

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
November 7, 2012**

Members Present: Chair English, Vice Chair Schuetz, and Kane

Members Absent: Potts and Dechene

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke

Others Present: Pam Bierman

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 Schuetz and seconded by Kane to approve the agenda.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Potts and Dechene.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of minutes from October 3, 2012

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Kane to approve the October 3, 2012 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Potts and Dechene.

Motion Carried

4. Discussion

A. 108 S. Second Street (Doc Morgan)

The Commission met with Pam Bierman a partner with Doc Morgan located at 108 S. Second Street to discuss Bierman's interest in a four-season grant and ideas for plant materials and planting locations.

Bierman went through the construction history of the property since her company took ownership and discussed some of the historical architectural features of the building.

Chair English explained that the grant is a four season grant and that the purpose of this grant is to provide year round color and that this should be considered in conjunction with the other plantings on the site.

Bierman explained that they already have burning bushes on the north side of the building and that they have rose bushes on the south side of the building. She stated that they do not have much spring color, and that O'Rourke had explained to her on the phone that there was some interest in plantings on the northwest corner of the property.

Bierman explained that they have tried to plant different species near this corner and that they have had problems with plants surviving due to the exhaust fumes on Rt. 31. She stated that there is a lot of idling in front of her building. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that there would need to be some hardy varieties of plants then. He asked what types of plants had been previously planted in this area. They had tried annuals. Chair English stated that daylilies are very hardy. Bierman stated that she is not fond of daylilies. Chair English stated that Ball Seed a few years ago had red daylilies. Bierman said that would be better.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked what other species is Bierman not fond of. Bierman stated that she does like tulips and daffodils. Bierman stated that she understands the Commission would be willing to help her development some ideas. Chair English stated that they are very willing to generate some ideas.

Bierman stated that she is also willing to perform some of the labor and has an employee that can assist who is involved in landscaping. Bierman also stated that she would be interested in some hardscaping in the future perhaps a platform for some artwork, and that any planting in this area should keep that in mind in terms of height.

Chair English stated that there has been success with native grasses. Vice Chair Schuetz asked if there are any shrubs that Bierman really likes. Bierman states that she likes dogwoods.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if Bierman herself or her employee that is involved in landscaping would do the design. Bierman stated that she was not sure at this time. Chair Schuetz stated that this employee would know what species are hardy. Bierman stated that he would, but she would also like suggestions from the Commission to inform her about the design.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if she likes Annabelle/hydrangea. Bierman stated that she does like this plant variety. Chair English asked if she likes the Ms. Kim. Bierman stated that she does. O'Rourke stated that as the plantings get closure to the corner that the height of the plants would need to be kept in mind as it relates to the sight triangle.

Vice Chair Schuetz stated that the Commission members here know plants relatively well, but the member that is very knowledgeable regarding plant species is member Potts who was not able to attend. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that he would like to hear her ideas as well.

Bierman stated that she does like natives and would be interested in planting native species. She stated she really likes the idea of the grasses.

Vice Chair Schuetz stated that the Commission could take these notes and at the next meeting discuss the grant with Member Potts.

Bierman also stated that there is a grassy area to the south of their parking lot that does not have a lot of plantings on it, and that this would also be a good opportunity for plantings.

O'Rourke stated that in terms of a plan it does not need to be drafted by a professional as long as it indicates the location of the plants and specie. O'Rourke asked Bierman when she would like to get going with the grant application. Bierman asked what the approval process would be. O'Rourke stated that an application for the grant would need to be filed, from that point the Commission would review the plan and it would be reviewed by the Planning & Development Committee and that it would ultimately get approved by the City Council. Bierman asked if they were targeting a spring planting. Chair English stated that that was his thought. Bierman asked if this is the same process as the façade grant. O'Rourke stated that the process is very similar.

Chair English suggested that the Commission ask member Potts what would be the best plant species to use at the December meeting. Bierman stated that would be great and they could take those recommendations and begin incorporating those into a plan. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that the Commission can discuss the ideas and then email a list to Bierman.

O'Rourke stated that once there is a plan put together that Bierman can submit the application at that time.

B. 116 State Avenue (Antique Store)

O'Rourke stated that he spoke with the property owner (Lou Little) and she informed him she would not be able to attend tonight's meeting but that she plans on attending the December meeting. O'Rourke stated that he told the property owner that the Commission would begin to discuss some ideas. O'Rourke stated that she is concerned with the east side of the building towards Second Ave.

Member Kane stated that she spoke with the property owner and that she is very excited about the possible grant. She further stated that the property owner is very hands-on and would be willing to perform the work herself.

Vice Chair Schuetz said that it looks like the area gets a lot of sun and that anything planted would need to be very hearty. He suggested cotoneasters.

O'Rourke stated that during his conversation with the property owner that she wanted to utilize a design that is consistent with the historic nature of the property. Member Kane stated that she also informed the owner that they would be looking for four season color.

Vice Chair Schuetz suggested box elders. Chair English suggested knock out roses and lavender.

C. Historic District Potential Grant Locations – Progress Report

Chair English asked for a report on the other identified properties. O'Rourke stated that member Potts informed him that she has not had a chance to speak with the Wilson Travel Agency yet.

O'Rourke stated that he has not heard back from the Lazarus House as to whether the property owner of the courtyard would be interested in the grant or letting the Lazarus House install the plants with their permission. Member Kane asked why that was an issue. O'Rourke stated that the Lazarus House does not own that property it still belongs to the Church, and they have an agreement to utilize that property. The City would need to have proof that the property owner gives permission for them to pursue the grant.

Vice Chair Schuetz stated that he has tried to contact the owner of the Citco property and that he has not had any success. At this time he has only spoken to a staff person and that they will not give out the owner's information. He also stated that the owner is not on site very often. Vice Chair Schuetz said they should probably consider other properties.

5. Additional Business

None

6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings

Next CIC Meeting – December 5, 2012

7. Adjournment

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Potts and Dechene.

Motion Carried