

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
October 1, 2014**

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

Members Absent: Kane

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

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:04 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of minutes from September 3, 2014

A motion was made by Dechene and seconded by Pietryla to approve the September 3, 2014 minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission with spelling correction applied to "burnham" on page 3, section A.

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

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Items

A. 1317 E. Main Street - Fydoland

Robin Massey, Fydoland business owner, was unable to attend this meeting. O'Rourke presented the landscape plans for this property on her behalf. The plans displayed plantings for the front of the building and also around the business sign. After reviewing the plantings being considered for this business, Potts said the Daylilies should be fine if the dogs don't run all over them. The grasses as well as the Sedum should also be OK. The *Green Velvet* Boxwoods and "*Techny*" *Arborvitae* would have trouble. Pietryla asked if the *Annabelle* Hydrangea should be recommended in front of the building. Potts said that should be fine as well as the *Judd*

Viburnum, and the Spirea. To create a more formal business entrance as well as symmetry, Potts suggested having the Prairie Dropseed or the *Karl Foerster* Grass on both sides of the front of the building. Vice Chair Schuetz suggested *Limelight* Hydrangeas instead of *Annabelle* Hydrangeas. Potts said that would work better as *Annabelle's* tend to flop.

Chair English said they cannot recommend a plan that includes plantings that will not survive. Chair English asked O'Rourke to speak with Massey and give her their recommendations. Vice Chair Schuetz asked O'Rourke if Massey wanted to plant this fall and O'Rourke replied that she did and is very motivated to get this completed.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if the grass remains, who would mow it? O'Rourke said the grass will stay and at this time it is unclear who is responsible for mowing. Potts asked O'Rourke if the building is occupied now and O'Rourke stated it is not but they are working on it. Potts offered to stop by and talk with Massey about her landscape plan.

Chair English said they cannot take any formal action at this time and asked for a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Pietryla and seconded by Vice Chair Schuetz to table the landscaping at 1317 E. Main Street, Fydoland, to the next meeting.

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

Motion Carried.

B. CIC Program Eligible Properties

O'Rourke recapped what was discussed at the last meeting regarding possible gateway improvements at various points along Route 25 and Route 31. O'Rourke presented a map displaying areas along these routes to consider as well as other locations to discuss. After various locations were suggested by the Commission, the top three locations for consideration are:

1. Rt. 31 at Red Gate
2. Rt. 31 by The Oaks, across from the Willows
3. Rt. 25 at Division

Chair English said if any commission members have any more areas they would like to consider to let O'Rourke know. O'Rourke asked if everyone was comfortable with moving forward on this and making minimal changes to the ordinance and everyone was in full support.

Vice Chair Schuetz recalled some of the problems experienced at Thompson Middle School when landscape improvements were implemented. The concerns included too many plant varieties and uncertainty with what should remain and what should be removed. Chair English said it would have been best to have had only two varieties of plants. Potts added the best plantings would have been grasses as they do great with very little maintenance.

5. Additional Business

O'Rourke said there is \$1,700 left in this year's budget.

Potts asked if the McDowell grant had been approved and O'Rourke said that the sign and the landscaping were approved.

Hauser asked how the sign replacement program was coming along. O'Rourke explained the latest extension is to October 16, 2014 at which time the businesses left to comply with the Sign Amortization Program, had to submit a formal letter to the City. Once this had been done, those businesses would have until June 2015 to be in full compliance. O'Rourke added that CIC assistance with this program could shift into the next budget year if need be. Vice Chair Schuetz said the Plan Commission wanted stipulations in place and O'Rourke stated the Council was in full support. Chair English said businesses could come to them during the winter and O'Rourke said that would be helpful to justify their request for the following fiscal year.

6. Announcements and Upcoming Meeting

Next CIC Meeting is Wednesday, November 5, 2014

7. Adjournment

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

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