
STREETSCAPE & ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee Date: Monday, May 6, 2024
Present: Vice-Chair Ald. Michael Curiale, Mike Melone, Steve Mikos,
Shashwat Baxi
Absent: Chairperson Ald. Peter Jakab, Paula Masilotti, Nick Luciana
Also Present: Andy Koterias, Planner, Gosia Pociecha, Senior Planner
Meeting Convened at: 6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Ald. Curiale 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. Curiale motioned to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2024 meeting with corrections, seconded by Mr. Melone. The minutes were unanimously approved via voice vote.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

B. Façade Improvement Grant Application - 123 W Irving Park Rd (Shorty's)

The property owner of Shorty's restaurant located at 123 W Irving Park Road was in attendance. He started the meeting presentation by showing a photograph of the existing pole sign and a parkway tree that blocks much of the visibility. It was mentioned by SEEC members that pole signs are no longer permitted. It was suggested that the sign be replaced with a monument sign. The property owner mentioned that he will consider it in the future but is not able to construct a monument sign at this time.

Planner Koterias presented an overview of the application and an outline of the façade improvement policy changes that were recently approved. There was a discussion on the proposed color. The business owner explained that he proposed to use yellow to increase visibility, but he is open to red/burgundy color. Planner Koterias listed the design guidelines from the UDO which recommend using colors that complement the

existing building. The business owner clarified that the existing pole sign will be painted. Also discussed was the evergreens screen to be planted along the rear property line. The greenery will help to screen the railroad tracks and provide some noise barrier.

Trimming of the tree was suggested, however, it is not recommended since it would be done to increase visibility to a nonconforming sign. Planner Koteras covered the scoring of the application, which was 10 and matched the score that the applicant scored himself. A score of 10 makes the project eligible for 25% reimbursement of the project cost. Planner Koteras discussed the front landscaping that is being proposed by staff. These could include installation of planters in front of the building, and various examples were presented. Inclusion of the planters would allow the application to score higher, increasing the reimbursement to 37.5%.

The property owner will look into getting quotes for installation of landscaping in the front and will submit a revised scope of work. SEEC is open to holding a special call meeting to expedite review of the modified application.

OTHER BUSINESS

C. Future Projects Discussion

Planner Koteras displayed the future projects master list to discuss potential future projects. Mr. Melone mentioned street trees in the parkway. Staff will check with PD on who maintains them. Adding a medallion at Veteran's Park for Space or First Responders. Can medallion fit on the post? Mr. Melone suggested the city hire consultants to help businesses design their proposals.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ald. Curiale and seconded by Mr. Mikos; it carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes taken by Gosia Pociecha