

City of Stanwood
Regular Meeting of the Community Development Committee
April 2, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Steve Shepro called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Council Members Present:

Steve Shepro
Dani Gaumont
Robert Hicks

Staff Present:

Patrica Love, Community Development Director
Aaron Weinberg, Business & Community Relations Coordinator

Others known to be present: None

3. Unfinished Business

a. Store Front Improvement Plan Project: Low Bar

Arron Weinberg, Business and Community Relations Coordinator, presented the Low Bar Storefront Improvement Program grant request to the Community Development Committee. The proposal includes replacing the outdated Box Car awning with a new black awning featuring the restaurant's new name, as well as repairing the existing fencing. Committee members unanimously supported the application, noting that the improvements would improve the building's street frontage appearance. They also expressed support for including pressure washing costs in the grant, if needed. The Committee supports forwarding the application to the full Council for review.

b. Twin City Plaza Concept Design

Council members reviewed the preferred concept plan for the Twin City Plaza pocket park and provided the following comments and suggestions:

- All committee members supported the preferred concept plan and design approach. They especially liked the whimsical idea of incorporating small, strategically placed figurine elements for children to discover, such as a troll, animals, birds or other sculptures.
- Members recommended adding greater contrast between the sidewalk and plaza areas, rather than using all concrete.
- They requested exploring an option to replace the concrete plaza with grass and asked that staff consult with Public Works to determine whether this would present maintenance challenges.

- The committee supported integrating art and brick elements into the design.
- They suggested considering adding a swinging bench, similar to the one at Depot Park.
- Concerns were raised about the truncated domes along the curved street frontage and the potential for vehicles to encroach onto the sidewalk. Members recommended evaluating options such as bollards or other protective measures for pedestrians. They also noted that vehicles sometimes fail to stop at the intersection and suggested reviewing engineering and design solutions to address this issue.
- Members recommended adding “No Parking” signs to prevent parking in the alley.

4. New Business

a. Percent for Arts Ordinance

The Committee reviewed the Percent for Art project narrative and supports moving forward with drafting an ordinance. While they were receptive to both the 1% and 0.05% funding options, they showed a preference for the 1% level, noting that 1% would support meaningful art projects in Stanwood. The Committee strongly supports investing in public art to supplement the City’s beautification efforts, similar to recent improvements made to parks. As an example, they suggested painting the water towers, a project implemented successfully in other jurisdictions.

As the ordinance and implementing resolution are developed, the Committee emphasized the importance of clearly defining how funds will be managed, ensuring appropriate program oversight, and determining the timing of fund collection, whether at bid award, during construction, or upon occupancy/final permitting.

b. Permitted Use Matrix

The Committee discussed how the unclassified use component of the permitted use code amendment would function. They support requiring City Council approval for unclassified uses, rather than continuing with the current process in which the Hearing Examiner makes the final decision.

5. Adjourn

City of Stanwood

Attest:

Sid Roberts, Mayor

Lisa Sokolik, City Clerk