

City of Medora
Minutes of Public Hearing
May 14, 2018
(Subject to Council Review and Approval)

The Public Hearing on the petition to vacate a street was opened by Mayor Todd Corneil at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Todd Corneil and Councilmen Denis Joyce, John Tczap, Ben Brannum and Kinley Slauter. City Engineer, Mike Njos; City Attorney, Sandra Kuntz; Russ Lapp, Chief of Police; and Dell Beach, Public Works were also present. Randy Hatzenbuhler and Clarence Sitter from the TRMF were also present. There were 31 signatures of attendees from the public.

The Public Hearing notice that was posted for four weeks as required follows:

Public Hearing

Notice of Petition

Notice is given that Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation has filed a petition with the Medora City Auditor to vacate a street between 6th Street and Broadway. The petition is available for public inspection and the City Council will conduct a public hearing on said petition at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 14, 2018 at the Medora Community Center in the Roosevelt Room.

**Dated this 6th of April, 2018
Carla Steffen
City Auditor
Medora, North Dakota**

(April 12, April 19, April 26, May 3)

Randy Hatzenbuhler, TRMF, opened by explaining the proposed project and read prepared questions and responses related to input he had received. Some of the items included:

- the project is to provide a number of attractions to make Medora more attractive to families.
- 6th Street would be closed off and have a cul-de-sac at the end for turning around, the connection between 6th St and Broadway would be closed.
- in response to Fire Chief concerns the cul-de-sac will be large enough to turn around a fire truck, and there will be an alternate emergency exit via a 14' wide walking path for smaller vehicles (such as ambulances).
- the number one concern is public safety, particularly related to children crossing the street.

- signage would be added to assure drivers are aware that it is not a through street, etc.
- TRMF will work with the Car Show people on a new location.

Open Discussion

- Public safety is the number one concern of everyone. This includes: pedestrians safely crossing the street, emergency vehicle routing and access to Pacific, impact of a cul-de-sac on the ability of some vehicles to turn around, residents not being able to turn left onto Pacific safely from other streets when it is busy, increased parking problems, etc.
- Parking in the area is a big concern as it is a problem now and it is expected there would be more additional vehicles looking to park than parking spaces being added. It was suggested that the lot behind the MCC should be looked at for upgrading to provide more parking spaces.
- Access to and from town is a major concern as the current route is heavily used to get on Pacific (particularly in the summer) and it is often the most direct route for emergency vehicles.
- Generally agreed that adding more family activities is good for Medora but the location is a concern for the public. Suggestions were made that alternate locations, including west of the river be looked at. Randy commented that their history and guest surveys show that locations west of the river don't work well due to concerns about walking across the bridge, needing to drive, less convenient, etc.
- Stacey Swanson, Tax and Zoning Director for Billings County, presented maps and written comments, and made verbal comments. Her main points included: the street as configured is a long-standing route, closing the connector will impact the response time for emergencies, the proposed change will negatively impact public safety and property values, and careful consideration needs to be made to ensure that the decision is in the public's best long term interest.
- Police Chief Russ Lapp indicated that he has discussed concerns about emergency services impacts several times with Randy.
- Sandra Kuntz and Mike Njos comments included: if the decision is made to move forward a development plan, easements, and various other plans would be required, and there is a City Ordinance that will be followed.
- Sandra Kuntz challenged everyone to be creative in looking at possible approaches.
- How can we improve Public Safety, and traffic flow now? Look at stop signs, other?
- Randy commented that he doesn't believe the street needs to be closed to put in a zip line but this will be evaluated. He stated that adding a barrier to prevent pedestrian crossing and adding a pedestrian bridge may be an alternate approach to closing the street.

-Randy thanked everyone for their input and indicated that all input will be considered.

Sandra Kuntz commented that the City Council will take the input under advisement and the request will be addressed at the next City Council Meeting on June 5 to determine if it will move forward or not.

Hearing no more comments, Meeting was adjourned by Todd Corneil at 8:40 p.m.

Attest: _____ Todd Corneil, Mayor

Attest: _____ Gary Ridenhower, City Auditor