

City of Marine on St. Croix  
City Council Committee Workshop  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023 7:15pm

Ward, Nyenhuis, Miller, Pardun and Anderson present.

Citizens present: Scott Spisak, Glen Mills

Mayor Nyenhuis called the meeting to order at 7:15pm for the purpose of reviewing and assigning Council committee liaisons.

Anderson suggested looking to see if any committees could be consolidated. Anderson would like to sunset the Green Step committee and if/when the EV charger idea resurfaces, then a task force could be formed. Ward would like to see that committee address the issue of Resilience and would like feedback from Council and citizens. Anderson noted the City Clerk and Public Safety recently met with Washington to discuss Hazardous Mitigation which addresses Resilience. Ward has been working with Green Step for two years and is open to decommissioning the committee but does not believe this is the meeting to do so. Miller stated all citizen committees are created with the idea that there is charge for specific tasks and Green Step has completed all of the steps that it set out to do. Nyenhuis believes the decision should be made at a Council meeting and after the members and citizens have been notified. All members agreed.

Anderson questioned the Trails and Open Space committee and noted there is no clear mandate and nothing has happened to date. Ward noted that the biggest item for this committee has been the Gateway Trail, but believes that item could be handled under Parks and Recreation. Pardun agrees that the ideas that would fall under the committee are good, but also believes the committee should go away and then any ideas moving forward be handled under Parks and Rec.

Nyenhuis believes that the Council liaisons need to be just that, liaisons and not the work horses for these committees. Pardun also noted that the citizen committees do not have the authority to make decisions or speak on behalf of the Council, so the liaison needs to be engaged in the activities of the committees.

Pardun believes that Watershed could also fall under the Parks and Rec. umbrella as well since the upcoming projects have to do with the Millstream, etc.

Discussion was held as to whether the Events category needs to be a standalone item or if that could be absorbed into parks as well. Nyenhuis believes civic events should be addressed but isn't sure where it belongs. Anderson would like to see the event category potentially work with Public Safety as the permitting process includes them. The consensus was to eliminate the Holidays and create a new item called Community Events and that a Council person assigned as the liaison. After further discussion, Nyenhuis and Ward were assigned.

The Council discussed visions for each of the assigned categories:

**Public Safety: Miller and Anderson assigned**

**Goals:** Resilience and Emergency Management, Siren Replacement, recruitment and retention, wildfire table top discussion, May Township Contract Negotiations and continuing relations with Washington County Sheriff.

**Roads: Pardun and Anderson assigned**

**Goals:** Broadway Street micro milling bids, crack fill and seal coat 2023, 2024 reconstruction design for 2025 project, road adjustment for Elm Street, cable franchise agreement.

**Personnel: Pardun and Nyenhuis assigned**

**Goals:** Update standard operating procedures for public works, Laserfiche, staff reviews, compost site monitor, public works hours review

**Parks and Rec: Anderson and Ward assigned**

**Goals:** Burris Park upgrades, ice rink/ballfield upgrades, raingarden expansion, greenspace plan for downtown, MnDOT landscape partnership grant.

**Cemetery: Nyenhuis and Ward assigned**

**Goals:** Columbarium planning, expansion potential on Broadway and County Road 4, survey work for additional lots to the west.

**Water/Wastewater: Pardun and Miller**

**Goals:** Review homes currently having well testing and re-evaluate, monitor JM reserve funds, scheduled maintenance.

**City Properties: Pardun and Miller**

**Goals:** Marla MOA, cell tower,

**Community Events: Nyenhuis and Ward**

**Goals:** None defined at this time

**Forest Advisory: Ward and Anderson**

**Goals:** EAB, tree planting and gravel beds

Additional items for discussion:

Nyenhuis has been in discussion with the owner of Marine Mills on the corner of Maple and Judd Streets. The owner is willing to move tenant parking to the back of the building and use those current spaces for potential EV charging spaces. Nyenhuis would like to see this option investigated sooner rather than later.

Nyenhuis questioned if the work to be done on the Millstream is something that will happen in the near future. Anderson is not sure of the time frame.

Nyenhuis moved and Anderson seconded to adjourn at 9:02pm. All in favor, motion passed.