



**CITY OF ALLEGAN  
PUBLIC SPACES COMMISSION**

**City of Allegan City Hall  
231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan MI 49010  
Wednesday, July 14, 2021 6:30pm**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:31pm

**2. Attendance**

Present: Vice Chair Paula Mintek, Teresa Galloway, Rosie Hunter, Korree Johnson, Peter Savage

Absent: Mark Heather, Katie James, Cyndi Reed

Others Present: Joel Dye, City Manager, Parker Johnson, Downtown & Promotions Manager, Doug Kadzban, Department of Public Works Director

**3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from May 12, 2021 with correction to the incorrect meeting date made by Peter, supported by Rosie. Motion carried 5-0.

**4. Public Comment**

**5. Parks & Recreation**

a. Mahan Park Landscaping

- i. Staff shared before and after photos of the landscaping project that was completed in June at Mahan Park. Work included the removal of the tangled and unkempt bush, tree trimming, clearing, and replanting and mulching of the new plant bed. Board members were pleased with the result and thanked the DPW for their work.

b. Other Comments

- i. Paula commented on the maintenance of the labyrinth park at Rossman Esplanade that has not happened this year, a general responsibility of the labyrinth group. Joel Dye asked for more history on the project for a better understanding, and Paula was going to look for the written agreement between the group and the City.
- ii. Rosie suggested that the “half-moon” gardens at the corners of Rossman

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- Esplanade go away – they are ill maintained and don't achieve the desired effect that was intended during installation.
- iii. Rosie shared comments she has received about the lack of maintenance of the greenery along the walkway that connects Hubbard Street to Hanson Park beside the library. Staff noted that maintenance of the plants in that area is the responsibility of the Allegan District Library.
  - iv. A discussion questioning the logic of Cook Street Park was held.

## 6. Oakwood Cemetery

### a. Other Comments

- i. Peter provided an update on the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery and the Living History Tour that was held in June. It was another successful year.
- ii. The Friends group will be resuming stone cleaning days this year and will consider additional events and fundraisers.
- iii. Korree shared information regarding the Gravestone Girls, a New England based group who tour and offer lectures, classes, and resources on preservation, documentation, history, and gravestone rubbing classes, as something the Friends group could explore.
- iv. Joel Dye shared the initial conceptual idea to relocate the Veteran's Memorial from its current location along the increasingly populated Riverfront to the empty property to the east of the chapel in Oakwood Cemetery. This area, Dye explained, is a much more peaceful space for quiet reflection and dedication to those who served. Oakwood Cemetery is also already the end point for the annual Memorial Day parade. The board agreed with these points and thought it a good idea, as long as consideration and input is taken from local veterans.

## 7. Trees

### a. Downtown Trees

- i. Parker Johnson shared images of the current state of the mature trees in Downtown Allegan, including large branches overhanging buildings and awnings and large roots that are tearing up and displacing sidewalks, causing dangerous conditions.
- ii. The group asked the City and the DPW to address the current issues as they could and have agreed to begin planning for future installation of trees with the impending streetscape redesign.
- iii. Some members would like to see a dedicated trees budget.

### b. Downtown Landscaping

- i. Parker Johnson shared images of the current state of the landscaping in Downtown Allegan, specifically the empty mulch beds along Water Street and the overgrown weeds in the beds along the Hubbard Street parking lot. The group was then shown images of full, maintained, and inspired plant beds and were challenged with what they want the Downtown Allegan standard to be held to.
- ii. The group agreed that what is present is largely unacceptable and plans to prepare for conversations on the future installations with the planned streetscape redesign, following the example set by the Cutler/Water landscaping example completed in 2018.

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c. Other Comments

**8. Other Discussion Item**

a. Cutler Street Parking Lot Completion

- i. Joel and Parker provided an update on the recent completion of the Cutler Street parking lot before the upcoming final walkthrough scheduled for July 15. The board was pleased with the look of the final outcome of the project.

**9. Comments from City Staff & Board Members**

a. City Staff Comments

- i. Joel Dye explained to the board the City Council's desire to have committees goals set before the January strategic planning sessions – therefore, the Public Spaces Committee will be having their own strategic planning meeting in October.
- ii. The Public Spaces Committee will be resuming the annual parks tour in September.

**10. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Parker Johnson  
Downtown & Promotions Manager