

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
April 4, 2018**

Members Present: Chair English, Vice Chair Schuetz, Potts, Hauser, Spurling

Members Absent: Nelson and Shimkus

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

Guest Present: Eric Larson

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 Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Ms. Hauser to approve the April 4, 2018 Corridor Improvement Commission Agenda.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Nelson and Shimkus
Motion Carried.

3. Approval of March 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Potts and seconded by Ms. Hauser to approve the March 7, 2018 Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting Minutes.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Nelson and Shimkus
Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Items

- A. Discussion of a potential Corridor Improvement Grant at 619 W. Main Street – Eric Larson Property Owner (Discussion Only)

Chair English stated that Mr. Larson is the new owner of the building located at 619 W. Main Street. Mr. O'Rourke said he has relocated Ameriprise to this building where he will be utilizing only the former home portion of the building. The large warehouse will be occupied by the Marquee Youth Stage. Vice Chair Schuetz asked what kind of dollars are they considering. Mr. O'Rourke said he cannot say as he has not received an estimate from Mr. Larson.

The original sign was relocated and did not involve any plantings around it. Mr. Larson had mentioned that, in addition to plantings, he may incorporate a water feature which may fit under the hardscape guidelines. This is something that the Commission has never considered before. Chair English thought the rocks around the pool may be something they could help with but the pump and various other parts/equipment items are not be covered.

Mr. Larson arrived to the meeting at approximately 7:10 pm. He confirmed that he would like to do a water feature if he could. Commissioners reviewed the plans and photos that Mr. Larson provided. He asked for feedback on the plant bed shapes and how they come down the front sidewalk as well as the addition of 5 burning bushes along the side of the building. Mr. Larson said he is keeping the existing Norway maple and will prune it up. He is retaining the old ornate wood fence with a blue stone patio behind it and is considering the addition of a water feature.

Other suggestions for this section include having similar groundcovers with color behind or around it. This area is in the sun and the Mrs. Potts suggested sedum. There may be room for a pond if it is incorporated as an offshoot from the wall in that area. They Commissions stated that they would be concerned with the pond area as it might pick up trash.

The Ameriprise sign was put up with a historic look to it. Mr. Larson would like to incorporate a “here we are” piece on the busy corner. The landscaper proposed 3 large plastic pots around the sign with lighting at night.

Mr. O’Rourke stated that the landscape area abutting the right-of-way up to the front of the building, in this case the porch is the eligible grant funding area.

Chair English said he is hopeful that Mr. Larson will include natural looking plantings in front of this building. He explained that the day lilies were not a good choice in the area displayed on the plans due to too much salt exposure. The landscaper has some nice ideas; however, Chair English questioned the practicality. Vice Chair said the spirea will last only 5 to 6 years and they are not that hardy. There is a sense of period or historic correctness to the landscape drawing.

Vice Chair Schuetz suggested filling the daylily area in with a decorative brick ribbon to widen the walkway and then pick up the plants in another area. Mr. Larson said one of the ideas he had was to replace some of the sidewalk with pavers. Ms. Potts suggested something similar to what was done at McDowell’s – where you have the curvature - instead of going the whole length to come in and around with some boxwoods at the entrance to the stairs and then let the grass go up to the entrance/entrance plantings.

Vice Chair Schuetz said he does not see the advantage of having a water feature around the sign. He would prefer to see a mass quantity of evergreens or stones – the outcroppings would take away from the sign.

Chair English suggested 4 season plantings such as – dogwoods for winter, happy returns daylilies for the summer, spring flowering bushes in the spring and in the fall some burning bushes. Mr. Larson said the sign is about 12 feet from the sidewalk. Ms. Potts said pavers along the sidewalk could be used to enhance it and also create a geometric shape with the pavers, incorporate some steppers and an ornamental bench with some containers. Also, it would be nice to have a pond where people can hear it. The boxwood along the front porch are in decent shape, said Mr. Larson, so he will keep those.

Mr. O'Rourke said something the City is doing is lining the sidewalk with pavers. Vice Chair Schuetz added that he would like something massive like 2 feet on each side. Ms. Potts noticed a lot of coneflowers in an area on the north side of the house. Instead, incorporate some little lime lights or quick fires – plant a mass of them to get a big splash of color, said Ms. Potts. Also, add some stepping-stones to step out into the grass. This area seems to be pretty shaded. Some pachysandra would do well here. There is an electrical box there and an evergreen is also a possibility. Vice Chair Schuetz asked what could be used to replace the barberry. Mr. Spurling suggested knockout roses and that would also create a historic feel.

Chair English said they cannot do anything in front of the auxiliary building. The idea is to concentrate on the entryway – concentrate around the sign. The Commissioners agreed that a water feature does not meet the intent of the program or guidelines since it involves mechanical components. In addition, would prefer to see a different plant used beside the walk other than daylilies and feel that brick paver extensions would work well there.

Regarding grasses, keep it to one or two types. Ms. Potts added that Mr. Larson should elongate the front portion of the property and that would also compliment the property next door. Vice Chair Schuetz cautioned to not use inexpensive mulch – there are seeds in it that promote weeds.

Ms. Potts suggested if he would like to go with a perennial that is year round, he could consider betony hummelo or allium. Both are very hardy. This current plan for the front of the property will consist of all dormant plants in the winter and suggested including some evergreens in the landscape. Ms. Potts said she would be happy to send him some ideas.

Chair English said to complete the revised drawings and bring them, along with the costs, to the next meeting in May.

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

There were none.

6. Announcements

Mr. Spurling was welcomed as a Commissioner to the Corridor Improvement Commission.

7. Up Coming Meeting Dates

A. May 2, 2018

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Mr. Spurling to adjourn the April 4, 2018 Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Vice Chair Schuetz and Spurling

Motion Carried.