

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission
Held on May 28, 2014
At Village Hall in Council Chambers**

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

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

Absent: None

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner

Discussion regarding forestry issues:

The sub-committee discussed the feedback received from tagging trees for the Earth Day celebration. Neighbors liked the information and especially liked the added value for property included on the tagging. Commissioners discussed other community events that could include tree tagging. Commissioners suggested adding "Courtesy of the Volunteers of the Community Design Commission" to tagging information to raise awareness of forestry issues and the commission.

Other Business:

None.

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, Teresa Heit-Murray, Richard Katz, Christina Loranz, Lloyd Natof, James Rolfes, John Schiess, Greg Sorg (arrived at 7:22 p.m.), Aaron Stigger, Michele Wheeler

Absent: None

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner;

Public Attendees: None.

Chair Chien welcomed Commissioner Richard Katz, the newest commissioner to the CDC.

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None.

Minutes:

Commissioner Wheeler motioned to approve the minutes from April 23, 2014. Commissioner Stigger seconded. The minutes were approved upon submission.

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

Resolution approval – 1038 Lake Street, Lou Malnati Organization, Inc.

Commissioner Avalos noted that there was a discrepancy between the resolution and the minutes regarding the size of the sign: 65 versus 63.5. Mr. Failor said he would correct either document to reflect the actual sign size. Commissioner Schiess motioned to approve the resolution with any modification of the square footage based on the applicants' written request. Commissioner Avalos seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Chair Chien said the Forestry Sub-Committee put up tree tags for the Earth Day celebration and received some feedback from neighbors that they were very impressed by the tagging and the information on the tags. Chair Chien said the sub-committee discussed doing this for other major events in the Village but also including information that it was done by the Forestry Sub-Committee as a way to boost the importance of trees in the community and also raise the awareness of the committee and the CDC.

Staff Report:

Mr. Failor updated on the new the Forestry Superintendent, Rob Sproule, and said he would be invited to the next CDC meeting. He said the Comprehensive Plan’s final draft document would be going for review and it would then be presented in a public hearing before the Plan Commission sometime in late July and then back to the Village Board in August or September.

Mr. Failor said there have been beginning discussions on the Public Works Capital Improvements budget for the next five years and one of the items discussed was improvements to South Boulevard between Harlem and Marion. He said when they get the final design it would come before the CDC for any comments. It would be using the same palette as Marion Street with brick streets and bluestone sidewalks.

Commissioner Carpenter asked about the Village reviewing wayfinding signage. Mr. Failor said that was in the budget for this year, but they haven’t moved forward as of yet. The CDC would have some hand in it once it moves forward.

Other Business:

Cavalcade of Pride awards preparation: Chair Chien said they would need to assign zones and also look at the criteria. Commissioners discussed possibly adding alleys into the special category. Commissioner Schiess said he finds properties that show pride and curb appeal. For landscaping, he looks at all the seasons as well. Commissioner Natof said the biggest difficulty was in north-side properties as they all look good and he finds it becomes more arbitrary. He suggested looking at the smaller details like gutters and paint. Commissioner Schiess said he likes to look at homes showing new work as it encourages reinvestment into a home.

Mr. Failor went over the printed criteria. Chair Chien said he also looks at continuity, if a home looks good consistently. Commissioner Wheeler said she also looks at homes that have reinvested with new work or landscaping. Commissioner Schiess had to leave at 7:45 p.m. and was assigned Zone 1 for first picks.

Commissioner Heit-Murray said she looks at homes that have a design balance and something unique; or ones that were an excellent example of a typical Oak Park home. Commissioner Natof asked if they should evaluate an entire building or a single business for the commercial category. Commissioner Loranz suggested it could be either and she suggested taking a picture of the commercial property for the entire commissions’ consideration. Mr. Failor said in the past it has been designated to the commercial portion of a building rather than the building as a whole. A short discussion ensued about two-flats and multi-family homes. Chair Chien suggested if there were questions about a property for commissioners to nominate it and then bring it to the group as a whole to discuss the category and any questions.

Zone assignments were given to the following for first round:

- Zone 1- Schiess
- Zone 2- Wheeler
- Zone 3- Heit-Murray
- Zone 4- Rolfes
- Zone 5- Carpenter
- Zone 6- Natof
- Zone 7- Katz & Avalos
- Zone 8- Chien
- Zone 9- Stigger

For round two,
Zone 1- Rolfes
Zone 2- Sorg
Zone 3-Natof
Zone 4-Chien
Zone 5-Wheeler
Zone 6- Carpenter
Zone 7- Loranz
Zone 8- Stigger
Zone 9- Katz

Chair Chien asked commissioners to have the first rounds done by the next meeting and asked commissioners to take multiple pictures. Some discussion ensued about gardens and taking pictures later in the summer to showcase blooming flowers. Commissioner Heit-Murray told commissioners to take a picture of unique features of a home or garden to be featured in the PowerPoint presentation. Commissioner Heit-Murray reminded commissioners to look for signs for awards as well. Mr. Failor said past Cavalcade winners from the last five years would not be eligible for awards- he would email a current list to commissioners.

Adjournment

Commissioner Stigger motioned to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:03 p.m.

Angela Schell,

Recording Secretary