

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL
ST. CHARLES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION
March 2, 2016**

Members Present: Chair English, Vice Chair Schuetz, Kane, Pietryla and Dechene

Members Absent: Potts, Hauser

City Staff Present: Matthew O'Rourke – Economic Development Division Manager
Karla McCleary – Recording Secretary

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was convened by Chair English at 7:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Kane to approve the agenda.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Potts and Hauser

Motion Carried.

3. Approval of minutes from November 4, 2015

A motion was made by Dechene and seconded by Vice Chair Schuetz to approve the November 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes of the Corridor Improvement Commission.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Potts and Hauser

Motion Carried.

4. Corridor Grant (Discussion Only)

A. Corridor Improvement Grant – Discussion Only 307 W. Main Street (Shell Gas Station - Update)

O'Rourke stated he has been communicating with the owners of this gas station. The Patel's have asked the Commission for a list of landscapers that they could contact to complete their landscaping project this spring. Evergreen, Plandscape and Countrywide Landscape were suggested. O'Rourke said he will ask the Patel's to attend the April 2016 Corridor Improvement

Commission Meeting so they can present their landscape plan. Kane asked if IDOT would be accepting of having large pots displayed on their property. O'Rourke said as long as the pots are on their property, IDOT cannot say anything about it.

B. Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Work Plan (Discussion Only)

Chair English asked how much money is left in this year's budget. O'Rourke replied approximately \$5,000 and to be able to roll that money forward into the next fiscal year, that amount must be committed to a landscape improvement grant. At this time, the budget amount for the Corridor Improvement Commission for the next fiscal year is \$20,000. O'Rourke said last year the budget was \$30,000 because of the Sign Amortization project.

O'Rourke told the Commission that Batria Classic Cars contacted him about landscape improvements that they would like to do in front of a second building that they have. About two years ago, they were awarded a Corridor Grant and applied it toward improvements in front of another building on their property. At this time, they would like to do something similar that would include brick pavers in and around the plants, with a ramp that would be used to display the classic cars they have. Vice Chair Schuetz asked what the amount was for the first grant and O'Rourke said the total amount of the grant was about \$22,000, so half of that. Batria has said they would be OK with having a "Welcome to the City of St. Charles" sign on their property. Chair English stated that Batria did a great job the first time and would be in favor of them doing this again.

Colonial has three grants that have been approved and the work will be completed this spring – if not completely finished – the funds will be rolled forward into the next fiscal year, said O'Rourke.

Chair English said that he likes the progress that has been made on the east side. In addition, Warwick Publishing will be completing their landscape work this spring and with the new road in place, he would like to continue with improvements on this side of town. Vice Chair Schuetz suggested everyone come to the next meeting with two locations on the east side where they would like to see some landscape improvements made.

O'Rourke said he will contact Bob Karas, one of the owners of Rookies, about possibly doing some work over at Alexander's Café on Route 64. This building is the former Gabby's Restaurant location that the owners of Rookies recently purchased.

Pietryla asked if volunteer groups have been solicited to help out with some of the landscape work. Chair English suggested putting an article in The Den to solicit groups to do improvements. O'Rourke said he would put an article together for the April edition.

Vice Chair Schuetz would like to see downtown St. Charles look more like Geneva with pots and window boxes in place. O'Rourke thought the pots that Shell will have on their property may set a good example for other businesses in the downtown to have interest in doing something like that too.

Chair English recapped the high-points of the discussion:

Find two eye-sores to bring to the next meeting
Solicit volunteer groups in The Den
Baltria is a good possibility and put up welcome sign
O'Rourke to reach out to Bob Karas

5. Additional Business from Corridor Commission Members, Public or Staff

There were none.

6. Public Comments

There were none.

7. Announcements

There were none.

8. Upcoming Meeting Dates

A. April 6, 2016

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schuetz and seconded by Pietryla to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: Unanimous; Nays: None; Members Absent: Potts and Hauser