

TO: Mayor and City Commission

FROM: Kathie S. Grinzinger



SUBJECT: Status Report – August 2007

As a sign of the waning of summer, this month's status report will be shorter on the pithy notes and heart-warming stories and more confined to traditional reporting. Attached is a copy of a mid-year progress report that will provide the very briefest overview of some of the progress that has been made to date on the activities we committed to for 2007.

As is always the case, some initiatives are highly visible while others, significant in their own way, may be a bit more under the radar. In addition to a sketch of the strategic programs and projects that are underway, we have also included a sampling of some of the quality/process improvement investigations that the 128 employees of the City of Mt. Pleasant have worked through this year.

But, as is our tradition, first are a few notes to keep you updated about the activities occurring around you. If we have left questions unanswered, or if you need any further information, don't hesitate to let us know.

1. This Week At The Borden Building

Pro-Tech, our environmental abatement contractor, completed the lead abatement activity late last week as they filled the final few "pin holes" on the trusses with a sealant caulk. With them officially out of the way, the developer has moved his first phase workers in place. Machinery and operators are working through many layers of concrete in the floors in preparation of piping and plumbing.

After conferring with an arborist the City removed some very old, distressed trees from the bank of the Chippewa River in preparation for the site work on the parking lot. Reducing the number of trees along the future Riverwalk Trail expansion was a tough call. However, it was determined that the amount of fill that had to be added to the site before it was capped with asphalt would have severely compromised the older trees and risked damage to the site in the future.

As Mr. Baderschneider mentioned in his last appearances at City Commission meetings, we are in discussions with the DEQ regarding soil conditions on all the property originally purchased by the Mt. Pleasant EDC abutting the Chippewa River including the peninsula to the west of Parcels A and B. We are in the earliest stages of testing for contaminants on the peninsula which we assume will be like those found on the rest of the property since the railroad made similar and significant use of all of it.

If all site work on Parcel A goes according to estimates, there will be savings in the grant amounts set aside for environmental work because of the decision to eliminate

restoration of the water tower. That savings may be dedicated to abating contamination on all the land originally purchased by the City. As the fiduciary of the grant funds the City Commission will be involved in approving contracts for any expanded clean-up. We will keep you updated as this issue develops.

2. Welcome Back CMU

By the time I send out my next Status Report in September we will have already celebrated Mardi Gras downtown and CMU will have hosted its first home football game. In the next few weeks things will be bumper to bumper on Mission Street as well as in some of our restaurants and shopping centers.

Several Mt. Pleasant Police Officers will be a part of Welcome Week showing off their acting talent in skits themed to remind students to take care of each other's safety as they acclimate to their new home away from home. Firefighters, Police Officers and Code Enforcement Officers will also be making efforts to meet new tenants in our core neighborhoods. While introducing themselves, representatives of the City will pass along information about local resources and regulations and who to call with questions.

3. Planning Commission Meeting Posting

Two weeks ago a citizen's inquiry prompted a follow-up by County Prosecutor Larry Burdick into whether a work session held by the Planning Commission was properly noticed in accordance with the Opens Meetings Act.

Mr. Burdick collected information including letters from Planning Commission Chair Peter Orlik and City Clerk Rob Flynn. We received notice on Monday, August 20, that in his opinion, "there was not [*sic*] violation of the Open Meetings Act relative to posting notice of the August 2nd work session".

4. City Attorney Workload

While Matt Romashko keeps us company every other Monday and updates the Commission on the high-profile matters, City Attorneys Lynch, Gallagher, Lynch, Martineau & Hackett provide several other functions for the City of Mt. Pleasant. Under the retainer agreement Lynch, et al, performs all prosecutorial work for the City and manages the diversion program.

During the second quarter of 2007 there were 362 active City cases in their office. Charges ranged from traffic offenses to operating while intoxicated; nuisance parties; disorderly conduct; assault; larceny; and maintaining unsafe structure. Most major infractions are turned over to the County Prosecutor.

5. Soccer and Tee-Ball Field Irrigation

As a budget savings measure in 2006 we eliminated irrigation of our sports fields, a cost which had previously been financed through the General Fund as a parks expenditure. The drought of this summer has severely affected our soccer and T-ball fields at Sunnyside Park. The hard-packed ground has begun to irreparably damage the turf and could translate into a safety concern for the 2,000 participants who use those facilities from May to October for games, practices and Start Smart activities. With the high-usage fall soccer season beginning immediately we are taking a second look at this issue.

The cost for watering in 2005 was approximately \$4,300. The recreation soccer fund has a balance that we believe could sustain the watering program through the rest of this summer and into the fall. We intend to begin watering those fields immediately using funds raised through the soccer program itself.

6. For Your Calendar

Count this as the second reminder that we will be moving into budget discussions in earnest in October. Even before that, however, we will begin having discussions about issues pertinent to revenue and expenditure planning. We will begin scheduling regular work sessions to highlight some of the most pertinent budget matters that will need your attention. The work session Monday night, August 27th, will begin the discussion on water and sewer usage trends, revenue and rate options.

We have set the date for our extended discussion on the economic development future of our community for September 26th from noon to 5:00 p.m. We will set this as a special meeting on one of the preceding Commission agendas.

You will soon receive formal notification of a reception we are planning for our newest Division Director, Richard Morrison. We are planning to invite a few community members to meet Rich on September 7th with the hope that we can jump-start his Blackberry contact list as he settles into his new responsibilities. Please stop by if this fits into your calendar.

KSG/je

Enclosures