

City of Maquoketa
Property Maintenance Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm, Brad Koranda, presiding.

In attendance: Dan Holm, Barb Schroeder, Pat Walke, Ginger Bennett, Brad Koranda, Chris Ihrig

The motion was made by Ginger, to approve the agenda, seconded by Chris. The motion was made by Chris, seconded by Ginger, to approve the previous minutes.

Audience: none

New Concerns

The situation with 315 N 2nd Street was discussed. The concern was the safety and the possible internal property damage because of the large hole in the south facing roof. Brad reported that he did make contact with the owner who said everything was under control, that she felt safe, and who did not wish to be contacted any further. An abatement has been served. The members of the board talked about how a homeowner could be helped in these kinds of situations. Brad said, rightfully, that the city doesn't want to get into the business of replacing a homeowner's roof. Ginger talked about donating a tarp to cover the hole or would a volunteer be willing to contribute the labor or materials to do that. The consensus was that there does seem to be a tarp or some kind of protection inside. However, there still is the matter of a lot of junk is still visible on the outside of the house.

Another concern discussed was a trailer at 801 S Niagara, and the situation at 311 S Prospect. Chris added 608 S 2nd about garage sheeting. 402 S 5th concerned the board with a lot of junk visible. At 220 Arcade, they're waiting for the house to be done. There's a house on S Main Street where the porch isn't done. It's a rental.

Committee Discussion on Initiatives, for example Home of the Month

Dan suggested that, instead of a house from each ward, each month, that one house is selected from each ward on a rotating basis each month. That way, more emphasis is placed on only one house each month. The board seemed to agree with that idea. The first house will be selected in May. The board agreed that for the business, it should be Maquoketa Brewing for May.

Possible incentives to encourage pride in one's property could include a reward or prize of Chamber Bucks. Christie at the Chamber will be contacted to see if the Chamber would make that donation.

Other ideas to promote better maintained properties in Maquoketa were to continue to remind people of the city's ordinances in the newsletter that goes out with the City of Maquoketa water bill.

City Wide Cleanup

The city-wide cleanup is set for Saturday, May 6. The board agreed to meet with the Parks Board at their regular meeting on April 12 at 5:30 pm to coordinate activities. Brad and Chris noted that the Citadel's siding needed cleaning and that the shower house at Horseshoe Pond needed attention. Ginger mentioned that if painting was to be done of picnic tables and other equipment at the various parks, that power washing needed to be done beforehand so that the volunteers on the Cleanup Day can get more work accomplished.

Again, an effort will be made to have middle school and high school students help with the cleanup, by contacting the teachers or sponsors of those student groups that might be involved.

Half-price tags will again be available for the Mondays in May for large item pickups by the city. Styrofoam collection will again be done in May.

Updates on the Building Department

Brad submitted the list of the nine current building permits. He also submitted the list of the twenty-two properties that are in the process of being cleaned up. The addresses are listed with the status. Brad answered any questions about the problems or circumstances he had encountered while doing this work.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. Moved by Ginger, seconded by Chris.
The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 5:30 pm.