

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: April 12, 2023
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of April 17, 2023

Planning Commission Meeting. The Planning Commission had several items on its last agenda which included:

- Recommendation to the City Commission for approval of Ordinance Amendment to Section 52-308 – Vehicle Storage and Parking and add Section 52-310 – Parking and storage of recreational vehicles, including trailers (enclosed, open, flatbed, etc.), campers, boats, or other similar objects.
- 2023/2024 Capital Improvement Plan public hearing/review/discussion/recommendation to the City Commission for adoption.

Lake Shamrock Dredging Project. Mechanical dredging is still paused due to frost laws and weight restrictions. Posting for the Dredging operator position has completed and we ended up with 25 applications. We will be reviewing the applications and scheduling interviews soon. We are still paused per our permit for fish spawning in April and May. Hydraulic dredging contracts were signed as you know and the contractor met with myself and city staff for several hours recently both at City Hall as well as at the Airport and at Lake Shamrock to discuss options and the process for moving forward. They have begun work on the permitting and are going to start by trying to modify our original permit which may speed up the process. They are doing some soil testing and test pits at the Airport as well. I am encouraged by the plan that they have moving forward and am looking forward to the project progressing.

Verizon Cell Tower. We are still waiting on the fiber being activated and the switching over of the tower from 4G to 5G.

Rail Trail. At a recent Michigan Trails Fund Board meeting, a grant for the Clare Gap Project in the amount of \$150,000 was approved. Joy Simmer, Parks and Recreation Director, applied for the grant to help offset additional costs for the project. Thank you to Joy and the Michigan Trails Fund Board.

2023 Art in Sculpture: Sculpture Walk. It is time once again for the 2nd Annual 2023 Art in Sculpture: Sculpture Walk to begin. Attached is a brief writeup from Parks and Recreation Director and committee member Joy Simmer.

Attachments:

1. Memo from Joy Simmer - 2023 Art in Sculpture: Sculpture Walk.

Memo

To: J. Howard and the Clare City Commission
From: Joy Simmer
CC: Parks and Recreation Dept.
Date: April 12, 2023
Re: Permanent and Temporary Sculpture Installations

The Art in Sculpture committee members met on Thursday, March 23, 2023 to discuss the 2023 Art in Sculpture: Sculpture Walk. With the 2022 success, Harrison has asked to be involved and now the sculptures will start to be expanded into other areas within the county, which was a goal for the committee. The judging took place and the ten chosen new sculptures will come to Clare. Most of the new sculptures will be placed within the current sculpture locations (with a couple potential changes). There are a couple sculptures that the Clare County Arts Council purchased through grant funding, that they would like to keep in Clare.

One of those sculptures is the "Bait Ball" that has been a popular addition over in front of the Doherty Hotel and that one they would like to retain there. There also was the "Alternate Route" sculpture that is currently in front of the Clare Hardware, and after Simmer discussed it with the committee and Pere Marquette District Library Director, Sheila Bissonnette, we would like to move it over by the library parking lot where there currently is a bike sculpture bike rack and then relocate the bike rack to an area that it may be more utilized. The Clare-Gladwin RESD CTE "Hypnotic Sphere" sculpture the CCAC would like to see moved into the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex, over by the other Clare-Gladwin RESD CTE student projects/accomplishments.

There was also a recent commission of "Clarence the Leprechaun" that was completed by local artist Jeff Best to be placed in Clare and able to be moved downtown during Irish Fest. The sculpture was purchased by the Clare County Arts Council and the council would like "Clarence" to be placed outside of Clare City Hall permanently along with the Blarney Stone. The Arts Council asked that it be placed in a visible area and agreed that the southwest side of Clare City Hall closer to the roadway in the grassy area would be best, so it is visible and easily accessible for people who would like to see it up close.

The Clare County Arts Council and the Art in Sculpture Committee thanks the city for their support of the art initiative and would like their support in the new sculpture locations. Any changes/additions of bases for the 2023 walk will be approved by the City before installation.

The proposed/potential locations are:

Janice Chapman sculpture: It was decided to put this in Art Alley in the flower area.

Riemer Heart - somewhere near the Venue

Sparrow - White House

Peacock - Hospital Entrance

Tall man - it was suggested by Cops and Doughnuts, but concerned it won't stand out. Suggested in front of Schumacher Agency or by Wood's Household.

Transformation - Ray's Bike Shop

Helicopter Seeds - Edward Jones

Seven Chakras - Ace Hardware

Breezin' Series - Schumacher Agency

Mondrian Windows - Doherty

Phoenix Rising - Isabella Bank