

The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard November 28, 2007

The Face of Fillmore congratulates the Fillmore Main Street Beautification Committee for their excellent presentation on Tuesday, November 13, of the proposed plans for Fillmore's Main Street and also applauds the large crowd of interested citizens who showed their enthusiasm over the proposal.

Spokesperson for the committee was chairman Deaun Bean who introduced the committee members and their roles in the project. Each presented a section of the plan followed by a question and answer session to clarify the proposal and add additional comments and alleviate concerns.

It was pointed out early on that Robert Hibbard of U.D.O.T. and an electrical designer who works with him visited Fillmore's Main Street and a brief report was given about their visit. He expressed concerns over the present lights on Main Street, including the fact that they are so outdated, replacements parts are no longer available should they be needed.

El Don Frampton, electrical engineer for the group, demonstrated the new lighting fixture proposed for Main Street. The lantern-shaped unit emits bright white light from underneath the top section; with no glass sections along the sides to get broken and need replaced. These are easy to maintain and very durable. A section can be installed on one side if the light causes problems for the business it is in front of . The poles will have two of these lanterns with outlets for Christmas or other lighting as well as posts for hanging banners or flags. The poles will be somewhat lower than the existing poles but high enough to have Main Street well lit. The concern was expressed by a citizen that the lanterns would give off sufficient light in foggy conditions. The group was assured that the lighting would meet U.D.O.T. specifications, if not exceed them.

It is interesting to note that the new light fixtures meet Dark Sky standards. In most light fixtures now in use, light is emitted in all directions including up into the sky where it does no good and causes light pollution. In these new fixtures, all of the light is focused downward on the street and sidewalk where it is needed.

Desiree Rhoades, the designer for the committee, presented a group of pictures taken around the state showing ideas for our Main Street. The plans she explained include the new lights, sandstone planters and benches along with the planting of trees and perennial flowers which require less water. Desiree's watercolor design proposal is on display in the Fillmore City Offices for the public to view.

Lori Roper showed a power point presentation by Dr. Mike Kuhns of U.S.U., which explained the positive impact that planting trees would have on the community.

This is known as an "urban forest". Among the points explained was that trees provide a healthier, cooler environment. When trees are present there is less violence, stress is reduced, air quality is improved, and traffic is calmer. In tree lined business districts, there is more frequent shopping and longer shopping trips, as well as the fact that shoppers spend 12% more on their purchases.

Wendy Leatham explained the progress being made on the writing of grants and the research to find others that will be of help to the project. Progress is also being made in having Fillmore designated as a Tree City, which would improve the possibility of future grants. Many of the qualifications for that designation are already being met. She also pointed out that many foundations are showing interest in helping preserve historical communities. It was pointed out that Fillmore has one of the most prominent historical pasts in the state.

Judy Huntsman told of plans for the historic walk through Fillmore including plans for an information kiosk and signs pointing out historical sites. Working with her on the project are Kae Starley and Sandra Turner.

It was also pointed out that the Face of Fillmore column will aid in pointing out beautification projects throughout Fillmore and promote interest in the overall goals of the community.

Linda Gillmor, Millard County Economic Development Director, commented briefly about how impressed she and others are with the enthusiastic efforts of the Fillmore City Main Street Beautification Committee and others who are interested in improving Fillmore.