

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
December 5, 2012**

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

Members Absent: Dechene

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke

1. Opening of Meeting

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Member Kane mentioned that she received a call from Lou Little and that she would not be able to attend the meeting. O'Rourke stated that the project can still be discussed and that the agenda did not need to be amended.

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Kane to approve the agenda.

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

Motion Carried

3. Approval of minutes from November 7, 2012

Vice Chair Schuetz asked O'Rourke to check and make sure that he recommended box elders and not box woods as stated on the last page of the minutes.

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Kane to approve the November 7, 2012 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

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

Motion Carried

4. Discussion

A. 116 State Avenue (Antique Store)

O'Rourke spread out an aerial photograph of the property for the Commission to discuss potential locations for the plantings.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked what areas they were working on looking at. Chair English stated that the idea was to look at the corner area near 2nd Avenue and State Avenue that is fairly open and grassy. Member Kane stated that Lou Little has stated that she is concerned about the northeast area, that there is existing lilacs there and that they are overgrown. Vice Chair Schuetz confirmed that the Commission is looking at the southeast corner for additional plantings. Member Kane stated that she also asked if there was a place to get plants at wholesale and that she would do the work herself in order to obtain more plants. The commission members were not aware of any wholesale businesses in the area.

Member Kane stated that through her conversation with Ms. Little that she found out she would like to have the lilacs trimmed and was also a fan of roses. However, she was concerned with planting new roses due to the Japanese Beetle.

Vice Chair Schuetz stated that the plants would need to be heat resistant based on the lack of shade in the area. Chair English asked if there had been a tree removed in the parkway next to this area. O'Rourke stated that he was not aware of any, and to his knowledge there had not been a tree in that parkway area since he has worked for the City. Member Potts asked if this could be eligible for the Tree Commission grant program to help shade the grassy area. O'Rourke stated that he was not sure who is currently in charge of that program, but that a lot of those funds have been diverted to help replace trees related to the emerald ash borer issue.

O'Rourke stated that he did not speak with Ms. Little specifically about where on the site to locate new plants, he only spoke with her about utilizing species that are consistent with the historic character of the building. Member Kane stated that she was open to plantings in this area.

Chair English stated that his thoughts would be to put something near the corner where there is at least some shade and not in the middle of the grass area. Member Potts asked how much area was there back from the sidewalk. Chair English stated that it would be at least 30 feet.

Vice Chair Schuetz stated that they could duplicate or use the pattern of the existing vegetation to the west of this area and create an extension of those patterns. Member Potts suggested maybe extending this area in a straight line or coming off of the building.

Member Potts stated that it may be a good idea to place a small tree in the middle of the area just to help provide some shade. O'Rourke stated that the Commission should consider that the sign and front door of the business is in this line of sight and that they should be conscious not to block the business's visibility from the street.

Member Potts stated that since this is a big space they should try and find a good place for it. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that providing the shade would also help with the maintenance.

Chair English stated that they have some ideas, but at this time it would be best to continue this discussion with the property owner present.

B. 108 S. Second Street (Doc Morgan)

O'Rourke stated that they spoke with Pam Bierman at the previous meeting and that she provided a number of suggestions and ideas that are represented in the minutes. O'Rourke explained that the Commission stated that they would discuss this feedback and come up with some plant species and design suggestions.

Chair English stated that the Commission discussed a number of areas, one of which was the area in front of the building near the steps is fairly overgrown. The other is the northwest corner that has a lot of open space. Vice Chair Schuetz stated that she mentioned there is a number of burning bushes in that area and that she planted rose bushes on the south side of the building. O'Rourke stated that she also mentioned the area on the southwest corner of the building and that she had stated that there is not much there. Members Potts stated that that would be a nice area to place some plants as it would help screen the parking lot area.

O'Rourke stated that Ms. Bierman's biggest concern was that the specie of plant is utilized since this area is close to the cars on Rt. 31 and the exhaust fumes kill plants. Chair English stated that he suggested daylilies but that she did not like daylilies. Member Potts suggested some yews and tie in the burning bushes on the other side. Member Kane stated that she also like hydrangeas. Member Potts stated the hydrangeas are a good idea but not Annabelle. O'Rourke stated that she also stated she is open to grasses.

Chair English asked Member Potts to take a look at the area and see what might work. Member Potts stated that she could contact Ms. Bierman and get a better idea of what might work on the site.

C. Historic District Potential Grant Locations – Progress Report

Chair English asked for a report on the other identified properties. The members and O'Rourke stated that they did not have any new information to report on the other properties. Member Potts stated that she has not had a chance to contact Wilson Travel yet but planned on contacting them soon.

O'Rourke suggested instead of looking for additional grant properties that the Commission could talk to the current applicants about utilizing more of the funds for these existing grants applicants. Chair English asked if that was possible. O'Rourke stated that there is the possibility to change these to a 50/50 grant if the applicants are willing to match the funds, or possibly doing a phase I and phase II project. The Commission agreed that that is a good idea and can see if the applicants are interested.

5. Additional Business

None

6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings

Next CIC Meeting – January 2, 2013

O'Rourke mentioned that this is the day after the New Year's Day holiday and suggested having the meeting on an alternate date. The Commission agreed to move the meeting to Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 7:00 PM.

7. Adjournment

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

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

Motion Carried