

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
July 5, 2017**

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

Members Absent: Pietryla

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke – Economic Development Division Manager

Guests: Dove Thiselton & Ward Price – Ghoulish Mortals and As Cute As It Gets

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 Vice Chair Schuetz to approve the July 5, 2017 Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting Agenda.

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

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of May 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Ms. Hauser to approve the May 3, 2017 Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting Minutes.

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

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Item

A. CIC Grant – 228 W. Main Street – Ghoulish Mortals and As Cute As It Gets

Mr. O'Rourke passed out renderings and price points for the planting boxes being considered. He stated that the grant would not cover the cost of the plants since they are annuals and would be replaced each year. The Commission is interested in helping pay for the dirt, mulch and planting boxes. They recommended staying away from wood or anything that would disintegrate due to weather. The preferred material would be plastic/vinyl and that is included in the spec sheets that were provided.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if the planter boxes drain. Ms. Thiselton said they do not drain directly but they are called sub-watering and have a false bottom that keeps the water from dripping down on to the cement. It lifts the plants up to avoid over watering.

Ms. Hauser said her concern is if there was a crowd and someone bumped into one of the boxes – would it suffer damage. Ms. Thiselton replied that they are very durable - similar to the *Rubbermaid* trash cans and they will be secured so no one can walk away with them. The width of the boxes is approximately 9 to 11 inches. Beneath the *As Cute As It Gets* awning, they are looking at a total of three, 4 foot boxes. There will be two, 60 inch boxes on the south side of the building, facing Main Street.

Mr. O'Rourke said he added everything up and the total for soil, mulch and planter boxes is \$944.00. With this total dollar amount, a Four Season Grant would be applicable. Mr. O'Rourke explained that with a Four Season Grant, there is no matching amount up to \$1,000. They would receive the full \$1,000 – not 50% of that.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked when they anticipate having the boxes installed. Ms. Thiselton said that they were going to wait for the black awnings to be installed and from that point the boxes would be installed in a matter of days. Mr. O'Rourke explained that the July Planning and Development Committee Meeting has been cancelled. As a result, they will have to check the Agendas of other committee meetings – they could add this item to another meeting if there is room or they may have to wait until the August 14th, Planning and Development Committee Meeting. He will get back with Ms. Thiselton on that. Vice Chair added that they may get them in time for fall planting, which would work fine.

Chair English asked Ms. Potts if she had any suggestions for plants that may be more heat tolerant and Ms. Potts stated that she would send Ms. Thiselton some plant suggestions. Ms. Thiselton said she would like something bright to go with the polka dots along the *As Cute As It Gets* side and by *Ghoulish Mortals*, she would like something with purples, blacks and greens.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Ms. Kane to recommend approval of a Four Season Grant, up to \$1,000, for planter boxes and soil for *As Cute As It Gets* at 8 N. 3rd Street and *Ghoulish Mortals* at 228 W. Main Street.

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

Motion Carried.

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

Mr. O'Rourke handed out the CIC Roster for review by the Commissioners. He asked they let him know of any changes or updates that are needed.

Chair English asked who provided the new planters that are located on Main Street. Mr. O'Rourke said that he assumes that they are part of the America In Bloom project. He added that he is not sure if they are permanent or if they are here for the judges, as that was a recommendation that came from the judges when they went through last year. Mr. O'Rourke added that he has not been involved in the process so he does not know if I-Dot was made aware of the planters. Vice Chair Schuetz suggested moving the pots around and off of Main Street for a while and then bring them back in a few weeks to avoid a problem with I-Dot.

Ms. Potts made a recommendation to add to the roster, the date that each of them began with the CIC. Mr. O'Rourke said if he can find that information he will add it. The Commission was officially chartered in the year 2000.

Chair English asked if there was an update on Franky's Redhots. Mr. O'Rourke said they are still talking with the landlord and trying to figure out if they are going to extend the patio.

Mr. O'Rourke said he was contacted by Francesca's with possible interest in sprucing up their landscape along Route 31 and also along the wall where the mural is. They also mentioned the retaining wall, by the public parking lot. It would probably be a hardscape situation along Route 31 instead of a lot of plants and they also mentioned possible improvements with their signage.

6. Announcements

There were none.

7. Up Coming Meeting Dates

A. Next Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting is August 2, 2017

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Ms. Nelson to adjourn the meeting.

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