

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission
Held on April 23, 2014
At Village Hall in Room 101**

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

Attendees: Chairperson Douglas Chien, Commissioners Barbara Kwiatkowsky, James Rolfes, Michele Wheeler

Absent: Commissioner John Schiess

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner

Discussion regarding forestry issues- education:

Commissioners discussed and coordinated the tree tagging project on the streets near the Village Public Works building for the Earth Day festival on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The tags will be removed the weekend of May 3, 2014.

Implement tree walk procedure for block parties:

Chair Chien suggested bringing to the next meeting a guidance document on the procedure for establishing a tree walk during block parties. He said any commissioner comfortable with presenting tree information previously provided could do a walk. Commissioner Rolfes suggested publicizing the opportunity. Staff suggested putting something into the next available Village FYI publication. Commissioner Rolfes will write up some information for publication.

Determine Reporting Structure for Village Forestry Supervisor

Mr. Failor said the Village was close to hiring a new Forestry Supervisor. Chair Chien said the previous supervisor provided planting reports, removal reports, purchase reports and reports on various issues affecting trees- the commission should discuss what information it would like to receive from the new supervisor going forward. Commissioner Wheeler said tree issues throughout the region were previously provided, which were helpful as well. Commissioner Kwiatkowsky suggested the new supervisor could be helpful in providing education to the public. Chair Chien said they could host a public forum to introduce the new person to the community and talk about the state of trees in the Village. Commissioner Wheeler suggested waiting a few months, perhaps in the fall. Commissioners agreed.

Other Business:

Commissioner Kwiatkowsky asked if vegetation other than trees and grass was allowed in parkways. Mr. Failor said homeowners would need special permission to plant other vegetation or put in any hardscape.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Rolfes motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Wheeler seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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

Attendees: Chairperson Douglas Chien; Commissioners Steven Avalos, Julie Carpenter (arrived at 7:21 p.m.), Teresa Heit-Murray (arrived at 7:24 p.m.), Barbara Kwiatkowsky, Christina Loran (arrived at 7:20 p.m.), James Rolfes, John Schiess, Greg Sorg (arrived at 7:24 p.m.), Aaron Stigger, Michele Wheeler

Absent: Commissioners Lloyd Natof

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

Public Attendees: None.

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None.

Minutes:

Commissioner Wheeler motioned to approve the minutes from March 26, 2014. Commissioner Rolfes seconded. The minutes were approved upon submission.

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

Resolution approval – 410 Lake Street – Evelyn Gross Attorney

Commissioner Kwiatkowski motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Stigger seconded. The resolution was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Cal. No. 02-14-DRC: 1038 Lake Street, Lou Malnati Organization, Inc.

Patrick Keuth, on behalf of Lou Malnati Organization, Inc., applicant, is requesting that a variation be granted from Section 7.7.15 (D) (1) (a) of the Sign Code of the Village of Oak Park, 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 65 square foot “Lou Malnati’s” wall sign, where the linear frontage of the lot is approximately 39 feet along Lake Street at the premises.

Mr. Patrick Keuth gave an overview of the application.

Mr. Michael Bruce gave an overview of the staff report, saying the project review team felt an initial request for a larger sign was too big for the space, but the 63.5 square foot wall sign application was a good compromise and the team was in support of the application.

Commissioner Wheeler asked if all locations had very large signs, if it was a corporate design or was each location unique in terms of sign size. Mr. Keuth said each location’s sign was proportional to building size.

Commissioner Rolfes asked why staff was in support of the variance. Mr. Failor said there was a tree that sits in front of the sign and from a design perspective, because there was no sign frieze like is typical for an older building, the current sign looked too small. Commissioner Kwiatkowski agreed, but wondered if the 63 foot sign would be big enough. Commissioner Carpenter said she’d like to see sign applications presented with elevations showing neighboring signs as well as proposed signs to help with perspective.

Commissioner Loranz suggested sign placement could be a solution rather than increasing the current sign size.

Commissioner Schiess said he knew the applicant and has done work on an adjacent property, which the applicant also owns. He said he did not have a contractual agreement with them so he felt he could be unbiased in the hearing. He said perspective on Lake Street was important as people wouldn’t be approaching the sign straight on but from the side, so the larger sign seemed appropriate. He also suggested that commissioners walk an area under review. Commissioner Wheeler agreed and suggesting driving by the area.

Commissioner Rolfes asked about the size of signs near the applicant. A short discussion ensued about the signage along Lake Street. Commissioner Stigger said a concern was having large, flashy signs that wouldn’t fit into the character of Oak Park, but if a sign was larger but within the same character of an area then a variance was appropriate. Commissioner Heit-Murray said she approved of the design of the sign and the quality of the design.

Commissioner Sorg motioned to approve the application as submitted. Commissioner Stigger seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

Sorg - yes

Stigger –yes

Loranz –yes

Schiess - yes

Wheeler - yes

Heit-Murray – yes

Kwiatkowsky - yes

Carpenter – yes

Avalos – yes

Rolfes – yes

Chien – yes

The motion passed 11-0.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Commissioner Rolfes updated the commission on the tree tagging project, block party walks and potential reports from the future new Forestry Supervisor.

Staff Report:

Mr. Failor updated on the Comprehensive Plan- at the end of May there will be a draft plan for review followed by a public meeting, likely in July, coordinated through the Plan Commission. He said the Village was applying for a TIGER grant for improvements to the Harlem Avenue viaduct in cooperation with the villages of River Forest and Forest Park.

Other Business:

None.

Adjournment

Commissioner Schiess motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Loranz seconded.

The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Angela Schell,

Recording Secretary