemetery are a poor growing environment for flowers due to all of the trees. She explained that many people would like to continue to use artificial flowers and decorations around headstones for a few reasons; the shade from the trees, the cost of purchasing and maintaining natural flowers vs. artificial, age of family members tending to headstones, and some people do not live close to the cemetery to water and maintain natural flowers. Lori also expressed her concern over removing all of the fencing around the cemetery due to its deterrent to keep people from using the cemetery as a cut through and the new Grocery Outlet Store may create more trash and people in the area.

Tracy Perrigo stated if artificial flowers are used around headstones, there should be a policy and posted removal times for the decorations.

Joel Dye suggested forming a sub-committee with members of the Public Spaces Commission and members of the public to discuss new cemetery rules.

Pete motioned, supported by Mike, to form a subcommittee to discuss and evaluate the cemetery rules and methods to beautify the cemetery. Judi, Rosie and Pete volunteered to be on the subcommittee and will be contacting others with an interest in the cemetery to discuss and bring back a recommendation to the Public Spaces Commission in the next month or two. The motion was approved.

5. **Mural Discussion:** Joel discussed having murals painted on buildings and provided some pictures of murals in other cities. Many of these murals depict the history of the community. Paula discussed some of the other murals in the City of Allegan and stated the Arts Council would like to have more murals painted. They also discussed repainting some of the faded advertisements on some of the buildings. Two local artists were in attendance and expressed their interest with working with the Arts Council to paint some murals. The Arts Council will be taking the lead on the murals and will work with the Public Spaces Commission to give and hear comments.
6. **Sports Complex Study Discussion:** Sarah Perrigo summarized the June 12, 2019 Sports Complex listening session and SWOP evaluation. Some of the opportunities that were mentioned were creating a Miracle Field for events such as a Special Olympics, installing an ADA accessible playground, bring in travel leagues and more tournaments. Paula recommended installing a donation box at the complex and reducing maintenance costs by allowing portions of the complex to grow into a meadow area. Rosie would like to see a basketball court constructed at the Complex.
7. **M89/Hubbard Street Banners:** Joel discussed the current use and reservation process for hanging banners on the posts at the intersection and stated we need to have a better process in place for reservations. He also shared the new banner space rental policies. Tim Perrigo commented that he would like to see the banner location stay, but have the reservations better organized. Paula suggested the banners should be promoting events in and around Allegan. Judi would like to see the wood posts painted black with post caps.

Comments:

- Pete asked about the status of the Safe Routes to School project. Aaron stated that the project is in the MDOT's hands and will be bid on the state bid letting when the funding is obligated. We are hoping to construct a section of sidewalk this fall on Grant Street if timing and weather allows, but the majority of the project will have to be constructed in the spring of 2020.
- Paula stated there are a few trees in Rossman Park that could use some trimming.

8. **Adjournment:** Paula, supported by Delora, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be available at City Hall, 112 Locust Street, and Allegan MI 49010 (269) 673-5511.

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