

**City of South Lyon
Downtown Development Authority Special Meeting
September 8, 2009**

The meeting began at 8:30 a.m.

Present: Gary Childs, Gary Fagin, Jan Eldon, Joe Repanshek, Dave Grimes, Rhonda Bifano and City Manager David Murphy.

Absent: Barb Herzog, Susan Stowe.

Also present: Ed Brown from Brown's Root Beer and Sandwich Shop, Randy Clark and Kristen Delaney, Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of South Lyon.

Public Comment: None.

New Business: None.

Old Business:

- 1. North and South Parking Lots on Pontiac Trail – Landscape Plan:** Delaney presented the landscape plan for the south parking lot and the area around the Veteran's Memorial designed by Scott Black and Randy Metz or Grissim, Metz, Andriese Associates in Northville. The board discussed the plan and looked at ways that the plan could be integrated with the plan developed by the landscape contractor that had done the tree removal in the south lot. There was an extensive discussion about the choices had in terms of beautifying the lot.

A majority of the board was in favor of the shrubbery and trees along the fence on the west side of the property that was in both plans and wanted to keep that element. There was a general feeling that the proposed split rail fence did not fit in with the character of the downtown. Brown called a friend who was in the landscape business to get an idea of how much it would cost to purchase several large boulders to put on the south property line between the lot and Quality Insurance. Grimes offered that he had a friend who might be able to get these for free. Eldon suggested incorporating the ornamental grasses in Grissim Metz's plan in addition to the boulders. Childs agreed, stating that the Karl Forster Feather Read Grasses were very hardy and could live almost anywhere.

There was some general discussion about plant maintenance and watering. Fagin and Clark believed that the board should not put a lot of plants in the area because there was no irrigation. Brown suggested that since it was almost fall, the plants would only need to be watered at the most 4 weeks, and that most of

the plants being considered were hardy. Delaney pointed out that conduit for an irrigation system could be put in at the same time for a very small amount of money and the board could move forward with getting irrigation for the lot in the spring.

Delaney asked if there was any support for putting the shrubs in the front of the lot facing Pontiac Trail. She noted that screening the view from the road of the cars was an important element in the Grissim Metz plan. Repanshek agreed and noted that the board needed to consider how the lot would look from the road. Fagin stated that he did not think the plants would live there and that in his opinion this was doing too much. He stated that he wanted to wait and phase in the plan. Delaney pointed out that while there were more plants needed for the plan proposed by Grissim Metz, they could be purchased at wholesale prices and planted volunteers, thereby saving the over \$2,000 labor charge for the landscaper and making up the difference. There was a lengthy discussion about this. Fagin stated that he did not want to wait any longer, and that he wanted the landscaper to go ahead and have everything finished this week.

Childs proposed getting rid of the bed at the entrance to the lot and replacing it with a large hardy pine tree that could be used as a City Christmas tree during the holidays. Clark thought that this was a good idea. Childs asked if might be possible to pay for this as part of the Beautification Commission, and Murphy stated that he would look into that and follow up.

Delaney asked again about the shrubs at the eastern side of the lot along Pontiac Trail and asked if there would be support for cutting the asphalt back there so there would be more room to plant the shrubs there in the spring. Brown called a friend who stated that he would charge around \$500 to cut, tear up and haul away the asphalt on the south side of the lot. Since the eastern side of the lot was longer than the south, the board guessed that it would probably cost around \$800 to do that side. There was general support for doing this and phasing in the shrubs in the spring.

Fagin noted that the Veteran's corner would be left up to the VFW to plan. Brown noted that the board should also contact the American Legion because they would likely want to help support the project. Fagin noted that the VFW would be meeting at 7:30 p.m. that night and that they would be deciding what they wanted to do with the corner. Fagin stated that he would be attending, as did Delaney and Clark. Childs asked for a motion to clarify the next steps on the project.

Approval for 1: The Treemaster Inc. to carry out the proposed landscape plan on the west side of the lot with the (9) dwarf burning bushes and the (3) Columbar Norway Maples and 2: the acquisition or purchase of

several boulders to be placed along the south property line between the lot and Quality Insurance as well as several Karl Forster Feather Read Grasses to go in that same area.

Motion by Eldon, supported by Grimes.

To approve the purchases outlined above supplies and materials to improve and beautify the appearance of the south parking lot located at Pontiac Trail and Liberty Street:

Vote:

Motion Carried Unanimously

Board Member Comments: The board welcomed new DDA board member Dave Grimes of Quality Insurance.

Adjournment:

Motion by Repanshek, supported by Childs.

To adjourn meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Vote:

Motion Carried Unanimously

Gary Fagin, Chairperson

Kristen Delaney, Recording Secretary