

**City Council Work Session
April 4, 2017**

Present: A. Bailey, D. Bjerkness, K. Kolodge, S. Langley, R. Maki, Mayor Hallback

Absent: J. Rock

Staff: J. Barclay, N. Klassen, C. Peterson, J. Anderson, H. Hansen

Others: J. Peterson, Pine Journal; EDA Members S. Micke, R. Smith, S. Peterson, R. Peterson

Joint Meeting with EDA

- Introductions were made by everyone in attendance. The Council meets with EDA annually to review the year's activities and discuss established future goals. Top priorities for 2017 include the revitalization and redevelopment of the downtown areas along Cloquet Avenue and historic west end; development of the Cloquet business park by increasing sustainable business and employment opportunities while broadening the commercial/industrial sector and tax base; promote the development and maintenance of housing by implementing the 2014 Cloquet Housing Study by ensuring the City's housing stock supports the needs of local employers and employees with adequate housing opportunities; and developing a proactive marketing campaign to attract new business investment.
- EDA is working with MnDOT on an intersection improvement project at Hwy 33 and Broadway/Cloquet Avenues connecting to West End District.
- Ms. Hansen gave a brief review of the 2016 Annual Report for Community Development which highlights the core functions and activities of the department.
- Ms. Hansen requested feedback from the Council on what their vision of downtown is. Common concerns include the need to fill the storefronts, extension of the bike trail through Veteran's Park, the blighted entrance into the west end district, bringing in unique businesses/shops that are not already on Hwy 33, the need to meet in person with the business owners, and community events that will bring the community downtown.
- The park project is a start to giving people a reason to visit to the west end. Signage is needed showing what the west end has to offer. It was suggested that the Chamber should take part in the promotion of the area.
- Discussion on housing being one of the keys to a successful community that can drive downtown revitalization.
- Conversation on the blighted Wentworth Park property which is City owned. There needs to be a discussion with the business owner next to it regarding greenspace clean-up by removing their items off of the City owned property.

Downtown Street/Park Projects for 2017-2018

- City Engineer Caleb Peterson and Assistant City Engineer John Anderson reviewed the downtown streets and park projects scheduled for 2017-2018.
- Mr. Peterson stated the Cloquet Avenue corridor is busiest street in in the downtown area and now is the time to make proper improvements aligning with the Broadway Ave project. There is ongoing discussion of what the exact improvements will be.
- Discussion of businesses remaining open while the project is active.

Andrew Kozelouzek – Duluth Off Road Association

- Mr. Kozelouzek shared information about the Duluth Off Road Association and the request they are making to Carlton County for sponsorship for a Grant- In- Aid application with the DNR. Mr. Kozelouzek presented information about the association, the intended trail to be used, and the benefits the City may receive by having this activity in the area.
- The location for the intended trail is in-between Carlton & Scanlon on Highway 45. On the west side of the highway is an old section of road with pavement still in place that they are looking to use as an access area. This is in the preliminary stages and the group is looking to inform the City of the potential. Carlton County requested the group do outreach to local municipalities prior to their determination of sponsorship.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


James Barclay
Interim City Administrator