

MARSEILLES BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES

The first meeting of the newly formed City of Marseilles Beautification Committee was held on June 12th, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Marseilles City Hall. Present were Maggie Kaminski, Katie Henson, Jim Lockwood, Jacob Been. Absent Bob Hornbeck. Guest Commissioner Bobby Kaminski

Since a president hasn't been elected yet Mayor Hollenbeck chaired the meeting. Next meeting group can elect a President, Secretary/Treasurer. It was explained that all funds need to be deposited in the city account to be dispersed from.

Mayor Hollenbeck and the committee discussed the town in general and what they need for new welcome signs coming into town. Maggie stated she would investigate repairing the sign listing the churches that were damaged when a vehicle being pursued by the police ran off the road and hit it. Discussion was also held regarding taking numerous signs up north coming into town and possibly posting them all on one board/post to just try and clean it up a little bit. There isn't any welcome to Marseilles sign on South Main Street.

Mayor explained that almost everything the city is doing is following the comprehensive plan. I would urge everyone to review the plan. It is on the city website or use the following link. It will give you an idea of our goals and objectives such as the municipal boat launch, I-80 water and sewer extensions, as well as the Broadway Park renovations.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9m7A4QIQyzHaER0TmhnMHdvcjQ/view?pli=1&resourcekey=0-5NdOKeQfz_TQGqmJMNSL0Q

I am also attaching IDOT link as to the amount of traffic in the area. This will be a good reference for deciding various projects and the visibility anticipated.

<https://idot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3b727581bda74bae90954863185a8e8f>

The Main Street revitalization Grant that will be submitted during June. The city will be able to submit for two different grants this year for Main Street as another one that fits the city's objectives can be applied for in January.

Mayor stated that Janus Gardens donated about a dozen flats of flowers that can be installed in planters if anyone was interested. The flats of flowers are at city hall. Jim Lockwood and Kim Kozak were thanked and recognized for all their hard work on Main Street, having it looking the best it has in a long time. The mayor discussed previous grants for municipal boat launch and Broadway Park renovations.

Mayor Hollenbeck discussed TIF #5 which is the Commercial District. The TIF is about 4 years old and has a life of 23 years. The city is still attempting to not make any large expenditures out of the TIF because if we get a Main Street Grant it would probably be an 80/20 grant with the city needing to pay 20% of the bid total. Marseilles is no longer considered a distressed city which then would have been funded 100%. Mayor Hollenbeck explained to the committee some of the weaknesses in prior applications that have been identified, addressed, and rectified.

Mayor explained and discussed the 1.5-million-dollar Brownfield Grant that was awarded to the city to address Nabisco and Washington School.

Discussion was held regarding a bike lane in the middle of the street rather than on the side in front of the diagonal parking between cars and sidewalk. IDOT was fearful of a cyclist getting hit by cars pulling in. The mayor discussed bike lanes in middle of the street with the engineer and grant writers and the consensus was IDOT probably would not like that either because cars backing out could be a danger. With diagonal parking a bike route just isn't very feasible. If the city went to parallel parking way too many parking stalls would be lost and parking on Main Street would be difficult as it is.

Additional members to the committee were discussed and the mayor advised the committee addition members added would be the committee's responsibility to add or remove as the resolution for the city council to do that was voted down. Members were advised if they had anyone interested to bring them to the next meeting for committee approval.

Discussion as to the billboards on the North side of Spirits Liquors, especially the one depicting a large marijuana leaf. The zoning regulations will be reviewed to see if that is allowed or if the ordinance may need to be updated. The consensus was it doesn't promote the town in a positive light.

It was suggested the directories be put on the sidewalk at the intersection giving directions to our businesses or amenities. Maggie was going to look at that and stated they would probably have to be replaced every spring. Mayor noted he observed this in Utica, and it was very nice.

There was also discussion on the feasibility of cleaning weeds and vines off the bluff areas and illuminating the bluffs with lighting that could have colors changed for various seasons, events, and months of recognitions etc.

There was discussion as to whether the city wanted to develop a theme. The city has been presented with some of the various themes. No decision was made. Most members believed that keeping the commercial district original as possible with façade improvements and maintenance would be the best, keeping store fronts facades as close to their original historic design. No official vote was taken, just discussion.

Mayor advised the committee that he would like to have the art classes at Ottawa High School and IVCC do a contest to design and update our city flag. The winner would be presented with a monetary prize amount to be determined.

The committee decided they would meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at city hall.

Mayor put together some Roberts Rules of order for the meetings. (See Attachment)

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM