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*Village of Oak Park  
Village-wide Strategic Historic Preservation Plan  
Steering Committee Meeting #3  
February 17, 2010  
7-9PM  
Oak Park Conservatory*

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The Village of Oak Park engaged Business Districts, Inc. (BDI) in August 2009 to develop a Village-wide Strategic Historic Preservation Plan. The planning effort is being conducted in three phases, and the resulting plan will guide the Village's historic preservation work through the next decade. Plan project documentation to date is available on the Village's project webpage (located on the Historic Preservation page within the Village website). The Plan is scheduled for completion in April 2010 with a final presentation to the Village Board in May 2010.

The third meeting of the Plan Steering Committee was held on February 17, 2010. This Committee, representing multiple Oak Park constituencies and Commissions, continues to guide the project. This meeting had two agenda items—first, obtain any final comments and suggestions from the Steering Committee about the project's interim report (State of Historic Preservation in the Village of Oak Park), and second, to obtain the Steering Committee's initial reactions, comments, and suggestions to the first draft of the final Plan. This first draft was sent in advance to the Steering Committee for their review.

The following summarizes key categories of comments and observations from the meeting. It should be noted that grammatical errors, spelling corrections, and punctuation changes are not included.

- The Executive Summary should be a short, 3 or 4-paragraph document that succinctly states the Plan process and findings.
- This initial draft is too geared to the business community. More focus is needed on residential historic preservation issues.
- The zoning and overlay districts described in the interim report need to be verified and their implications should be described. There may be some opportunities for joint review among the Commissions.
- The description of the advisory role of the Historic Preservation Commission should be indicated and how that role from reactive to contributing.
- Additional national examples of how local historic preservation structures are needed to address the idea that historic preservation is anti-development and enables economic development.
- Additional suggestions to help Village staff and Commissions are needed to help communication and to address shared concerns when dealing with common issues.
- The issue of non-architectural resources should be addressed more specifically.
- In addition to greater cooperation among the historic preservation organizations, more ideas for greater cooperation among Oak Park's taxing bodies would be useful.

- The report needs to specify why the adoption of the International Existing Building Code is important to historic preservation and enabling adaptive-reuse of existing buildings.
- An additional Action Plan chart is needed to address landmark and historic district designations in the next decade. Future districts should also be noted, given that more housing stock is approaching the 100-year mark.
- More information is needed about green building efforts.
- The Action Plan grid formats need to be simplified and should include a list or identification of the specific priorities for the Historic Preservation Commission to begin implementation.

The Steering Committee members are asked to provide review comments by March 3, 2010. (Those members not in attendance will When received, BDI will incorporate the comments on March 4 and provide a second draft to Village staff for circulation to the Historic Preservation Commission. The Commission will discuss this second version of the draft Plan at their March 11, 2010 meeting.

Oak Park's citizens and stakeholders will have an ongoing opportunity to comment on Plan drafts prior to the completion of the Village-wide Strategic Historic Preservation Plan document. Current drafts will be available through the Village website and the Village's Historic Preservation Division.

Finally, the public process for this Plan will be completed in March 2010. A final Community Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at Beye School. This final Workshop will be organized to confirm and refine comments and ideas received to date about the draft Plan.