

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION  
May 1, 2013**

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

**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**

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

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

Motion Carried.

**3. Approval of minutes from March 6, 2013**

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Kane to approve the March 6, 2013 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

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

Motion Carried.

**4. Discussion Items – Grant Program Modifications/Amendments**

O'Rourke presented the draft modifications to Chapter 12.40 Corridor Improvement Program of Title 12. He also stated that staff is preparing to present these amendments to the P&D Committee at their June meeting.

O'Rourke explained that the major changes are:

- Adding the properties along Rt. 38/Lincoln Highway to those that are considered eligible.
- Adding right-of-way areas that adjoin eligible properties.
- Adding non-profit organizations as eligible recipients of grant fund in association with volunteer corridor projects.

- Adding hardscape materials as eligible landscape improvements.

Member Potts asked for clarification regarding the right-of-ways adjoining eligible properties. O'Rourke stated that the definition is meant to clearly state that only right-of-ways directly along the defined corridors are eligible and not any right-of-way in town.

Chair English asked for some clarification of the hardscape materials. O'Rourke stated that the intent is to include more permanent improvements. Member Potts stated that it is fine to add more permanent materials but would like to see the budget increased to account for these improvements. O'Rourke stated that the budget has been increased to account for these changes, but also that the ordinance is being revised and that it would be better to have these types of improvements available as an option. Member Schuetz asked if there is any discretion regarding project approval in case they feel a project does not merit the Commission paying for hardscape. Chair English stated that the budget will be set and the Commission will still have to approve the plans. O'Rourke stated that there will not be a mandate that hardscape will have to be included in each grant. O'Rourke stated that there will have to be some oversight by the Commission as to what projects merit the improvements based on impact.

Member Potts asked if this was going to tie into the sign amortization. O'Rourke stated that the intent would be to work in coordination with those property owners and create an opportunity to have more landscaping located around the new signs, but the grants would not help pay for the signs themselves. Member Potts asked if this would pay for decorative bases on signs. O'Rourke stated that any part of the physical sign would not be an eligible improvement.

Chair English stated that the concerns might be answered in the definition of what is eligible and that the improvements have to go above and beyond the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Potts to recommend approval of and forward the proposed amendments to Chapter 12.40 Corridor Improvement Program.

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

Motion Carried.

## **5. Additional Business**

Member Potts stated that she has been in contact with McDowell and tried to get them to submit before the end of the last fiscal year for a four season grant. She asked if she should bring this in for the fiscal year. O'Rourke stated that his understanding is that the funds were budgeted in the corridor grant program. He stated he would check and see if a four season grant was still possible.

Chair English asked if the four season grants were still possible. O'Rourke stated that the four season grant program is not going away, but the funds are budgeted for the matching grant

in the current fiscal year. Chair English stated he would like to keep some flexibility in case smaller grant opportunities come along.

Member Potts also stated that she had a conversation with Eric Larson and he has bought some new properties on E. Main Street. He wanted to know if they would be eligible for a grant if they are renting the property as an apartment. O'Rourke stated they he believed they would be, but would double check.

**6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings**

Next CIC Meeting – June 5, 2013

**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