

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission
Held on August 28, 2013
At Village Hall in Room 101**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Attendees: Chairperson Tom Phillion, Commissioners Douglas Chien, Christina Loran, Lloyd Natof, Teresa Heit-Murray (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Aaron Stigger, Michele Wheeler, Bernie Woytek

Absent: Commissioners David Brumirski, John Schiess, Greg Sorg

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner

Public Attendees: Sally Wallace, CIC Representative

Non-Agenda Public Comment:

None.

Minutes: Commissioner Wheeler motioned to approve the minutes from July 24, 2013. Commissioner Chien seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Agenda Items Sitting as the Design Review Commission:

Cal. No. 03-13-DRC: The Park District of Oak Park, applicant, is requesting that variances be granted from the Sign Code of the Village of Oak Park to allow The Park District to install a new pole sign replacing the existing pole sign at the southwest corner of Lake Street and Ridgeland Avenue in its current location (415 Lake Street - Ridgeland Common). **Resolution Approval**

Commissioners reviewed the resolution. Commissioner Chien motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Stigger seconded. The resolution was approved upon submission.

Cal. No. 05-13-DRC: The West Cook YMCA (255 South Marion Street) is requesting that variations be granted from Section 7-7-14 (A) (Table 2), which provides that pole signs are no longer permitted in the Neighborhood Commercial Sign Overlay District after the amortization period of March 23, 2014, in order to maintain their existing pole sign after the above amortization period has passed at the premises. **Resolution Approval**

Mr. Failor explained that a few instances in the resolution the existing sign was described as a “ground” sign and should be changed to “pole” sign. Commissioner Chien motioned to approve the resolution with those changes. Commissioner Natof seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Failor said the Comprehensive Plan consultants were looking into transit-oriented development areas and looking at properties that may allow for additional mixed-income housing. The consultants and staff were scheduled to present to the Village Board on September 3, 2013.

Sub-Committee Reports:

None.

Other Business:

Cavalcade of Pride Awards

Mr. Failor reminded commissioners that the second review of properties was due. Mr. Failor explained that Commissioner Brumirski was leaving the CDC to be on the Zoning Board of Appeals and so his picks in zone 4 would need to be covered by someone else.

A short discussion ensued about the garden category and whether one should be picked for the entire village or one per zone. Mr. Failor explained that in previous years there have been multiple garden awards but not necessarily one per each zone.

Commissioner Heit-Murray said the gardens in zone 3 were quite impressive, especially near the area of LeMoyne Parkway. She said she nominated the 130-151 block for a block award in part for the front yard landscaping and parkway landscaping.

Chair Philion said he would do the first round nominations for zones 4 and 6. Commissioner Wheeler would do the second round picks for 4 and Commissioner Sorg would do 6. Mr. Failor asked commissioners to get the final picks to him by the next week at the latest.

Commissioners discussed their choices for block awards and a consensus was made to nominate the LeMoyne Parkway block this year.

Commissioners discussed keeping the garden nominations to one or two for the year. Commissioner Heit-Murray indicated that Gina's Italian Ice would be nominated for a good neighbor category and she'd like feedback from other commissioners on the good neighbor as well as the sign categories. There was a consensus that Gina's should be chosen for this year. Moving to signs, Commissioner Heit-Murray said Saint Edmund Parish had a very good example of a ground sign. She said Eastgate Café was a nice painted wooden sign and the Oak Park & River Forest Day Nursery as well. Commissioners also indicated the Carleton Hotel was a good nomination. Mr. Failor asked commissioners to review the four choices and then email him their top two picks.

Chair Philion suggested the church on the corner of Marion and Ontario for the special category. Commissioner Wheeler agreed, saying it was a small church but always maintained.

Commissioner Heit-Murray said the award ceremony was scheduled for November 21, 2013 at the 19th Century Club. She also suggested commissioners submit nominations for the Best Transformed Property category via email and then the rest of the commission could review for a final decision.

Adjournment

Commissioner Woytek motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Stigger seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Angela Schell,

Recording Secretary

