

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission/ Forestry Sub-Committee
Held on April 27, 2016
At Village Hall in Room 101**

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

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

Absent: None

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

Forestry Committee Advice

None

Discussion regarding forestry issues/Forestry Supervisor Report

Mr. Sproule updated commissioners on the Forestry Division. In-house crews have been doing routine seasonal work. Cycle pruning has been completed for the year. Crews will review homes for symptoms of Dutch Elm Disease. Any remaining stump holes will be filled. Spring planting has begun; crews are focusing on the North Kenilworth median with approximately 75 trees being replaced there. Chair Chien asked about resident input in the process. Mr. Sproule said there was a community meeting and the village was working with residents and a landscape architect to complete a vision for the space; as well as discussions on funding the maintenance and other improvements. Mr. Sproule provided commissioners with the spring plant list and said there's been a push to diversify the trees this year.

Mr. Sproule said new this year they will be mulching all the village planting beds and medians. They plan to do planting improvements at Lake and Austin, and at the Madison and Austin business districts. The village will be partnering with the Park District for Arbor Day celebrations.

Mr. Sproule reviewed the procedure on removing female ginkgo trees. Any resident requesting removal will be informed that the village does not regularly remove healthy, mature trees due to fruiting issues. Should a resident still push for removal, the resident will need to collect the signatures of the majority of residents within a half block radius of the tree that agree with the removal. The form would be returned to the Forester to review and confirm; the Forester, with the advice of the Forestry Sub-Committee, shall grant or deny the request. If the tree is approved for removal, a replacement tree will be planted in place with a species selected by Forestry staff. Commissioner Rolfes suggested alerting petitioners to reasons why a tree may be kept like its size or historical significance. Commissioners discussed whether petitioners should pay for a portion of the replacement cost. Staff said they will consult with the Village Attorney regarding this.

Mr. Sproule asked commissioners about multifamily dwellings or businesses that fall within the radius and how to handle the signatures. Commissioners will consider this for the next meeting. Commissioner Rolfes asked if they would be treating any ash trees. Mr. Sproule said they were looking into treating a small population of smaller-sized trees.

Other Business

None

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

Attendees: Chair Douglas Chien; Commissioners Juan Betancur, Susan Ebner, Teresa Heit-Murray, Adam Kallish, James Rolfes, Nick Sinadinos, C. Scott Smith, and Michele Wheeler

Absent: Commissioners Julie Carpenter, Richard Katz, Lloyd Natof, and Aaron Stigger

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

Non-Agenda Public Comment: None.

Forestry Superintendent Report Overview:

Chair Chien reviewed the report with the full commission.

Chair Chien noted this would be Commissioner Rolfes last meeting and thanked him for his time on the commission. Chair Chien welcomed Commissioners Betancur and Smith to the commission.

Minutes:

Commissioner Sinadinos moved to approve the minutes from November 18, 2015. Commissioner Wheeler seconded. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Public Hearing(s);

None.

Other Business:

Sign Code Update and Amendment Discussion

Mr. Bruce updated commissioners on the sign code changes that were previously discussed in 2015 by commissioners. He also noted staff was proposing three amendments to the code. The first was adding a procedure on how to amend the sign code. Commissioners reviewed the proposed procedure. Chair Chien suggested encouraging applicants to talk with Commission before submitting a formal application.

Mr. Bruce moved to an amendment in the General Construction and Design Standards section regarding illumination: the village has been seeing a proliferation of LED strips used to outline windows and would like to alter the sign code to include regulation of this type of light. Mr. Bruce noted it may not be considered signage and was looking for the commissions' input. Commissioner Betancur suggested it was architectural lighting. Commissioners also noted these were used as holiday lights. Commissioner Sinadinos agreed that it seemed more like architectural lighting and suggested putting it in the zoning code. Chair Chien suggested approaching the regulation through the amount of foot candle output.

Mr. Bruce moved to the third amendment; clarification of the enforcement of the sign code. Commissioners suggested changing the notice deadline to ten business days.

Reports

Staff Report

Mr. Failor directed commissioners to oakparkzoning.com regarding the zoning code rewrite. He said the first draft review process was underway with the Plan Commission and once that was complete it would be presented to the business community and public, likely in June.

Mr. Failor said the Village was in the process of choosing a firm to help analyze and possibly create new wayfinding signage. He said the Community Design Commission would be the steering committee for this project. Chair Chien asked what spurred the village to start this project. Mr. Failor said the system is quite old and there are maintenance issues like rust and paint peeling. Mr. Failor explained this would be a multi-year project and this would be the first steps.

Mr. Failor said the Board was close to approving the design along Lake Street and a planned development application was expected this summer for the former Tasty Dog space. He said the Board has authorized a consulting firm to study the possible rerouting and renovation of Madison Street. He said work was underway on South Boulevard near Harlem on infrastructure improvements as well as streetscape improvements.

Commissioner Heit-Murray asked about the I-290 noise walls. Mr. Failor said there could be a third vote that would include showing some of the design possibilities of the noise walls. Chair Chien noted that the village would bear the cost of any noise walls that incorporate anything more than the standard design.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Angela Schell,
Recording Secretary