

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
November 4, 2015**

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

Members Absent: Kane, Pietryla

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:01 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

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

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of minutes from August 5, 2015

A motion was made by Potts and seconded by Hauser to approve the August 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission

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

Motion Carried.

4. Discussion Items

- A. Corridor Improvement Grant – 307 W. Main Street (Shell Gas Station)
Tina and Shailesh Patel, Owners

The Patel's introduced themselves and explained that they want to improve the landscaping, add a new sign, a couple benches and have additional garbage receptacles available on their property. O'Rourke stated that they are redoing the sign for the amortization. Chair English explained that the commission funds perennial plantings as well as various landscape improvements. O'Rourke said maybe Public Works could add a few more garbage receptacles if they have a few of them available. Ms. Patel stated that they are interested in having some large concrete pots along the sidewalk as well as a few other locations on their property. Potts asked if

they had any thoughts of improving the gravel area located by The Finery Restaurant. Ms. Patel stated that they are considering having a few of the large pots placed in that section.

Chair English asked Potts and Dechene what they thought would work well on the corner that gets a lot of salt. Potts and Dechene thought *Little Blue Stem*, *Panicum* or *Prairie Dropseed* grasses would be fine. Also, *Lilac*, *Little Miss Kim*, or *Gro-Low Sumac* would do well. Potts also added *Sedum* as a perennial ground cover that would work well in this area too. Chair English told the Patel's that these are ideas that they can suggest be implemented into their landscape when they speak with a contractor. The last thing that should be placed in that area is an evergreen – it would not tolerate the salt at all.

The Patel's stated that the new sign will be bigger and lower to the ground. Potts suggested using some stone around the sign and bring it up a little to add elevation and also to get it further away from the salt.

Vice Chair Schuetz asked if they can apply a corridor grant toward large pots. O'Rourke said he thought they could as long as they are large, permanent pots and contain perennials that come back every year. O'Rourke stated that the colors displayed had to be decorative in nature and compliment the landscape. Vice Chair Schuetz suggested that the pots be large enough so the plants can survive through the winter. O'Rourke added that it would be nice to create a visual buffer with large pots since there is no division between the parking lot and the sidewalk. Chair English suggested contacting Doty Concrete in Sycamore to obtain large concrete pots at little cost. Potts was familiar with this company as well and stated that the pots would be heavy enough to eliminate anyone walking away with them. Vice Chair Schuetz asked if they could also implement metal benches. O'Rourke stated that he thought they could and it would be considered as part of the hardscape and he recommends they be bolted to the ground.

O'Rourke said he would consider this sight to be a high impact sight – very visual. He explained that the way the grant program works, is it is for any space between the building and the main road - so concentrating on the high impact space - along Route 64 - would work well. O'Rourke stated that it works well to focus on the corner area as part of their landscape for the sign, as they would be required to do so and it will be included in their grant program.

Chair English said O'Rourke will send a list of the recommended species to the Patel's. The next step would be to talk to your contractor, prepare a plan with costs, and bring it in for us to review, said Chair English. If it meets our requirements, it could be planned for a spring planting. O'Rourke stated that the next Corridor Improvement Commission Meeting will be Wednesday, December 2, so if she has the plan ready she can bring it in then. At this time, there is approximately \$5,000 left in this year's fund.

5. Additional Business

Chair English asked O'Rourke about the International Council of Shopping Centers tradeshow that he attended in October at Navy Pier. O'Rourke said this show is attended by commercial brokers and representatives of local and national retail establishments. The purpose

of attending a show like this is the networking and to educate brokers, who are less familiar with St. Charles, about what we have to offer in terms of development and business expansion.

O'Rourke said the McDowell's will be completing their landscape project in early spring. Tom Anderson's projects can be rolled forward if he does not complete them by April 30, 2016. Potts added that the Warwick landscape project is also not completed and may need to be rolled forward as well. Chair English stated that the oil change place has only replaced their sign.

6. Announcement and Upcoming Meetings

Next CIC Meeting – December 2, 2015 in Council Chambers

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 and Pietryla