

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission/ Forestry Sub-Committee Meeting
Held on Jan. 25, 2017 at 6:45p.m./ 7:15 p.m.
At Village Hall in Room 101**

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

Attendees: Chair Douglas Chien; Commissioners Mitchell Murdock and C. Scott Smith

Absent: None

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

Discussion regarding forestry issues/Forestry Supervisor Report

Mr. Sproule updated commissioners on the Forestry Division. He said pruning was underway for the winter prune cycle. Contractors started removals for 2017, primarily trees in poor condition and ash trees in decline from emerald ash borer. The subcommittee discussed Arbor Day festivities and how the commission can participate. Mr. Sproule will reach out to the Park District for coordination and report back to the sub-committee.

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

Attendees: Chair Douglas Chien; Commissioners Juan Betancur, Susan Ebner, Teresa Heit-Murray, Mitchell Murdock, Lloyd Natof, C. Scott Smith, Aaron Stigger and Cindy Wong

Absent: Commissioners Adam Kallish, Richard Katz and Nick Sinadinis

Also present: Craig Failor, Village Planner; Loretta Daly, Business Services Manager
Philip Barash and Sam Pease, Sasaki Associates, wayfinding consultants

Non-Agenda Public Comment:

None.

Forestry Sub-Committee Overview:

Commissioners updated the commission on the sub-committee. Commissioner Murdock said the pruning process was underway. Commissioner Smith said they discussed participating in the Arbor Day event; Chair Chien said they might be reaching out to the commission for help on this. Chair Chien said the Village Forester would coordinate with the Park District regarding the events planned and the sub-committee would keep the full commission informed on plans.

Minutes:

Chair Chien asked for corrections. Commissioner Natof moved to approve the minutes from November 30, 2016 as submitted. Commissioner Stigger seconded. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

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

None. Chair Chien said a special CDC commission meeting was scheduled for February 8, 2017 to review upcoming items as the DRC.

Other Business:

Resolution Approval

Wayfinding Signage Update

Mr. Philip Barash, from Sasaki Associates, gave an overview of the project. He presented four sign types based on the three previous schemes presented. He reviewed the feedback from the schemes. He said the signs presented kept the simplicity of the first scheme, had a dash of transparency from scheme two and updated the material, warmth and colors of scheme three.

Mr. Sam Pease reviewed the submitted design for pedestrian signage. He said there was a possibility of illumination for the kiosk. He said the colors were warm and in the prairie style but more muted. Mr. Barash said some colors would be coded by business district. Mr. Barash suggested creating unique icons for key destinations, for example, Unity Temple. Mr. Pease explained that the cutout pattern on the sign took inspiration from an oak tree. Mr. Barash passed along a sample of the perforation and reviewed the color palate. The typeface, Alright Sans, was explained. Mr. Pease said each sign would have modular panels that could be switched out.

Commissioners asked about the maintenance of the signs with the space between panels as people might use them as trash cans. Mr. Pease explained leaving the gaps open would not allow for anything to collect inside. Discussion ensued about the placement of type and size; Mr. Barash said when they moved on to the fabrication phase they would ensure the type was legible. Commissioner Betancur asked if signs would produce a whistling sound in the wind. Mr. Pease said that the gap was in total about 3 inches, so unlikely, but that was something they could prototype and test. Commissioner Betancur suggested adding the perforation through the entire back panel rather than just the top.

Mr. Barash reviewed the secondary pedestrian sign design. He said these would be in front of major landmarks as well as smaller destinations like schools. Mr. Pease reviewed the color palate and modular system, which was similar to the pedestrian kiosk. Commissioner Stigger asked about adding kilometers. Mr. Barash said as Oak Park receives a number of international visitors they suggest showing miles and kilometers.

Mr. Barash reviewed the parking signage design. Mr. Pease explained the parking signs would have a blue color on them. Commissioner Stigger said he was very pleased with the parking sign design.

Mr. Barash completed his presentation and asked for comments. Commissioner Natof urged the consultants to make the arrows and fonts as large as possible as big and clear was better than small. He suggested calling out streets and districts as much as possible. Commissioner Wong asked about lighting. Mr. Pease said the pedestrian kiosks could have lighting and there were possibilities for additional lighting at landmarks, gateway, and parking signs. Commissioner Stigger said he was concerned about the width of the larger kiosk placed in the downtown area due to congestion. Mr. Barash agreed and said it was something they would have to work through by providing exact locations where the signs would not be competing with pedestrians walking. Chair Chien asked if the mounting would be a raised concrete pad. Mr. Pease said they were considering a small pad but they were trying to keep it as seamless as possible. Chair Chien asked about business districts, especially those that share borders with other municipalities and would each district have to follow the design. Mr. Barash said their goal was to provide clear, comprehensive signage and it wouldn't preclude any district from maintaining its own identity. Mr. Failor agreed. Commissioner Heit-Murray asked about the perforation process. Mr. Pease explained there were a number of ways but punching was most cost-effective. Commissioner Heit-Murray suggested differentiating the patterns in addition to the color for each district. Commissioner Natof said that would be a very subtle and abstract difference. Commissioner Stigger asked about wear and tear for the long term if the signs were so close to the ground with shoveling, salt, etc. Mr. Pease as it was powder coated it would wear very well.

Commissioner Heit-Murray asked about the gateway signage. Mr. Barash said they were looking for feedback from commissioners before moving to gateway signs and they needed to consider how many situations needed

gateway signage. Commissioner Ebner suggested the gateway sign was almost a separate project. Mr. Barash said they will offer a concept for it, but it was true that it doesn't have to conform to the same rules of the other wayfinding signs.

Chair Chien asked commissioners for a general evaluation on the designs presented. Commissioner Natof said the weakest part of the entire design was the kiosk shape and he was concerned about collecting debris in the opening. He suggested considering it as an L shape rather than U. Mr. Barash said that was helpful and said they were working with the Village Engineer to ensure the design wouldn't collect debris. Commissioner Murdock asked about accessibility and if the materials would accommodate tactile maps or braille. Mr. Barash said they've consulted with a school for the blind in Boston and found most people with visual disabilities navigate with spoken google maps. but it would be helpful to have some of the interpretive content rendered in braille. Commissioner Heit-Murray asked about digital content. Mr. Barash said one of the modules could carry a digital display. Mr. Pease said it was based on wireless technology. Mr. Barash said one thing to keep in mind was digital displays needed a lot of upkeep and monitoring as they could be tampered with. He suggested CTA stations or parking garages as there were people around to ensure their safety. Commissioner Natof said he really liked the tall part with the texture. Chair Chien said the overall consensus was that the commission generally liked the design. Commissioners agreed.

Staff Report

Mr. Failor said the Plan Commission would be finishing up the revised zoning code on February 2, 2017 and then it would go onto the Village Board in March. He said he would keep the commission updated on streetscape projects along Lake and Madison Streets. He said a request for proposals was out to update the Harrison/SouthTown business district and he would update commissioners on that process.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Stigger moved to adjourn. Commissioner Betancur seconded. The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.

Angela Schell,
Recording Secretary