

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OGDEN AVENUE COMMITTEE
5202 Washington Street, Suite 2
Downers Grove, IL
September 19, 2001
9:00 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: John LaMotte, Phil Cullen, Steve Rockwell, Sue Brassfield, Joe Garafolo, Todd Jacobson, Steve Ruffolo, Bob Schiller, Jan Kopsis, Cathy Schuster

Absent: Scott Krafthefer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 15, 2001

Jan Kopsis moved to APPROVE THE MINUTES from August 15, 2001. Mr. Garafolo seconded the motion.

Vote: Yay: Phil Cullen, Steve Rockwell, Sue Brassfield, Joe Garafolo, Todd Jacobson, Steve Ruffolo, Bob Schiller, Jan Kopsis, Cathy Schuster

Nay: None

Motion Carried 9:0

Cathy Schuster reviewed the purpose of the meeting. The Ogden Avenue Committee's annual goals focus on improving the Ogden Corridor. Since John LaMotte created the Ogden Avenue Lakota Master Plan, he was invited to review the work that has already been completed and to help the committee develop an action plan for implementing the Master Plan. The Committee felt it was important to involve staff from public works, landscaping, and grants early on in the planning process to ensure good communication between departments.

Steve Rockwell reviewed the entire Ogden Corridor and updated the Committee on hot issues, redevelopment opportunities, etc.

APPROVED MINUTES

John LaMotte suggested we begin to implement the Master Plan by focusing on address, directional, gateway and key corridor signage. The committee reviewed and selected a sign design. John's group will design a logo that will be placed on the sign. The logo will identify the street as Ogden Avenue. Signs will be mounted on a black poles. Both Bob Schiller and John LaMotte know vendors who can supply the poles and sign brackets.

The directional signs will be placed in the middle of a block and replace many of the freestanding individual signs currently displayed within the block. Directional signs will identify sites such as the hospital, library, central business district, etc.

Gateway signs will be placed at the north, south, east and west boundaries of our town. John LaMotte's group will design a gateway sign and present to this committee. Key corridor signs will identify major intersections such as Ogden and Main and Butterfield and Finley.

John LaMotte and members of this committee will conduct a street audit that will identify current conditions on Ogden and identify possible sites for the number, directional, gateway and corridor signage. A street audit will also help us identify what sites are prime candidates for redevelopment and elimination of curb cuts.

John LaMotte reviewed how Morton Grove had handled their renovation and members of the Committee discussed their experience touring Waukegan Road, which is similar in nature to Ogden Avenue.

IDOT needs to be dialed into this planning process. IDOT is receptive to communities that submit prepared construction documents along with their request for funding. Involving state representatives in this process is a good idea. The issue of easements must be studied. John LaMotte recommends preparing a standardized easement agreement for property owners to speed up the process of obtaining their cooperation in improving their frontage.

Bob Schiller told the Committee that Ogden Avenue needs major infrastructure repair, particularly in replacing storm sewers and utilities.

Steve Rockwell discussed the need for zoning changes and discussed the possibility of overlay zoning in certain sections of the Village.

Sue Brassfield will investigate obtaining grants/funding from IDOT, CMAQ, DCCA and the DNR for natural beautification. She believes eliminating curb cuts will be well received by IDOT, as this is a major safety issue. Cathy Schuster will provide Sue with the name and phone number of Kim Malay, our contact in St. Charles, who may have information on other sources of grant funding.

APPROVED MINUTES

Todd Jacobson and Steve Ruffolo discussed such landscaping issues as who will maintain the foliage, what types of landscaping will survive the harsh Ogden environment, and their recommendation that we clearly communicate the fact that only a certain number of trees can be realistically planted on Ogden Avenue. This helps set reasonable community expectations.

John LaMotte discussed the issue of Façade Rebate. The first level of involvement is to knock on business owners'/landlords' doors and promote the concept of making improvements to the building. The next level is to bring in an architect to help design the improvements and develop design review guidelines. The next level is to coordinate financing options for the improvements. The final level is to actually grant money to the businesses for the improvements. He believes in identifying a group of businesses that want to redevelop to take advantage of economies of scale and have a larger impact on the community. We could then use the completed redevelopment as a model example. Expediting the permit process helps as well. PR/Marketing is very important in moving the redevelopment process along. Ribbon cutting ceremonies, newspaper articles and various awards acknowledging the improvements are all effective tools to keep the momentum going.

Joe Garafolo suggested we identify people from Ogden Avenue who might want to join the Ogden Committee. EDC is reviewing the list of business and property owners on Ogden and will identify prospects.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Schuster