

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION  
July 31, 2013**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**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

Motion Carried.

**3. Approval of minutes from July 3, 2013**

A motion was made by Dechene and seconded by Schuetz to approve the July 3, 2013 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Abstain: Potts and Kane

Motion Carried.

**A. 2013-2014 Work Plan**

Chair English asked Matt if he was able to locate the official IDOT plans for the Rt. 64 landscaping project. O'Rourke stated that this plan shows less landscaping than the plan that was reviewed a month prior. O'Rourke stated it gives a good idea of what landscaping IDOT will be providing. Chair English stated that he thought it would be a good idea to see what IDOT is planning to plant and see what species could be used so they can be replicated or supplemented. Vice Chair Schuetz asked if IDOT is required to plant a certain amount of materials. O'Rourke stated that they are not.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if the City has any plans for landscaping these areas. O'Rourke stated that there are no official plans for the City to plant landscaping. Member Dechene asked why they were only utilizing one type of shade tree. O'Rourke stated that those

are what they have shown, but often these will be changed based on what's available at the time of planting.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if the Corridor Commission's funds can be used to plant some plantings in the ROW. O'Rourke stated that the revisions to the program would permit that. The Commission would just need to find a volunteer group to perform the plantings.

Member Kane asked about the tree program that the Tree Commission offers. O'Rourke stated that most of those funds are being used to deal with the emerald ash borer.

Member Potts asked if plantings around any signs that need to be replaced are eligible. O'Rourke stated that the new program will pay half of those costs, but that they will have to install more than just the minimum required by the Zoning Ordinance. He further stated that they are required to install 3 feet of landscaping around the sign. The new program could provide double the landscaping for the same cost.

Member Potts asked about the four season grant for McDowell. O'Rourke stated that since the emphasis is on the matching grants that the four season grants will not be considered. He stated that he has not processed the application for that reason. Member Potts stated that she will relay the information.

O'Rourke stated that he is also working on publication for the program. He stated that he has met with the City's Community & Public Affairs Coordinator to create a press release for the program. He also stated that he met with the Downtown St. Charles Partnership's Economic Restructuring Committee to promote the program to downtown businesses.

Member Potts asked about how the sign amortization is affected. O'Rourke stated that the landscaped areas around these sign would be eligible provided they meet the guidelines of the program.

Chair English asked if the Commission felt it would be better to wait until the IDOT improvements are more complete before they start soliciting interest and stated that they had a list of businesses in mind. Vice Chair Schuetz suggested that the Commission wait until IDOT is closer to completion and that once it is complete it will be easier to envision some improvements.

O'Rourke stated that he is also telling property owners that come in for repaving projects that require landscaping about the program and how it can help pay for their projects.

Member Potts suggested that we also consider the property that Eric Larson is purchasing on E. Main Street. The Commission stated that they would be interested in working with this property as well.

Chair English summarized the comment by stating he would like staff to keep working on marketing efforts and appreciated everything done at this point and that the Commission should wait until the road is close to completion before contacting property owners.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if there are any materials that could be passed out to these property owners. O'Rourke stated that he is able to print the color brochure whenever they are needed to be passed out.

Member Potts asked if there could be a mass planting like the tree program in the past. O'Rourke stated that these are all possible if the Commission can work with a volunteer group or a few property owners that are interested.

Chair English suggested with the construction done the work plan for the rest of this fiscal year should be to focus on E. Main Street.

**5. Additional Business**

**6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings**

Next CIC Meeting – September 4, 2013

**7. Adjournment**

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

**Voice Vote:** Unanimous; Nays: None; Members