



Tuesday, May 10th, 2022, 7:30 – 8:30 am
Design & Placemaking Committee Meeting
Location: Partnership Office, 110 W. Main Street

Committee Purpose Statement: The purpose of the Design & Placemaking Committee is to lead projects and initiatives that will elevate the quality of public space throughout the communities of Stephenson County. The goal of the committee's effort is to 1) create inviting public spaces that are inclusive and attractive to all ages and abilities, 2) acknowledge and incorporate our shared history in placemaking and beautification efforts, 3) galvanize business, building owner and volunteer efforts to engage more locals, increase community pride, and maintain downtown assets.

Present:

Erik Zuberbuhler
Cal Wescott
Rob Boyer
Katie Gentz
Wayne Duckmann
Andrea Schultz Winter

Absent:

Jon Palmer
Hannah McWhirter
Brooke Wagner
Steve Schlamp
Bruce Cubberley
Dennis Rinkenberger
Rhonda Becker

Meeting Summary:

Update from City of Freeport:

- Chicago Avenue Streetscape Project: Council approved a bid for the construction of Chicago Avenue. Fischer Excavating was the low bid. There will be a preconstruction meeting Monday, May 16th. More information on the construction timeline will be forthcoming.
- The city also received CDBG grant to redo ADA accessible sidewalk ramps at intersections. Construction has started and depending upon weather will likely wrap-up in the next month.
- The city has acquired equipment to remove paint from downtown fire hydrants and will repaint all hydrants during the summer months. The intent is to start painting by the middle of June.
- The city has been in communication with Honeywell about demolition of Plant 2. Honeywell has solicited bids for demolition of the facility, but no firm decision or timeline has been communicated to local partners.

WORKPLAN UPDATE:

Main Street Accreditation: Andrea submitted Main Street application (5/10). It is the intent of Illinois Main Street to notify communities of acceptance by June 10th.

Placemaking:

- Seasonal Plantings: Funds are in-hand. Partnership will coordinate with Deininger Floral on timeline for planting, but it is the intent to have flowers planted by Winefest (May 21st).
- Pocket Park update- Andrea working on getting a revised cost estimate. Talking with City about who will manage the construction, hope to have decision made by next meeting.
- Wayfinding Signage update- Andrea connect with Sally and Hannah about reviewing signs, mapping routes, and understanding what amenities are missing on the signs.
- Gateway signs – Maintenance goes as planned. Partnership Ambassadors have adopted the sign at South Street and Galena.
- Mulch beds/Tree Wells:
 - Identify 1-2 locations where tree stumps need to be ground out, share location(s) with city. They will do their best to remove the stumps at their convenience.
 - Partnership will work with property owners about distributing mulch for adjacent mulch beds.

Public Art Commission:

- Partnership staff to identify similar communities to understand how they structure their public arts commission and identify next practices.

Historic Tour: next meeting, Tuesday, May 24th, 7:30 am.

- We have our first entry on theclio.com. Working on a template to distribute to other building owners.

Clean-ups: Multiple groups from CareerTec will be cleaning up next week. Suggested targeted clean-up areas: downtown alleys, and downtown parking lots (Municipal and Main Street), and Tutty's Crossing.

- Future focus areas: landscaped medians on Locust Avenue near Lincoln and Main Street. Will need to coordinate temporary lane closure with the city so volunteers can safely clean-up beds.

Other Conversations:

- Contacting building owners to deteriorating secondary facades to see if they have plans to remodel, and/or looking for financial assistance.
- Talk with property owners who have exterior stairwells that lead into basements. Those stairwells often catch debris and trash and need to be cleaned out.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 14th, 2022, 7:30 am – at Partnership Offices for Downtown Walk-around.