

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
June 4, 2014**

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

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke
Bob Vann, Building & Code Enforcement Division Manager
Karla McCleary, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Eric Larson

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:04 p.m.
Chair English welcomed new Commission member Audrey Hauser

2. Approval of Amended Agenda to discuss Discussion Item B, Sign Amortization first.

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

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of minutes from May 7, 2014

A motion was made by Kane and seconded by Chair English to approve the May 7, 2014 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Items

B. Sign Amortization (Discussion Only)

O'Rourke introduced Vann to the group and explained that he was attending the meeting to explain what sign amortization was and to discuss grant funding to assist landscaping around new signs. Vann explained the sign amortization process was introduced in 2006 to bring non-conforming signs in compliance with current zoning standards by 2009. Due to economic

conditions at that time, the City Council delayed implementation. From 2011 – 2013, Route 64 in St. Charles, experienced a major overhaul, once again delaying implementation, extending the compliance date to October 16, 2014. There are approximately 42 – 45 signs that remain non-conforming to date.

The Commission agreed they would like to assist businesses with funding to help defray costs associated with this initiative. O'Rourke encouraged the use of natural materials such as stone or brick for use around the base of the signs. Chair English said he would like only stone or natural materials be used. Dechene agreed and suggested the addition of native plants to go along with the natural stone. Vice Chair Schuetz said he would like nothing concrete be used around the base. Chair English suggested asking the Council for additional money to help this cause. O'Rourke said they started this fiscal year with \$25,000 with some of that money going toward the grant for 1434 E. Main Street.

Members of the Commission agreed to a 50/50 match up to a maximum of \$2,000 be made available to businesses on a first come, first served basis. To address concerns with the base of signs, Vann suggested handling those on a case-by-case scenario. If several businesses decide to take advantage of this program, the Commission agreed they may need to meet more than once a month.

A. Corridor Grant – 1434 E. Main Street

Potts stated a revision to the landscape design has been made. A natural flowing bed of natural stone, Daylilies, Lilacs and ornamental trees has been added. With the addition of 4 white pines to the east side of the drive, the plantings now mirror those found in the center island. Foundation plantings include: Boxwoods in the front, *Knockout* Roses in the back, a Serviceberry in the corner beside *Quick-fire* Hydrangeas with Sedum added to soften the look. The entry way includes Dropseed, grass masses with Coneflower, Daylilies, a Crabapple Tree, Iris's and Roses. The center section contains Lilacs, Hydrangeas and grasses featuring an elevated bed with a Serviceberry and Perry Dropseed. Dechene suggested a rain garden effect to clean water as it drains off the driveway.

Chair English requested a motion be made to recommend approval of the landscape plan with minor modifications between owner and landscape artist. The total amount of the grant is not to exceed \$6,265. O'Rourke stated he will get this on the Monday, June 9, 2014 P&D Meeting Agenda with approval from City Council on Monday, June 16, 2014.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Dechene to approve a Corridor Improvement Grant for 1434 E. Main Street with minor modifications between owner and landscape artist with total amount not to exceed \$6,265.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Abstain: Potts

Motion Carried.

5. Additional Business

A. Jalapeno Grille – 602 Geneva Road

O'Rourke said this business is considering repaving their parking lot. The business owner is seeking suggestions for landscape materials in the 2 1/2 ft. green space area running along Route 31. Dechene said Prairie Dropseed could potentially work and Potts agreed, stating Sedum as another possibility. Potts added that Prairie Dropseed is feathery, not real tall, it blooms and is not expensive. O'Rourke will visit with business owner and provide these suggestions to him.

6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings

Next CIC Meeting – July 2, 2014

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Kane to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None