
STREETSCAPE & ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Date: Monday, October 2, 2023
Present: Chairperson Ald. Peter Jakab, Vice-Chair Ald. Michael Curiale, Mike Melone, Steve Mikos, Paula Masilotti, Nick Luciana
Absent: Shashwat Baxi
Also Present: Andy Koterak, Planner, Gosia Pocięcha, Senior Planner
Meeting Convened at: 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Ald. Jakab called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Approval Of the Minutes

Ald. Jakab motioned to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2023 meeting, seconded by Ald. Curiale. The minutes were unanimously approved via voice vote.

Ald. Jakab made brief introductions for the new Member of the SEEC, Nick Luciana.

B. Proposed Locations for Additional Benches

Planner Koterak provided a background for introduction of additional benches in the City of Wood Dale, a topic that has been identified on the "Future Projects List." Examples from other municipalities were presented including dragonfly benches from Naperville; artistic free-standing benches designed by local artists. Another example were art benches in Highwood, IL; most painted by professional artists while few additional ones were reserved for school aged children. Staff identified a few locations, focusing on City owned properties, as candidates for future bench locations. These include the Metra Station, Clocktower, Salt Creekway Trail, Elizabeth Drive, and Detention Basin along Addison Road. Staff also presented preliminary information on available bench products including recycled plastic planks or wood. Pricing varies between \$600-1900. Ald. Jakab noted that City has a program for school aged children to design the City Sticker and one idea would be for an artist to draw the same drawing on the bench. At the end of the presentation, Planner Koterak presented items for consideration of

SEEC, including gauging interest in the project, suitable locations, and identification of preferred product. SEEC prefers the idea of purchasing ready-made benches and having school age children or artists provide the art painting. Ald. Jakab noted that Aldermen in respective Wards may have specific locations where residents have requested benches. Discussion was held on materials and pricing, emphasizing that SEEC needs to figure out the cost of benches and how many we can afford. Mr. Luciana suggested placing benches along Irving Park Road, near the city center. Ald. Jakab, suggested placing 2 benches per Ward. For example, Central and Deerpath, and on Potter near the new park. The Library and the Park District may be other options. Irving Park Road may work for visibility, but it is not safe to sit along a major roadway. Mr. Luciana suggested to have benches sponsored by local businesses.

At the end of discussion, the following summary was presented by Senior Planner Pociеча: SEEC proposed the following locations for new benches: Clock tower, Metra Station, City Hall, and the Wood Dale Library. SEEC is interested in art components, and City should work with school kids and local artists. Artists may be local, but not necessarily. Staff will look into Elmhurst and Highland Park for examples of benches and report back during subsequent meeting.

C. Future Projects Master List

Planner Koterak presented an updated list of Future Projects list with a few updates. This is envisioned to be a living document with a column for project priority. This list was updated to reflect recent projects. Ald. Jakab mentioned the Façade Improvement Grant that was discussed during the Strategic Plan meeting and the possibility for City Council to consider expansion of the program to include other areas. Mr. Melone proposed to develop an economic development plan for vacant properties. The City Council and staff are somewhat working on that, especially the new Director Springer. Planner Koterak briefly talked about the Vision Plan, item #3 on the list. In subsequent meetings, staff will summarize the plan and ask SEEC for further direction. Mr. Melone mentioned that Addison is a good example. Discussion continued on the Vision Plan and its components. Staff will send links to the Vision Plan, GIS Map, Ward Map to all SEEC members.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Chairperson Ald. Jakab and seconded by Mr. Mikos; it carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Minutes taken by Gosia Pociecha

Approved on December 4, 2023