

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Taylor at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Henk Berbee, Nevin Taylor and Deborah Groat- excused.

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Aslaner, Terry Emery, Kris Jones

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes for the meeting on September 28, 2015 were approved as presented.

AGENDA:

Comments from Citizens:

Discuss Legislation to Add Section 1319.08 (b) and (c) to the Exterior Property Maintenance Code: Mr. Aslaner explained to the Committee that when Section 1319 was overhauled, we inadvertently left out the section that states how the Exterior Property Maintenance Commission is formed. He shared with the Committee a draft of legislation to replace the section dealing with the formation of the Commission and he also added what the Commission is responsible for.

Mr. Berbee asked if the word Mayor would mean Council Mayor after the first of the year. Mr. Aslaner answered yes. Mrs. Jones stated the Commission discussed that they would like for the City Manager to have a choice, because if the Council elected Mayor is a Ward member, then that ward would have two representatives. Mr. Taylor suggested we change Mayor to Administrative team. Everyone agreed with the change.

Mrs. Jones explained that we need to have Mayor Gore appoint someone to the Commission because the Mayor's appointment resigned effective immediately. Mr. Emery suggested appointing Mrs. Morris. Mr. Taylor said the appointment cannot be employed by the City. Mr. Emery suggested that she work with Mrs. Jones and the Commission on this project.

Mr. Aslaner asked if when listing the responsibilities of the Commission should we add the winter lights contest. Mr. Taylor asked how many times we were planning to do the winter lights contest. Mrs. Jones explained that it was just an idea and we would like to see what the turnout is. Mr. Taylor suggested that we add to any City sponsored project or contest. Mr. Berbee said we should say any City sponsored beautification project or contest. It was agreed to make those changes.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Berbee agreed to sponsor the legislation. Mr. Taylor asked Mrs. Jones to send the legislation with the changes to Mrs. Groat to see if she would like to sponsor it as well.

Discuss Winter Holiday Decorating Contest: Mr. Taylor said Mrs. Jones, it is my understanding that you want us to look over the flyers and let you know if we had any questions or concerns. Mr. Taylor explained that he does not like the idea of a Griswold Award, he was concerned about getting tied in to naming rights and it makes him think of tacky. He would like to consider an award for the senior homes (Windsor). Mr. Emery asked if the “Griswold Award” would be totally separate from first, second and third place. Mrs. Jones answered yes. Mr. Emery said if someone goes over with decorating their home in lights then they could win that award.

Mr. Berbee asked if the gift cards will be donated. Mrs. Jones explained that was the plan is to ask Home Depot to donate gift cards for the winners. Mr. Berbee and Mr. Taylor suggested that we should alternate years and ask the three hardware stores in the City to donate different years.

Mr. Berbee asked if we were going to be doing the judging the same as the beautification program so we could end up with 12 different winners. Mrs. Jones explained it will be based on the top three scores will win first, second and third. Mr. Emery suggested that after this year, we re-evaluate it. Mr. Emery suggested we just do the same amount of gift cards for all the winners.

Mrs. Jones explained there will be three winners and then the extra category. Mr. Emery said he did not mind the extra category, it is for that person who goes over the top with decorating. Mr. Taylor suggested that we change the name from the Griswold award to something else. Mr. Emery explained we can come up with a name.

Mrs. Jones explained instead of using stones for the winners, she suggested using banner signs. She showed the committee some examples of the signs she was talking about. Mr. Taylor suggested that we give out signs to everyone who participates in the contest, just to leave off the winner from their signs.

Mr. Taylor asked when the awards will be given out. Mrs. Jones explained that they would be announced on December 17th at the last council meeting. Applications would be due December 10th and the committee would have the 11th to the 15th to judge the properties. Mr. Emery said we could get together after the season and see how things went. Mr. Taylor said we will contact everyone.

Mr. Berbee asked how we are going to get this out. Mr. Emery said we could use any opportunity and get information out to the public about the contest. Mr. Taylor suggested calling Taylor to get an article in the paper for the contest. Mr. Emery suggested that we can announce it at the pumpkin drop. Mrs. Jones said she will print up some flyers to have handed out at the pumpkin drop, Scarysville and Christmas walk. Mr. Emery suggested Mrs. Krutowskis help get the information out to the public.

The meeting adjourned at 6:21p.m.