

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
February 1, 2017**

Members Present: Chair English, Vice Chair Schuetz, Pietryla, Kane, Potts, Dechene and Hauser

Members Absent: All Members Present

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke – Economic Development Division Manager
Karla McCleary – Recording Secretary

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Potts and seconded by Mr. Pietryla to approve the February 1, 2017 Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting Agenda.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: None

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of October 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Kane and seconded by Ms. Dechene to approve the October 5, 2016 Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting Minutes with one change made to correct the spelling of Allium.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: None

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Item

A. 2017 Curbie Awards

Chair English said there is some money left in the budget to use for Curbie Awards. Mr. O'Rourke confirmed there is approximately \$300 remaining and that should be enough for at least one plague. Current pricing is being looked into at this time, and we will know for sure by the next meeting. Mr. O'Rourke added that there is no specific number of awards that need to be

granted and it just depends on how many people they feel deserve this award and what the budget will allow. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that he would like to give out more than one Curbie Award if possible.

Chair English said there is one guideline that has been in place - it can be changed if they would like – that guideline states that a Curbie Award cannot be given to someone that they have given money to already. All Commission members were comfortable with continuing to have this guideline in place.

The landscape at Thompson Middle School has been recognized favorably during the past few months. As a result, Thompson was suggested as a possible recipient of a Curbie Award. After further discussion, it was determined that they had received funding from the City in the past. Mr. O'Rourke said the Boy Scouts received payment for the plants they put in and the grasses the City paid for twice as well as a maintenance contract that was in place for a year or two. Chair English clarified that Christa Orum-Keller, from Midwest Groundcover, donated the first series of plants and we provided money for fertilizer, to rototill and to mulch it. The next series of plants the City paid for, said Mr. O'Rourke.

Ms. Potts suggested Clarke Abatement, on Tyler Road, as a possible recipient for a Curbie Award. They have incorporated a lot of prairie plantings throughout their landscape as well as a vegetable garden. Ms. Kane stated that their landscape looks great but expressed concern about Clarke and their spraying of mosquitoes. Ms. Potts said Clarke has modified their sprays specifically for environmental purposes. Ms. Potts said the grasses have not been cut and they are still visible during the winter months. Instead of burning the grasses every five years, Ms. Potts stated that she has seen prairie grasses mulched really low for a period of time before they go to burn. Vice Chair Schuetz asked if burning is considered non-eco-friendly because of the fumes. Ms. Potts explained that mulching machines are sometimes used and that takes the plants or grasses down to fine mulch which is good, as that allows it to go back into the soil. Mr. O'Rourke mentioned that in November of 2016, Clarke Environmental was recognized by the State of Illinois for all of the good things that they are doing. As a result, they received a Governor's Sustainability Award for their efforts. Going forward, Clarke Environmental was received as a good suggestion by everyone for a Curbie Award.

Ms. Potts said Yurs Funeral Home does a great job with their landscape - every season they change it up and it always looks great - everyone agreed. Vice Chair Schuetz asked if the improvement had to be something that was in the ground and Mr. O'Rourke said it could be something in pots or hanging plants. Also, the business does not have to be located on one of the program corridors.

Ms. Kane suggested the Best Western Hotel on east Main Street as a possible Curbie Award contender. Mr. O'Rourke was not sure if they had received money in the past – he will verify.

Mr. Pietryla asked if Buona Beef had received money already. Mr. O'Rourke stated that they had done some nice things through the planning process but they did not receive a grant for anything. Vice Chair Schuetz asked, with regards to the criteria for these awards, would Buona

Beef qualify because of the zoning and planning that was involved during the construction process. Mr. O'Rourke stated that he is not aware of any criteria in place as it relates to any planning and/or zoning procedures. Ms. Potts added that she can recall giving Fox Run Apartments a Curbie Award. Mr. O'Rourke said that was for the landscape work around their signage and reiterated to everyone that a recipient does not have to be a business to receive this award.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that since this is February, they do not have to make their final selections right now. As long as the plaques are ordered before May 1st, 2017, this can be presented over the summer and that would allow for great photographs of each property to be presented as well.

Ms. Hauser mentioned Hotel Baker and the beautiful pots of flowers that they always have on display. Mr. O'Rourke explained that they have received money for their lighting and they are also in a TIF District, and have received City assistance in other ways.

Chair English reviewed the three candidates that they have so far:

Clarke Environmental
Yurs Funeral Home
Buona Beef St. Charles

Mr. O'Rourke said the cost will be available by the next meeting and that will dictate how many awards can be presented.

Ms. Kane said she has noticed additional flower pots in town and asked if IDOT had reversed their position on this as discussed in previous meetings. Mr. O'Rourke explained that this was a big push by the America in Bloom (AIB) organization that promotes community enhancement. Last year, the City was competing for national recognition, within the population range established by the AIB, for achievements in such areas as floral displays, landscaped areas, urban forestry, environmental awareness and community involvement. Now that we have demonstrated that these large pots can work on some properties, we can do more of them. There are some areas where these large pots will not work, such as narrow walkways where a 4 foot clearance is needed for wheelchairs.

5. Additional Business from Corridor Commission Members, Public or Staff

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if the budget amount for next fiscal year has been determined. Not yet – we will know before May 1st, 2017, said Mr. O'Rourke.

Chair English asked Ms. Potts if she had any potential clients coming in this year. Ms. Potts said she did not, but it is a little early. If there is ever any extra money, Reber Foley is always open for more improvements, stated Ms. Potts. They have received a Four Season Grant and what they have added to that property so far really looks nice. Mr. O'Rourke said

he has Cada Pools as one prospect. Ms. Potts asked if McDowell ever came back and Mr. O'Rourke stated that she had not, however she did come in for her sign.

Mr. Pietryla suggested conducting "outreach" to St. Charles property and business owners to promote the Corridor Improvement Commission program.

6. Announcements

There were none.

7. Upcoming Meeting Dates

A. March 1, 2017

Chair English noted that if no one is scheduled to come in to discuss a landscape plan for this year, the March meeting may be cancelled. Ms. Hauser stated she will not be in attendance at the March meeting.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Pietryla and seconded by Ms. Potts to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: None