

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
July 2, 2014**

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

Members Absent: Kane

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke
Karla McCleary, Recording Secretary

Others Present: Sue and Bob McDowell, McDowell Remodeling

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of minutes from June 4, 2014

A motion was made by Potts and seconded by Schuetz to approve the June 4, 2014 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

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

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Items

A. 521 W. Main Street – (McDowell)

O'Rourke introduced Sue and Bob McDowell to the group and explained they are ready to replace their business sign and are interested in working with the Corridor Improvement Commission during the process.

Sue McDowell provided everyone with a concept drawing of a new sign they are considering. She said they incorporated some ideas received from Potts, when she created a 4

Season Grant Plan for them some time ago. Potts stated she currently has changed her position on some aspects of that original plan. Sue McDowell said the new sign needs to reflect what they do as a business. The sign should be beautiful, historic and creative as well as being a good fit with regards to the landscape of their property. The McDowell's said meeting the 16 square foot (sf) size requirement may be a problem. O'Rourke explained that the 16sf pertains to the size of the sign only and is not inclusive of any pillars. The McDowell's were OK with that and did not have further concerns with the sign size requirement.

Bob McDowell asked if illuminated lighting would be allowed. O'Rourke said that type of use is not allowed on any signs in the downtown area. Schuetz suggested illuminated lighting coming from the top of the sign, shining downward. O'Rourke said that type of lighting is best suited for use on buildings. Bob McDowell said they may have to use spot lights.

Sue McDowell stated they would like to have some artistic work along the top of the sign, possibly something in iron. O'Rourke said if they do not exceed the height requirement that should be fine. Bob McDowell said they may elevate the letters off of the sign, creating a shadow but at this time they are not sure what the sign will be made of. They are also considering the use of red brick for the pillars and copper or stone for the pillar caps. Presently, their colors are green and gold but they are not sure if they are staying with that. Bob McDowell asked if the sign could be placed anywhere along the front of their building? O'Rourke said yes, they just have to address the setbacks requirements.

Sue McDowell asked about the grant amount and if the sign is more than \$2,000, could they receive a larger amount. Chair English said this was discussed at the last meeting and this was the first go-round with this. The thought was, there could be many signs to address with businesses coming into compliance with the sign amortization deadline. O'Rourke added that the \$2,000 is for the sign only and landscaping costs are in addition to that. Chair English said if they go through the \$25,000 that has been budgeted for this fiscal year, he will go before the Council and request additional funding. O'Rourke stated if this program is successful, staff will request more money for the next fiscal year.

Bob McDowell asked if they could put a sign on the side of their property that runs along 6th Street. O'Rourke said yes if they meet the setback and height requirements. Chair English asked if their property was located in the historic district and O'Rourke said that it was not. The historic district ends at 3rd Street.

O'Rourke asked the McDowell's if they plan to come back next month with updates. They both replied yes and they will have some cost information as well.

5. Additional Business

Schuetz asked O'Rourke if the new owners of Pheasant Run are going to do any Landscaping. O'Rourke said the new owners are planning interior and exterior upgrades with landscaping being part of their overall plan.

Chair English asked for an update on Eric Larson's property located at 1434 E. Main Street. Potts said Larson coordinated the actual landscape installation. For the most part, he stayed with the landscape pallet Potts provided with a few minor changes applied. Larson still needs to submit receipts for reimbursement.

Chair English commented that Bosa Donuts is busy working on their property as well. O'Rourke stated that the entire area will look much better when they are finished.

Chair English asked for an update regarding suggested landscape materials that the Commission provided to Jalapeno Grille. O'Rourke explained that most of their parking lot is located in a public right away. This situation has occurred over time, as City streets have become wider. The business owner liked the landscape suggestions provided by the Commission for an approximate 2 ½ foot green space area that runs along Route 31.

Dechene asked when the sign amortization deadline is. O'Rourke stated the deadline is October 16, 2014, however a grace period will be granted to those who have begun work on their sign but have not yet completed everything.

6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings

Next CIC Meeting – August 6, 2014

7. Adjournment

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

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