

## PLANNING COMMISSION

March 22, 2016

Gladwin City Planning Commission Meeting March 22, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm by Chair Carol Darlington followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present; Stout, English, Povey, Clayton, Darlington, David.

Absent; Wenzel and Wendell.

Also present: Bernadette Weaver, Douglas Jacobson, Richard Vasher.

Motion was made by Stout with support by Povey to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2016 meeting. All ayes.

The first item of business was the site plan review for Vasher's Country Gardens. The greenhouse part of the building was damaged over the winter and the plan to repair was presented. The new structure is 48' x 72', setbacks are Ok, there is dumpster screening, and drainage is satisfactory as is signage. A motion was made by Stout with support from Clayton to approve the site plan. The motion carried.

As the meeting was held jointly with the City Council and the City Parks and Recreation Committee, Mayor ProTem, Tom Mienk called the council to order. Members present were Mienk, Bodnar, Stout, Smith, Jungman and Caffrey.

The Parks committee was called to order by Jungman. Members present were Jungman, Bodnar, Kehoe, and Drey.

Jeff Zettel was also welcomed as a representative from the DDA.

Also present: Bob Moffit

Darlington recapped the Planning Commission's work for the past year. The Zoning ordinance has been thoroughly reviewed and a final draft is being completed. It will be examined by the commissioners before being finalized. The Zoning Administrator and the city police have worked out a successful strategy for blight enforcement. Weaver has been working closely with Doug Piggot for site plan reviews which is also going very well. The commissioners have been asked to update the sidewalk and other infrastructure notes made last year and follow up with Weaver. New commissioners would receive notes from their predecessors and are asked to update those.

Jungman summarized the Parks Commission's work. A new park manager, Mark Kehoe will start this spring. There were 65 trees felled in the park over the last year. The committee is also working on strategies to increase activity in the park and the possibility of having a small camp store in the park is under discussion. The grounds are being readied for occupancy and work is being done on the bathhouses also. They hope to have WiFi for the campers, by April and more thought is being given to promoting greater use of the amphitheater.

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Council activities have been many and varied. The biggest item for 2015 was completion of the road and sewer work on State Street and the sale of the arena building to the Library and the improvements made to that structure. Going forward there is consideration to add rustic campsites and extend the trails. The priority for sidewalks this year, if budgets allow, is first Parkway and then N. Ionia streets. Smith mentioned that the new water tower is five years old and will require cleaning inside and out this year. Seal coating for the drive into city hall and some of the parking lots downtown is budgeted and possibly paving Bartlett Dr. also.

There was general discussion of the dissatisfaction with the change in the way the Road Commission is handling snow removal downtown. The suggestion was made that interested parties speak with the elected road commissioners to voice suggestions for improvement.

Moffit thanked the DDA for providing \$5,000 for maintenance downtown.

There are improvements planned for the Cedar Ave Garden which will allow handicap accessibility and make maintenance easier over the long term. This is a project of the Master Gardeners group and the city is contributing to the project.

Darlington thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions to the city.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06.

Respectfully,

Joan David  
Secretary