

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 22, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Groat at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Groat, Henk Berbee, Nevin Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Taylor Evans with Journal Tribune, Clerk Kris Jones

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the meeting on May 4, 2015 were approved as presented.

AGENDA:

Comments from Citizens: Mr. Taylor said he has noticed several people in the community not mowing their yards. He spoke with two people in his ward about why they were not mowing their yard and if there was something wrong that he could help them with. They responded that it was the landlord's responsibility to mow the yards. Mr. Taylor would like to have it mentioned Thursday night to remind people to mow their yards. We need to know if you are the tenant and the landlord is supposed to mow the yard. Mrs. Groat asked if there was any legal precedent for who is responsible for the upkeep. Mr. Taylor said it is the responsibility of the property owner according to the way we wrote our grass height clause, which states the grass cannot be over nine inches, however, these two lawns the grass came up to Mr. Taylor's knee. Mrs. Groat clarified that a lease will specify between the owner and tenant who is responsible. Mr. Taylor said yes, the lease will assign responsibility to either the owner or tenant. Mrs. Groat asked when at the meeting during Council comments? Mr. Taylor said he would like it brought up during the Mayor's report.

Mr. Berbee brought up the topic of the e-cigarettes. He was not sure where Mrs. Groat stood regarding to this topic. He had Mrs. Jones pull up the minutes from where Public Affairs had discussed this before. Mr. Berbee passed out the minutes from 2013 where they spoke about it three times prior. We purposely omitted what we call the e-cigarettes, which are actually called electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS). He looked it up at the FDA and currently two states banned ENDS (Colorado and New Jersey). The FDA is currently hearing readings on this topic which will continue until July 2, 2015. After July, the FDA will issue a recommendation. He said since it was requested by Mayor Gore for us to look into it again and Public Affairs is the committee that heard it last time that would be the committee to hear it again. His opinion is let the FDA make their recommendation and then send the topic to a committee. Mrs. Groat said that assignment will come from Council President for Public Affairs to officially look into the topic again. She is strongly in support of personal choice when health is not concerned. Mrs. Jones has done some research, which shows there are some health concerns from second hand inhalation of the vapors. Mr. Taylor said he will let the proof speak once we get it back, and decide from there.

Mr. Taylor, as a citizen, brought up the secret ballot voting. He spoke with a friend who sits on the Kentucky Supreme Board, and he suggested making all of Council ballot their vote. Lay the ballots in front of them when they are all done voting and then turn them over and read their vote. Mrs. Groat asked what the advantage is. Mr. Taylor said he said we would appease both sides of our conflict. Mr. Taylor said you do not need to record how each person voted, but if anyone wanted to know they could see it that night.

Connie Patterson Memorial: Mr. Taylor said out of the samples given, he likes the plain and simple design on the stone, because that is what Connie was. Mrs. Groat asked with or without the tree. Mr. Taylor said with the tree. Mrs. Groat explained that Council has talked off and on for the last year about doing something to memorialize Connie Patterson's work with Council. She said this is an official request that we will end up taking back to Council. Mrs. Jones said Mayor Gore suggested we use the Tree Memorial program through the City. Mr. Berbee showed pictures of what was done for previous situations. Mrs. Groat asked when we did this previously, was it done privately or were City funds involved. Mr. Taylor said City funds were used for the other two. Mrs. Groat asked where the funds came from. Mr. Taylor said it is a budget line item that the Mayor has; Council also has it that we could use. He feels that she worked for Council and it is the same seven people sitting there. He does not know how much the tree will cost but he does like using the program through the City. Mr. Taylor said he would like the seven council members to split the costs. He does not want to use tax dollars.

Mr. Taylor made a motion that Council individually be responsible for the cost of the plaque, stone and tree, and if one of the Council members cannot afford their share then let him know. Mrs. Groat asked if he would like to add to his motion which park or work with Mrs. Jones to contact Mr. Patterson and ask him if he has a preference. Mr. Taylor said ask Mr. Patterson if Connie had a spot that she liked to go to. Mr. Berbee said the way the tree program work is that certain trees go in certain areas. He said we need to talk with Mr. Patterson about a spot and then contact the arborist and let him know we want to put a memorial tree in this spot, and suggest which tree would be the best. He said since this is an emotional tribute, you do not want to see a tree die because it was planted in the wrong spot. Mrs. Groat asked Mrs. Jones if she would mind changing this on the agenda. Mr. Taylor said we can do it in Council comments because we are not expending any City funds, it is not a resolution or an ordinance and the business is of the seven Council Members on behalf of the City of Marysville. Mrs. Groat told Mrs. Jones that they will work on contacting Mr. Patterson and if this motion on Thursday passes, then we will just take it back to our professionals on staff. Mr. Berbee asked Mrs. Jones to print the picture of the memorial so everyone would have a printed copy at Council. Mr. Taylor said one thing we want to make sure is that we say as currently seated seven council members we would like to do this, but it is on behalf of all councils. Mrs. Groat agreed. Mr. Taylor said he does not want to leave anyone out that worked with her. Mrs. Groat said if our arborist suggests a fall planting she would like to get this done while the seven council members are still seated. However, if he suggests a spring planting then we will just have to advertise it to the point where anyone that would like to can come back. She would like it to be public and to invite Mr. Patterson and the girls. Mrs. Groat said we will need to find out who was on Council during Connie's term and send them letters inviting them.

The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.