

READING PLANNING COMMISSION

Reading, MI October 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at Reading City Hall by chairperson Betty Blount. The meeting was also available via zoom. Present were Betty Blount, Warren Bartels, Chuck Hartshorn, and Kendra Stump. Absent, excused, was Chad Penney. Also present were Kym Blythe and Alan Beeker. Chuck made a motion, seconded by Kendra, to approve the July minutes last. Motion carried 4-0. The agenda was accepted as presented. There was no public communication.

OLD BUSINESS: Betty brought up a previous idea of enhancing the city with some wall murals. She had reached out to a person previously about ideas, but was not able to establish anything concrete. Kendra had mentioned the idea as well. Murals are seen in St. John's, Jackson, and Hillsdale. Kendra will reach out to someone she knows who does these to pursue possibilities.

NEW BUSINESS: 2023 Master Plan Commission Goals—Discussion centered on our Parks and Recreation plan development. A plan will be necessary in order to pursue possible grants. A lot of ideas were brought up in discussion. A primary focus in the discussion was where to locate walking and possible bicycle trails or routes. Probably routes will have to be developed in the different sections of town, rather than one big loop around town. Our easiest and first focus might be a loop that encompasses the Industrial Park. Sidewalk is already on M-49. East Michigan Street is scheduled for improvement next year. A possible connection might be through Ann Street. Another area for a route might be on the west side of town where there is some space and athletic fields already. These ideas were brought up in relationship to this possible development: 1) location, 2) safety, 3) upkeep and maintenance issues, and 4) also keeping them and any existing or new parks ADA compliant. Other ideas discussed were possibly setting up pickleball courts and maybe a skate park area. North of the pavilion is still a prime area for some playground equipment. Dale's Auto south of the pavilion might be a possible acquisition site for some development downtown. This site might also require some EPA approval.

2022 Commission reporting—Alan wanted to review what our process has been. After the secretary gets the minutes typed, he sends them on to the City Manager, Zoning Administrator, and Planning Commission Chairperson. Alan said he will also make sure they are posted on the city's website.

COMPLIANCE PERMITS ISSUED: Two for fences.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Alan shared that there are two possible downtown projects in the wind. One might be a painting request from Joyology and the other a possible application for a Family Dollar on the south side of town.

Chuck made a motion, seconded by Warren, to adjourn at 8:40. Motion carried 4-0.