

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
June 6, 2012**

Members Present: Chair English, Vice Chair Schuetz, Potts, Dechene, Kane

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:05 p.m. Chair English announced to the Commission that Member Allen could no longer serve on this Commission due to a conflict.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman English asked for any additions to the agenda there were none.

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Potts to approve the agenda with the addition.

Voice Vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Members Absent – None;

Motion Carried

3. Approval of minutes from April 6, 2011

Chair English asked for an update regarding the items contained in the minutes, since a year had passed from that meeting date. O'Rourke explained that all of the grants with the exception of Gabby's Kitchen were completed and reimbursed to the applicants. Gabby's Kitchen never installed the landscaping so they did not submit for reimbursement.

Chair English asked for a motion to approve the minutes

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Potts to approve the April 6, 2011 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

Voice Vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Members Absent- None; Members Abstain: Kane

Motion Carried

4. Discussion Items

A. 2012 – 2013 Fiscal Year Action Plan

Chair English stated that the Commission has a budget of \$5,000 for the 2012-2013 Fiscal Year. Chair English asked if the funding could be increased in future years. O'Rourke stated that it is a possibility depending on what the overall City budget looks like and if there is any additional funds available.

Members Potts stated that with more funding there is a lot of potential to do more with the Warrick building, and that there is a lot more street frontage.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if we are going to look at an area of town to concentrate the Commission's efforts. O'Rourke stated that his idea was to have that exact discussion during tonight's meeting. His thought was to come up with an area, similar to the E. Main Street focus from two years ago, and possibly go on another walking tour to identify opportunities.

Vice Chair Schuetz stated that E. Main Street is probably not ideal due to construction. He suggested maybe looking at Za Za's and providing big pots or something along those lines. O'Rourke stated that the Commission is not limited to just Main Street, and that the entire historic district is eligible for corridor grants.

Member Potts also suggested looking at the century corners area of downtown, which is roughly 2nd Ave from Cedar Ave. to State Ave. Potts stated that there is a lot of potential in this area. Chair English asked Member Potts if she knew of any business in that area willing to consider a corridor grant. Member Potts said she would think about that. Member Potts mentioned that a few of these businesses received Façade Improvement Grants for building improvements.

Vice Chair Schuetz suggested the area around 2nd street or Rt. 31. O'Rourke stated that he would have to check and see if that area is in the historic district.

Member Potts asked who was constructing the improvements along the river. O'Rourke clarified that this is part of the River Corridor Commission.

O'Rourke stated that maybe a new walking survey could focus on the historic district. Member Kane mentioned that the Fox Island Square building might have some opportunities.

Member Potts mentioned the Thompson Middle School frontage and that the maintenance has been lacking. She suggested supplementing the plantings with one type of plant to help limit any confusion between plants and weeds. This could be another idea to reexamine.

O'Rourke stated that one of the areas he was going to suggest was the historic district, and it would seem that there is some consensus that the Commission would like to focus on that area.

O'Rourke stated that his other idea was to look at Kirk Road south of E. Main Street. Chair English stated that the Commission had tried that area in the past and met with some resistance from the property owners.

Member Kane stated that the properties are very large and was not sure that a four season grant would have enough impact. She further stated that she would like to focus these smaller grants on places where there is pedestrian activity so the grants are noticed.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked where the walk about should focus. O'Rourke stated that the pedestrian areas are century corners, portions of E. Main and W. Main Street, and the 3rd street area. 1st Street is in a PUD so this should be developed before grants are considered. Member Potts mentioned the Alibi restaurant. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that the commission should not just consider greenspace areas but look at areas for planting pots as well.

Chair English asked what a good date would be for the walk about since the next scheduled regular meeting is the July 4th holiday. O'Rourke also mentioned that he has a conflict with the August meeting. Member Potts mentioned that she will be out of town during the August timeframe or just getting back into town.

O'Rourke stated that the last week of June would work well since there are no conflicting Commission meetings. Chair English suggested Wednesday, June 27, 2012. The Commission agreed that this date would be appropriate. O'Rourke stated that the Commission could meet in the parking lot and head up to century corners. The meeting will still start at 7:00pm.

O'Rourke mentioned that he had discussed this area with Russell Colby the Planning Division Manager since he staffs the Historic Preservation Commission. They discussed the possibility of coordinating corridor grants in locations where there are either proposed or recent Façade Grants. The one building that has recently received a Façade grant is the Doc Morgan Building on 2nd St.

5. Additional Business

There was a brief discussion regarding the recently proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding donation boxes located in parking lots.

6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings

Next CIC Meeting – June 27, 2012

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Potts and seconded by Schuetz to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: unanimous; Nays – None; Members Absent-None;

Motion Carried