

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
March 5, 2014**

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

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke

Other Present: None

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of minutes from February 5, 2014

A motion was made by Schuetz and seconded by Potts to approve the February 5, 2014 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission with minor grammatical changes.

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

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Items

A. 1020 Cedar Avenue

Zack Tentinger presented the changes and revised cost estimate made to the plans since the last time he presented them to the Commission. He explained that the outcroppings are in the same location and some of the plant varieties have changed based on the Commission's comments. The species he inserted are panicum northwind, rubiaceae, sporobolus, and salvia. Tentinger stated that he added natives to address the Commission's recommendations. The idea is to create a prairie weave with purples, greens, and tans. This should also provide good visual effect given the traffic on Rt. 64. Tentinger stated the design is low maintenance.

Member Dechene asked how hardy the chosen specie of rubiaceae is. Tentinger stated that this specie is tough and is different than older varieties that get taller and have had disease problems. This variety also does reseed on its own. Member Dechene asked if there is any root running. Tentinger stated that this is a more native variety and that is minimal.

Tentinger stated that the ground cover is sedum to add more color and a spring bloom.

Member Potts asked what the proposed spacing is for the plants. Tentinger stated the sedum is 8 inches off center, the salvia is 15 inches off center, and the rubiaceae is 18 inches off center.

O'Rourke mentioned that the property owner is moving forward with a new sign. The sign base and landscaping around the proposed base of the sign is now included on the plans. Tentinger stated that the plan is to build the base out of Chilton to match the proposed outcroppings. Member Potts asked that Chilton be specified on the plans and materials list.

Chair English stated that the Commission has reviewed the application, plans, and grant and asked for a motion to recommend approval of the grant for 1020 Cedar Avenue.

O'Rourke stated that the City's share of the design fee is \$1,125 and the City's share of the planting materials is \$3,843.43 for a total of \$4,568.14.

A Motion was made by Dechene and seconded by Schuetz to recommend approval of the Corridor Improvement Grant at 1020 Cedar Avenue.

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

Motion Carried.

B. 2536 and 2540 E. Main Street - Corridor Grant Discussion

Melia Linardos stated that they have been at a standstill with the snow and have not been able to complete a land survey of the property. O'Rourke stated that the plan is to update and discuss the project tonight. The grant will be back at the April meeting for approval.

O'Rourke stated that Member Potts has shared the cost estimates for the landscaping, but we still need estimates for the removal of the asphalt. Linardos stated that they cannot determine the scope of work until the snow melts. They are also waiting to see where to move the Bosa sign due to the amortization. The location of the sign will need to get verified and moved due to the amortization.

Member Potts stated that at the last meeting the Commission felt that the plant species were appropriate and made sense and wanted to confirm if Linardos agrees.

O'Rourke stated that the amount of funding left in this year's budget is \$25,000 minus the grant that was approved earlier in the meeting. He further stated that this is the only other grant he foresees being approved before the end of this budget year, so whatever funds are left that is what could go towards this project. O'Rourke stated that he would need the cost estimates in time for the next meeting and could have the grant approved by the end of April. Linardos asked if that means the project needs to be completed by the end of April. O'Rourke stated that he only needs to have the grant approved by the end of the budget year which is April 30, 2014. Once it's approved the funds can be rolled forward into the next year's budget and there will be a year to complete the project.

Linardos asked what kind of ground cover will be around the plants. Member Potts stated that it is mulch and the ground covers will spread to cover most of the ground.

Linardos asked how the plants could be watered. Member Potts stated that they could quote a price to have them watered. Member Potts asked if there is a water source on the building. Linardos stated she was not sure and that she would have to look.

Linardos asked if the gro-low sumac would grow very fast. Schuetz stated that they will have to be trimmed. Member Potts stated that she is willing to show whoever does the maintenance how to trim the sumac. She stated it definitely is salt tolerant, helps with the weeds, and is very hardy.

Chair English stated that at the next meeting we can review the cost estimates and make a recommendation on the grant.

5. Additional Business

O'Rourke announced that he has taken a new position with the City of St. Charles as the Economic Development Division Manager.

6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings

Next CIC Meeting – April 2, 2014

7. Adjournment

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

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