

**Minutes of the Community Design Commission  
Held on September 25, 2013  
At Village Hall in Room 101**

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Attendees:** Chairperson Douglas Chien; Commissioners Teresa Heit-Murray, Christina Lorz, Lloyd Natof, Greg Sorg, Aaron Stigger, Michele Wheeler, Bernie Woytek

**Absent:** Commissioner John Schiess

**Also present:** Craig Failor, Village Planner

**Public Attendees:**

**Non-Agenda Public Comment:**

Mr. Will Garcia wanted information about the Community Design Commission and asked about the duties of the commissioners.

**Minutes:**

Commissioner Woytek motioned to approve the minutes from August 28, 2013. Commissioner Lorz seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

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

None.

**Staff Reports:**

Mr. Failor updated the commission on the new sign code amortization deadline. He said the Village Board was looking into whether the amortization requirement would be enforced as is, with grandfathered businesses exempt from restrictions or whether the amortization requirement would be enforced at all. Discussion ensued among commissioners regarding the process. Some commissioners felt the Board should hear feedback from the CDC as it is the body which reviews signs. Commissioner Woytek said significant alterations should require upgrades and at a minimum, the commission should present their feelings on signs. Commissioner Natof said he would advocate for grandfathering in signs but with exceptions. Commissioner Wheeler said she would support when ownership changes or a new business opens up, then the signs should come into compliance. Commissioner Stigger said he felt it was important for the CDC to weigh in on the issue.

Commissioner Heit-Murray said a new business owner shouldn't have to change their sign if the business had not changed. Commissioner Natof said grandfathering the sign would be preferred but there would be a need to filter out some requirements and conditions.

Things to consider based on the CDC's experience with the code:

1. Property ownership change
2. Business Owner change – the time frame for change would be 1 year or less amortization.
3. Change or repair 50% replace value of sign

There was discussion regarding keeping a balance between the commission's interest and business interest. Commissioner Heit-Murray noted that they should consider the safety of the pedestrian and discussed safety issues regarding signs.

A consensus was made to draft a written presentation for the Board on the sign issue.

Mr. Failor also updated the commission on the Madison Street streetscape project, saying the Board was planning on discussing it at the October 28, 2013 meeting. He said the Lake Street TIGER grant was not approved. Roosevelt Road was also discussed.

**Sub-Committee Reports:**

None.

**Other Business:**

Cavalcade of Pride Awards

Mr. Failor said most of the nominations were in for the Cavalcade of Pride Awards and reminded commissioners of the zones that needed to be completed.

Work Plan Review

Mr. Failor went over the work plan draft for 2014. Some discussion ensued regarding how large the CDC was and adding some Forestry components to the work plan. Commissioner Wheeler suggested adding "Education on Tree Maintenance" as a future project. The CDC asked that the work plan include a provision for the commission to review the sign code periodically.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Stigger motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Woytek seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Angela Schell,

Recording Secretary