

**CITY OF MILWAUKIE
DESIGN AND LANDMARKS COMMITTEE
NOTES
Milwaukie City Hall
10722 SE Main St
Tuesday, September 6, 2016
6:30 PM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sherry Grau, Chair
Scott Jones

STAFF PRESENT

Brett Kelper, Associate Planner (staff liaison)

MEMBERS ABSENT

James Fossen, Vice Chair
Lauren Loosveldt

1.0 Call to Order – Procedural Matters

Chair Sherry Grau called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45 p.m.

2.0 Design and Landmarks Committee Notes

2.1 August 16, 2016

Given the lack of a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, **Chair Grau** opted to hold off on action related to the August meeting notes, in the event that another member(s) might show up. [No other members were able to attend, so official action on the notes was deferred until the next meeting.]

3.0 Information Items

Associate Planner Brett Kelper noted that the members' reference notebooks appear to be missing several relevant sections from the zoning code, following relatively recent code amendments. In particular, Sections 19.907 (Downtown Design Review) and 19.508 (Downtown Site and Building Design Standards) are ones that are pertinent to the DLC. He promised to coordinate with the administrative staff to provide the missing pages at the next DLC meeting.

Given the recent changes in the downtown zoning code, **Mr. Kelper** pointed out that there may no longer be the same triggers for downtown design review as in the past, at least where some of the Downtown Design Guidelines (DDG) are concerned. That may make the "Lighting" and "Signs" elements of the DDG essentially inapplicable to most projects, so it might be fair to consider eliminating most of the guidelines from those particular elements.

7.0 Other Business/Updates

Still holding out in case another member arrived, **Chair Grau** skipped over the next couple of items momentarily, to the proposed DLC 2016-17 Work Program. **Mr. Kelper** asked whether either of the members present had any comments or questions about the draft work program. **Member Scott Jones** asked what was known about the South Downtown Plaza Design and how much the DLC might be involved. **Mr. Kelper** explained that there was no formal working group yet and that City staff was coordinating internally to figure out the next steps on this issue. He assumed that there would be a role for the DLC once this project becomes active, and he speculated that the DLC would not be responsible for overseeing the project but would be in more of a liaison or advisory role.

Similarly, **Mr. Kelper** indicated that the effort to update the streetscape elements of the Public Area Requirements will be one where the DLC is asked to participate in an advisory role once that project becomes active. Regarding the task of updating the Historic Preservation section of the zoning code and the Historic Resources Property list, **Mr. Kelper** suggested that it would be a project for the future, perhaps one to take on following completion of the DDG update.

Mr. Kelper agreed to touch base with the absent members to see if they had any questions or suggestions about the draft work program and proposed that the DLC attempt to adopt it at the next meeting.

4.0 Audience Participation – None

5.0 Public Meetings – None

6.0 Worksession Items

6.1 Downtown Design Guidelines (DDG) Update, cont. (Milwaukie Character)
Staff Person: Brett Kelper, Associate Planner

Given that there were still only 2 members present, **Mr. Kelper** suggested that the group limit its discussion on the DDG update, but he was curious to know if there were any immediate responses to the revisions made at the last meeting. Regarding DDG page 13 (“Promote Linkages to Horticultural Heritage”), **Chair Grau** asked whether the group had decided to retain or eliminate the language regarding “flowering” with respect to “ornamental trees.” **Mr. Kelper** was unsure but promised to listen to the recording for verification. [After listening to the Aug 16 recording, **Mr. Kelper** confirmed that the group had opted to retain the word “flowering” and keep the punctuation consistent with that of the related Recommended point on that page.]

There was still consensus to delete DDG page 14 (“Establish or Strengthen Gateways”), and there were no further changes to suggest regarding DDG page 15 (“Consider View Opportunities”).

Looking at the remaining Milwaukie Character guidelines, **Member Jones** suggested that the key elements of DDG page 16 (“Consider Context”), page 17 (“Promote Architectural Compatibility”), and even page 19 (“Use Architectural Contrast Wisely”) were similar enough to consider combining them somehow. He noted that the lone Not Recommended point on page 17 was an important one to retain (discouraging poorly executed recreations of historic architectural elements) and that the Not Recommended points on page 19 were too simply in opposition to the Recommended points on that same page to be meaningful. To create a better starting point for group discussion at the next DLC meeting, **Mr. Kelper** offered to combine the text from these three pages (with some light editing), which might make it easier for the group to compare them and decide how to consolidate the text.

The group agreed that DDG page 18 (“Preserve Historic Buildings”) presented a concept that was unique from pages 16, 17, and 19. There was some discussion about how to consider historic preservation in the context of downtown Milwaukie, with its varied fabric of architectural styles. **Member Jones** suggested that one way to look at it was to consider the “cultural community” aspect of what people associate with downtown Milwaukie (e.g., familiar activities, historical events, etc.), rather than thinking about the visual or aesthetic aspect of things.

8.0 Design and Landmarks Committee Discussion Items – None

9.0 Forecast for Future Meetings:

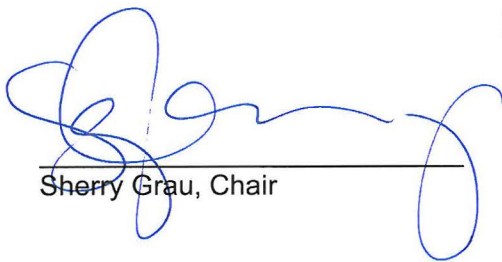
October 3, 2016 DDG revisions (Milwaukie Character, cont.) – Pages 16-19

November 2016 DDG revisions, (Pedestrian Element) – *specific guidelines TBD*

Chair Grau adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Kelter, Associate Planner



Sherry Grau, Chair

