

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
February 6, 2013**

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

Members Absent: Kane and 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

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

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

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of minutes from January 9, 2013

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Potts to approve the January 9, 2013 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

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

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion

A. 116 State Avenue (Antique Store)

Chair English asked Member Potts if she was able to meet with Ms. Little on the site. Member Potts stated she went to the site and took photos to help come up with some recommendations. She stated that this is a very complicated site.

Member Potts stated that she created a couple of design ideas. She stated that the front of the house is all ivy near the front entrance, she felt that this could be lined with some small white spirea that would frame the walkway. Member Schuetz asked if it looks more like currant. Member Potts stated it is a little bigger and has a large oval shaped green leaf and it is more structural.

Member Potts stated that she wanted to complement the existing materials so she is proposing some incrediball hydrangea which is white since that's what the applicant had requested, and then Annabelle hydrangea near the AC unit to add a different variety and different shaped bloom.

Member Potts stated that her other thought was to add a mass grouping of incrediballs along the slope of the hill along State Avenue. She also proposed dragonblood sedum to tie in the purple color of the Japanese Maple and more spirea.

Member Schuetz stated that there are a lot of materials there and wondering if the four season grant would cover all these plants. Chair English asked Member Potts if this could be done in phases. Member Potts stated that it could be split into quadrants to accommodate phases.

Member Potts stated that she went with a lot of whites since that is what Ms. Little stated she wanted.

Member Schuetz asked about the lilacs along 2nd Avenue. Member Potts stated that they are in good shape and do not need to be added to because these plants would get too dense.

Chair English stated that the frontage to focus on is along State Avenue.

Member Potts asked if everyone concurred with these suggestions. The members thought that these were good suggestions. Member Potts stated that she would contact Ms. Little and see if she was in favor of these selections.

B. 108 S. Second Street (Doc Morgan)

Member Potts stated that she has talked with Pam Bierman and she had an old plan from a few years ago so she used that as a base.

Member Potts showed an illustration of what she was thinking. She stated that Ms. Bierman is not willing to take the junipers in the front of the building out. These plants are associated with much of their corporate image. O'Rourke asked if they can be pruned to help open up the building. Member Potts stated that she has a landscaper that works for her and that these certainly can be tidied up. Ms. Bierman had stated that her partner was really fond of these junipers.

Member Potts stated that she decided to focus on the northwest corner of the property along Walnut Street and Rt. 31. She stated that there are a number of burning bushes in the area, yucca, and parkway trees in this area. Member Schuetz asked if there is a lot of sun in this area. Member Potts stated not as much as you think.

Member Potts stated that she would suggest some pinky-winky or quickfire hydrangea along the border of the building to block the basement wells. These species will grow up to 4 to 6 feet tall to hide these structures. Chair English asked if they are ok in shade.

Member Potts stated that they are good in part shade. She also stated that they should add some height and so she is proposing an amelanchier in this area and around the corner she wanted to reintroduce the burning bushes to tie the design together and an additional amelanchier. She would also reintroduce the hydrangea on the front of the building to hide the other basement well.

Member Potts stated that she has also sprinkled hostas around the plan because Ms. Bierman has stated that she likes this variety.

Member Schuetz asked if she would propose any new plants in front of the junipers along the walk. Member Potts stated that she had discussed a large pot with Ms. Bierman but that she is not in favor of that due to the exhaust she feels they will always die. Member Potts stated that she would just add sedum to this area. Member Schuetz asked if they are salt tolerant. Member Potts stated that they are.

Member Potts also suggested pavers to decorate the area near the flagpole, but that this was not proposed due to the restrictions of the grant program.

Member Potts suggested that they add some more burning bushes on the other corner to tie everything together. She stated that there is a crab apple in this area and that some additional materials could also be added to this area.

Member Potts stated that it would be nice in the future if they could add some shade trees along the south property line, but not as part of this grant proposal. O'Rourke stated that this is a buildable lot and is part of the 1st street PUD. He Stated that there is a building planned in this area. He stated it may be better to wait until that building is built to see what landscaping is required as part of that plan.

The Commission Members liked Member Potts' suggestions and stated that she should see if Ms. Bierman is in favor of these plants.

C. Wilson Travel

Member Potts stated she came up with some suggestions for this property. Chair English stated that the existing landscaping is mixture of themes and types.

Member Potts stated that the owner would like to remove the small junipers along the Illinois side of the property and remove the older yews in this location. Member Potts stated that she has suggested that a number of the species onsite be dormant pruned to help clean up the site, but that this would be separate from the grant proposal.

Member Potts stated that there is a lot of vinca and it's full of weeds that need to come out around the sign. She stated it would be best to introduce pachysandra through the area and also that the junipers from around the sign be removed as well.

Member Potts stated that she would put some little lime hydrangea and burning bushes in this area.

Member Potts stated that there is a basement unit that is rented, and that there is a window along this side. She suggested adding sumandsubstance hostas in this area to give a little shade in the summer to this basement unit. Member Scheutz asked about blood red grasses. Member Potts stated that the owner is not a big fan of grasses. Member Potts stated her only other idea was to do small roses in this area. The other members agreed that the hostas were a good idea.

O'Rourke stated that for the Wilson Travel and Doc Morgan projects that grant applications need to be submitted before the Commission can vote of them.

The members stated that they really appreciate all of Member Potts' hard work on coming up with these suggestions.

5. Additional Business

O'Rourke stated that as an update to the conversation about modifying the program that he came up with a bullet point summary of the ideas for the Commission members. He distributed the summary and asked them to review these items and see which ones the Commission would like to pursue.

Member Schuetz asked if more Commission members were needed. O'Rourke stated that this would be helpful.

6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings

Next CIC Meeting – March 6, 2013

7. Adjournment

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Kane and Dechene.
Motion Carried