

Beautification Town Hall Meeting - Survey Comments

August 30, 2012

The city is getting "long in the tooth." Time to improve! If we build it they will come! Just like the pringle - great spaces for the public to enjoy. Just do it!

I feel the architects/engineers probably had minimum impact. I think the idea of arch, signage, Egan improvements and plaza are good BUT way, way oversized. Almost all are too big, too grand and too complicated for Valdez. Signage on highway ok as drawn but signs in town should not be big stone obelisks 12' tall. At 20-30 mph or walking the signs would be intimidating. Even if designed for deep snow we live w/o snow for 8 months. I don't think it would be enjoyable to walk/bike past 15" of highway art. We need a more modest entrance arch. i.e the vertical artworks shows a rock base as large as a person with 11' high steep frame atop. 16' is too much for Egan. The current concepts are fine; the designs are too much for our town. Modify them down. Ideas - give all downtown merchants free flower seeds and ask them to tear up 10% of their asphalt, gravel or build flower/rock areas. Take down highway size signs and rusted/empty posts/signs/frames from Egan. More flowers - less gravel. Maybe the planters need to be nearer to building and not along the ROW. Don't need an arch announcing the downtown plaza, it will be apparent. Plaza idea is good, perhaps over designed & maybe a different location. Consider other locals. Can still close street between City Hall & Library, use a smaller design - not so ambitious and leave other blocks open.

Flower display that would be changed every year, much like the one in ANC at the end of L street. Inexpensive & promotes community involvement. Business or groups of individuals would have the opportunity to present ideas for upcoming season & could be morphed into a contest. Must be in a predominate area of town.

Love the lighting ideas for winter use. Love the fire pit idea. Encourage grooming the Parkstrip during winter when possible for people to walk/ski/snowshoe to town. Lighting along Parkstrip for winter use as well.

At this time we have more pressing needs that need to be addressed. Maybe in the future. More welcome signage is important. Town square concept on Egan does not seem worth the money.

Current - smaller snow lots should be beautified too. Maybe nearby business owners could "sponsor" beautification & the City could buy them a plaque. (a drawing was on the back of the survey depicting idea)

Simple sidewalks, grassy areas like corner at museum, clean up pump house, and main intersection across from FNBA.

Thanks for your work. I am sure this idea will move forward and hopefully be welcomed by a majority of the residents.

We cannot afford to financially support the delusional fantasies coming out of the beautification task force. Please stop.

I love the city square idea.

More trees, hand out seedlings to residents by the 1000's to residents to plant everywhere.

Valdez is spread out for a reason: snow piling space. Work with what is. The spread-out nature of Valdez lends itself to walking, biking, skateboarding, x-country ski touring and skating. Focus on sidewalk improvement (the sidewalk on the east side of city hall is full of cracks) and crosswalks, clearly painted. Focus on intersections, make them safe for pedestrians. Post clear speed limit signs, crosswalk signs, and pedestrian crossing signs. Make Valdez safe for bicyclists and walkers. Protect the south end of the park strip. Stop piling dog poop laden snow on that end of the strip. Construct a wide sidewalk on that side of Pioneer so people do have walk in front of the fire station (not safe). Beautify the south end of the Parkstrip to invite visitor and locals into the Parkstrip. Stopping the poop piles is the first step. Note that sidewalk construction is a labor intensive job, and will employ many people (the old Nautilus site created 40-50 concrete slab layers for months).

Would like more emphasis towards water - people are drawn to it. Move the "City Center" away from Mr. Day since he fears change. Move the City center toward Bear Paw RV Park. (this was the third survey from this individual)

I like: focal point in city, focus on water, covered areas to get out of rain. DO something!! ACT NOW!! GROW, SPEND MONEY, ACTION!