

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting
Held on March 25, 2015
At Village Hall in Room 201**

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

Attendees: Chair Douglas Chien; Commissioner Michele Wheeler

Absent: Commissioner James Rolfes

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner; Rob Sproule, Village Forester

Discussion regarding forestry issues:

Mr. Sproule gave an update on the forestry department. Tree pruning is going on south of the Eisenhower and east of East now through the middle of April. Stump removal will be starting in early April through May/June. There will be approximately 325 trees planted in the spring. The Village and Park District are moving forward on Arboretum status for the public urban forest. The application was submitted to the Morton Arboretum on March 13, 2015. The Village has agreed to a joint Arbor Day celebration with the Park District of Oak Park. The celebration will be on April 24th (Arbor Day) in Scoville Park.

There will be a Green Tuesday Discussion at the Oak Park Library on April 21st at 7:00pm. Beth Corrigan from the Morton Arboretum will speak about Urban Forestry Issues, Species Diversity, and Planting. The Forestry Department has invited Phil Graf from Graf Tree Service to talk about the Village-wide inventory completed in 2014.

Other Business: None.

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

Attendees: Chair Douglas Chien; Commissioners Julie Carpenter, Susan Ebner, Teresa Heit-Murray (arrived at 7:17 p.m.), Adam Kallish, Richard Katz, Aaron Stigger and Michele Wheeler

Absent: Commissioners Christina Loranz, Lloyd Natof, James Rolfes, John Schiess and Greg Sorg

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner; Mike Bruce, Zoning Administrator

Public Attendees: Ms. Kathryn Jonas, Historic Oak Propagation Project

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None

Forestry Superintendent Report: Chair Chien reviewed the report from the Forestry department. He invited the commission to the Green Tuesday discussion on April 21, 2015.

Minutes: Commissioner Carpenter moved to approve the minutes from January 28, 2015 as submitted. Commissioner Katz seconded. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Hearing(s); Sitting as the Design Review Commission: None.

Other Business:

Commissioner Wheeler asked for volunteers to help tag trees in Scoville Park on Saturday, April 18 and then remove the tags the following week. Any commissioners interested should email Chair Chien.

Staff Report: Mr. Failor said the Lake Street Streetscape Committee report will likely go to the Village Board sometime in May. Chair Chien said the Committee provided recommendations on the general palate and look for the Lake Street redesign in relation to Marion Street. He said the committee agreed on having brick streets; on having bluestone sidewalks in the business district and concrete elsewhere; on having concrete curbs with potential granite aggregate; and on toning down the lighting. Chair Chien said these recommendations would go to the Village Board, who would make the final decisions.

Historic Oak Propagation Project Presentation

Ms. Kathryn Jonas, from the Historic Oak Propagation Project, gave a presentation on the project. She said in the fall of 2008 the group collected acorns from trees in Oak Park that were hundreds of years old. They tested them for viability and took them to the Morton Arboretum for planting. They educated people on planting the seedlings with instructions and also had a planting kick-off in Oak Park. Around 100 seedlings were also given to the Village and Park District for plantings.

Sign Ordinance Discussion

Mr. Failor said staff provided a memo summarizing the possible changes to the sign ordinance from the discussion at the last CDC meeting. Mr. Bruce gave an outline of those changes. He suggested the goal would be to keep a list of any possible changes, especially to any archaic or vague language, and then at the end of the discussion put forth any changes to the Village Board. Commissioner Ebner said she believed there was agreement at the end of the last discussion not to change some of the subjective language as it was purposefully vague. Mr. Bruce agreed, but said there was some language that could be cleaned up. Commissioner Katz said he agreed that further discussion was necessary about revisions and suggested the reorganization put forth by Commissioner Kallish at the last meeting. Mr. Failor said the reformatting would be considered with clarifications put forth by the commission throughout the year, which would then go forward to the Village Board. Commissioner Kallish suggested having two or three people outside of staff and commissioners look over revisions to see if the changes make sense. Chair Chien agreed. Mr. Failor said staff will reformat and bring to a future meeting for review. Commissioner Heit-Murray suggested starting with the table of contents. Staff agreed.

Sub-Committee Report:

Cavalcade of Pride Awards

Commissioner Katz said the 2015 Stewardship awards ceremony will be on November 19, 2015 at the 19th Century Club. Chair Chien said assignments will be in June for nominations. Commissioner Carpenter suggested making three bullet points on each home nominated for the presentation. Commissioner Heit-Murray suggested playing the presentation for the new commissioners. Chair Chien agreed for the next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 8:32 p.m.

Angela Schell,

Recording Secretary