

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission
Held on July 23, 2014
At Village Hall in Council Chambers**

Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Attendees: Chairperson Douglas Chien, Commissioner James Rolfes

Absent: Commissioner Michele Wheeler

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner; Rob Sproule, Forestry Superintendent; Sally Wallace, CIC Liaison

Discussion regarding forestry issues:

Mr. Sproule discussed the Village's tree inventory and gave an update on the department: the department had received 499 work orders from residents in one month for everything from questions to tree inspections. Tree planting has been completed for the season. There will be 130 trees removed in the fall, starting in November. The department needs to remove 750 stumps; they are about half-way done with this. In ground beds are being maintained. A request for proposals will go out in August for a tree inventory program for the Village. It will be GIS-based data of approximately 18,000 trees with approval scheduled for September. The pruning schedule for 2015 for January-March will happen below the Eisenhower expressway and Madison to the Eisenhower, East of East Avenue.

Commissioners suggested more public education was necessary on tree maintenance. Commissioners will come to next meeting prepared with ideas to further education. Commissioners are planning another tree tagging event for late summer/early fall at either a business district or a residential neighborhood.

Other Business:

None.

Community Design Commission Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m. and roll was called.

Attendees: Chairperson Douglas Chien; Commissioners Julie Carpenter, Teresa Heit-Murray, Christina Loran, Lloyd Natof, James Rolfes, Greg Sorg, Aaron Stigger

Absent: Commissioners Steven Avalos, Richard Katz, John Schiess, Michele Wheeler

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner; Michael Bruce, Zoning Administrator; Sally Wallace, CIC Liaison

Public Attendees: None.

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None.

Minutes:

Commissioner Rolfes moved to approve the minutes from June 25, 2014. Commissioner Loran seconded. The minutes were approved upon submission.

Public Hearing(s); Sitting as the Design Review Commission:

Cal. No. 03-14-DRC: 7007 North Avenue, Custom Care Pharmacy

The applicant, is requesting that a variation be granted from Section 7.7.15 (D) (1) (a) of the Sign Code, which Section requires that the maximum square footage for a wall sign shall be established by the linear frontage of the zoning lot, to allow the installation of an approximately 44 square foot “Custom Care Pharmacy” wall sign, where the linear frontage of the lot is 25 feet along North Avenue.

Mr. Bruce went over the application. Ms. Vashali Patel, the applicant, said the reason they choose the design and size of the signage was after reviewing other businesses in the area. She said the sign would complement other businesses and North Avenue was a busy street and they wanted to attract cars driving by. She said there were two trees on either side of the storefront. She said the storefront was 1800 square feet. Mr. Nikesh Aming, store manager, said the sign overlay district was geared toward autos and their sign would blend into the signs on the street.

Chair Chen asked Mr. Bruce to review the staff report. Mr. Bruce went over the report and said the team had no issues with the proposed request as the existing building had a large façade and the sign would blend in well with the building.

Commissioner Rolfes said he went online to look at the different businesses on the block and thought this sign would be bigger than those on the rest of the block. He asked Mr. Bruce if staff considered the rest of the block. Mr. Bruce said staff only looked at the application at this location. Ms. Patel said her understanding of the businesses near her building was that they do not rely on walk-in traffic, she said they were looking for signage for customers to find the business as they were dependent on walk-in traffic.

Commissioners reviewed the criteria required for a variance and discussed the size of the façade. Commissioner Natof asked commissioners if the brightness of the red, LED lighting was a factor. Commissioner Stigger said for the location, the color wasn't much of an issue as North Avenue had so much going on it.

Commissioner Stigger moved to approve the variance as submitted. Commissioner Heit-Murray seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Stigger –yes
Heit-Murray – yes
Sorg – yes
Loranz – yes
Natof – yes
Carpenter –yes
Rolfes – yes
Chien – yes
The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Commissioners went over progress on the Cavalcade of Pride awards. Mr. Failor urged commissioners to finish up the choices and get pictures in as soon as possible. Mr. Failor polled commissioners on choices so far: Zone 2- Commissioner Sorg chose 700 Columbian Avenue. Zone 3- Commissioner Natof chose 521 N. Lombard and 216 LeMoyne Pkwy for garden. Zone 4- Chair Chien chose 305 Forest Ave. Zone 6- Commissioner Carpenter chose 212 N. Harvey and Ridgeland Station for Multi-Family. Zone 7- Commissioner Loranz chose 1023 Wenonah. Zone 2- Commissioners chose Serrelli's Finer Foods as a good neighbor in Chicago.

Commissioner Carpenter suggested Cheney Mansion for a special award and Ridgeland Commons for signage. Commissioner Loranz suggested the Walgreens at Oak Park and Madison for commercial and the Grove Avenue Apartments for best transformed. Commissioner Carpenter suggested Oak-Leyden for signage.

Mr. Failor said he would get a list together for commissioners to review, check for prior award winners and email it out and that the process would be wrapped up at the next meeting.

Staff Report:

Mr. Failor said the Comprehensive Plan public hearing through the Plan Commission was scheduled for July 31, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. and all were invited to attend. He said the draft copy of the plan was available online or at the library. He said on September 4, 2014 the Plan Commission would be hosting a workshop on holding public hearings. He urged commissioners who were new to public hearings to attend. He said a conversation with the Village Board was tentatively scheduled for September 8, 2014 to talk about the streetscape along Lake Street. Also, he said they were anticipating budget money next year to review the wayfinding signage in the village.

Adjournment

Commissioner Loranz moved to adjourn. Commissioner Stigger seconded. The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

Angela Schell,

Recording Secretary