

MEMORANDUM

To: Village President Cauley and Board of Trustees

From: Timothy J. Scott, AICP, CNU-A – Director of Econ. Develop. & Urban Design

Date: September 11, 2014

Re: Staff Report – Economic Development & Urban Design

The next meeting of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) is currently scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd.

Urban Design

Burlington Park Community Information Signs

The selected vendor, DeSign Group Signage, translated my sign design into shop drawings. After reviewing and altering them as needed, I signed off. Fabrication is under way and is expected to take approximately six to eight weeks. I have also ordered the decorative poles that support the sign cabinets. With the lead time on poles approximating that of sign fabrication and the first phase of electric work planned for the park that will see power brought to the signs, installation should come together this fall while the weather is still conducive to construction.

I am now putting together a landscape plan for the base of the signs. One design consideration will be the level to which plant material similar to that used in the wall will be extended into these new planting beds. The landscape plan will be designed with budget in mind. When the sign project was budgeted, crushed stone was intended to be used in the service pathways. However, if vintage pavers reclaimed from the Garfield Street sidewalk are used instead, additional resources will likely be necessary.

Burlington Park Masonry Wall Landscaping

All of the material specified in the landscape design has been planted. In the near future, I will review the relative condition of the plants, note any issues with health, and summarize for our vendor, King's Landscaping. Since the plant material is guaranteed, this will allow the design to be realized as intended. However, it is important that snow removal of the area be performed with care and not simply dumped atop the planting beds. Although many tolerant and native species were utilized, repeated spraying of salt and the shear weight of thrown snow will severely damage if not outright kill plants.

Burlington Park Electric System Upgrade

The first phase of improvements to the park's electric system include: directional boring for underground pipe to pull cable; installation of below-grade junction boxes; and, a 100-Amp service and distribution panel for the eastern third of the park. These items will allow power to be brought to the aforementioned community information signs that are slated for the park's northeast and northwest corners.

I have just begun to consider the next phase of improvements to the system, and I plan on meeting with the Village's Electrician in the near future. This second phase of improvements would lead to power being available at individual trees or centrally located among groupings of trees. The additional capacity that would result and the safe access it affords could lead to an expanded holiday lighting program. This project would be bid in late winter or early spring, with construction targeted for completion in the current fiscal year.

Village Lot Entries

I met with Public Services to inspect the entries of the Village Lot (main commuter parking area adjacent to downtown). These planting beds are in need of maintenance, particularly weeding and pruning of shrubs and trees. The addition of plant material (e.g., shrubs and shade trees) this fall is possible, although the work will have to be coordinated carefully given the large-scale resurfacing and electric line burial that is scheduled.

Economic Development

Advertising

The EDC annually develops an advertising campaign to underscore the importance of shopping and dining locally and to showcase the Village as an attractive destination within the west suburban region. The creative for this year's campaign should adapt well to various formats, including print, online, and for the first time, video. The EDC's development of a media plan is in process.

Tenant and Development Update

The following new restaurants have opened: Wild Ginger at 44 South Washington, Vistro at 112 South Washington, and Yia Yia's at 13 Grant Square. Baldinelli Pizza at 114 South Washington and The Fuller House at 33 East First Street are under construction. The former is reportedly about three weeks away from opening, while an opening date for the latter is not yet available. The owners are hoping to capitalize on at least part of the football season.

Policy

Parking Analysis

I am working with Police Chief Bloom on implementing the first of the recommendations generated by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), namely, modernization of the Garfield Lot. This initial effort includes: (1) installation of two pay boxes to replace individual meters; (2) re-use of existing meter posts to support placards that will identify parking space numbers; (3) an increase in the per-hour price for parking from \$0.25 to \$1.00; and, (4) an increase in duration to a maximum of six hours.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (630) 789-7005 or via e-mail at tscott@villageofhinsdale.org.

Thank you.

cc: Kathleen A. Gargano, Village Manager