

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission/ Forestry Sub-Committee
Held on October 28, 2015
At Village Hall in Room 101**

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

Attendees: Chair Douglas Chien; Commissioners James Rolfes and Michele Wheeler

Absent: None

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner; Rob Sproule, Forestry Superintendent

Discussion regarding forestry issues:

Mr. Sproule updated commissioners on the Forestry Division. He said staff attended the Illinois Arborists convention and some received an extra day of training on electrical awareness in preparation for emergency situations. Tree removals are ongoing but have slowed down; there have been about twice as many trees removed as last year as it was a bad year, especially for elms. He anticipates treating some white ash next year, but they will investigate the price to do so. They were also investigating treating some elms. Stumping has been progressing as well and they anticipate getting it done before the weather turns. Tree planting was scheduled to start November 5 with approximately 220 trees to be planted. He said after the trees are planted, notice cards will be sent to residents explaining the type of tree planted and how the tree will be maintained for the first year. They will be leaving the water bags on the trees in an effort to encourage residents to continue to water the tree after the first year.

He reviewed the changes to the forestry website and door hangers. He said they were hoping to develop an urban forestry management program for the village and asked for help from the subcommittee to draft a document over the next year. Mr. Failor said it could be added to the work plan for 2016. Mr. Sproule said capital funding has been set aside for landscaping improvements in the 2016 budget. He asked for design help for some of the improvements from the subcommittee as well, to be finalized at future meetings. Chair Chien agreed.

Chair Chien asked about last year's fall tree planting and if a cause was found for many of the trees that died. Mr. Sproule said a cause was not determined, but they will not be working with that nursery again other than any existing preorders. Commissioner Rolfes asked about tree diversity in the fall planting. Mr. Sproule said it was mainly what was available in the market at the nurseries, but he was encouraging the nurseries to add some different species.

Commissioner Rolfes said he has researched what other communities are writing about in terms of forestry outreach issues. He suggested writing articles about the importance on tree diversity; summer stress; and the urban forest and what it means to a community. Chair Chien agreed and said they should put together an outline for the local paper.

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, Adam Kallish, Richard Katz (arrived at 7:30p), James Rolfes, Nick Sinadinos, Aaron Stigger and Michele Wheeler

Absent: Commissioner Lloyd Natof

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner; Peter Barber, Village Trustee

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None.

Forestry Superintendent Report Overview:

Chair Chien reviewed the report with the full commission.

Minutes:

Commissioner Ebner moved to approve the minutes from September 30, 2015. Commissioner Kallish seconded. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Public Hearing(s);

Cal. No. 02-15-DRC: 812 Madison Street, Sugar Beet Co-Op – Resolution

Commissioner Sinadinos moved to approve the resolution as submitted. Commissioner Stigger seconded. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

Other Business:

Cavalcade of Pride Awards Discussion

Chair Chien and Commissioner Stigger will finalize the winner for Zone 9 this weekend.

Commissioner Heit-Murray encouraged commissioners to get pictures of detail shots for the winners. Chair Chien coordinated with commissioners in each zone. Commissioner Katz gave an update on the ceremony details.

Design Guidelines Update

Mr. Failor said staff would be adding graphics to the document. Then a public hearing will be held, likely in January. The Oak Park Architectural League has reviewed it and some changes were integrated into the document.

Other Business

Mr. Failor said on November 2, 2015 the Village Board will be having a presentation on the Lake Street streetscape. The board is expected to give direction to help guide the improvements at the Lake and Forest development. A short discussion ensued about the lighting along Lake Street and light pollution. Mr. Failor said the Oak Park Station development has just been approved and that will have similar improvements along Lake Street.

The Board has authorized going forward with the Madison Street road diet. It's anticipated that Harrison Street will be getting new lighting after board authorization next week.

Mr. Failor said on November 10, 2015 there will be a presentation at Brooks Middle School in the auditorium on the zoning code revision process. On November 12, 2015, the village's consultant on this project will be presenting to the Plan Commission recommendations on regulatory changes in the zoning code for Madison Street. Feedback and revisions will then be included at a public hearing before the Plan Commission on December 10, 2015 with more opportunities for public involvement after the first of the year. Mr. Failor urged commissioners to check out oakparkzoning.com for more information.

On November 5, 2015 the public hearing for the planned development application for Highland Place will begin before the Plan Commission. On December 3, 2015 another planned development application public hearing was expected to begin for South and Harlem Avenues. A short discussion ensued about the history of the Lake and Forest development.

Commissioner Richard Katz asked the commission if they should weigh in publicly on the proposed noise walls along I-290. Chair Chien said it was beyond the scope of what the commission could do as a body, but encouraged individuals to take a position if they were inclined. Mr. Failor said the Village Manager's office has put together a small group to look at the design aspects of the I-290 changes and a report should be coming back next week on that. Commissioner Katz urged commissioners to look closely at the noise wall issue as the walls will be imposing and divisive. He said the aesthetic and visual effect will be terrible and destructive. Trustee Barber clarified that IDOT was proposing the walls through a voting process; it was not Oak Park's process. Commissioners discussed the voting process. Trustee Barber noted if the vote did go through and noise walls were approved, then it would be appropriate for the Community Design Commission to weigh in on materials and designs.

Adjournment: Commissioner Stigger moved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:52 p.m.

Angela Schell,
Recording Secretary