

**CITY OF MILWAUKIE
DESIGN AND LANDMARKS COMMITTEE
NOTES
Milwaukie City Hall
10722 SE Main St
Monday, October 10, 2016
6:30 PM**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sherry Grau, Chair
Scott Jones
Lauren Loosveldt

STAFF PRESENT

Brett Kelper, Associate Planner (staff liaison)

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

1.0 Call to Order – Procedural Matters

Chair Sherry Grau called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2.0 Design and Landmarks Committee Notes

- 2.1 August 16, 2016
- 2.2 September 6, 2016

Chair Grau asked whether there were any corrections or comments on the notes from either the August or September meetings. Hearing none, she called for a vote and both sets of notes were approved unanimously.

3.0 Information Items – None

4.0 Audience Participation – None

5.0 Public Meetings – None

6.0 Worksession Items

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

Associate Planner Brett Kelper called for any outstanding corrections or questions about the group's previous edits to Downtown Design Guideline (DDG) page 13 ("Promote Linkages to Horticultural Heritage"), page 14 ("Establish or Strengthen Gateways"), and page 15 ("Consider View Opportunities")—there were none.

The group shifted its attention to the combination of DDG page 16 ("Consider Context"), page 17 ("Promote Architectural Compatibility"), and page 19 ("Use Architectural Contrast Wisely"), as suggested at the September meeting. **Member Lauren Loosveldt** noted that DDG pages 16 and 17 seem very similar, so it should be possible to combine or condense the information to avoid duplication. The group fleshed out some revised language for a unified Guideline. The members modified the Description to remove the references to certain specific elements such as scale and color and to emphasize that design in general should be responsive to its context.

There was discussion about the concept of designers not only considering the existing context for new buildings (i.e., what other structures are already in place nearby) but also taking into account their future context as it could be shaped by future development. For example, to comprehensively “consider context,” a designer need not be limited by an existing adjacent 1-story cinder-block building but could instead imagine other new buildings on adjacent sites that take advantage of the maximum height allowance of the Downtown Mixed Use zone standards. The group noted creativity, quality of design and materials, thoughtful contrast, and an effort to acknowledge and build upon the character and uniqueness of Downtown as elements to emphasize in this revised DDG page combining 16, 17, and 19.

As proposed at an earlier meeting, the members stayed past 8:00 p.m. to work through the desired edits to the combined 16-17-19 page. They noted that only one more page from the Milwaukie Character section remains (DDG page 18, “Preserve Historic Buildings”), and they agreed to tackle it at the next meeting in order to complete the work on this section.

7.0 Other Business/Updates

Mr. Kelper distributed interim code update pages and copies of Sections 19.907 (Downtown Design Review) and 19.508 (Downtown Site and Building Design Standards) for the members’ reference notebooks. The group did not discuss or take action the draft DLC 2016-17 Work Program.

Regarding DLC membership and the two current openings, **Mr. Kelper** noted that the Planning Commission also has two open positions at the moment. Both **Chair Grau** and **Member Scott Jones** have applied for placement on the Planning Commission, so it is possible that the DLC will have more openings soon. The City Manager’s office is coordinating the process of filling the open positions on various committees and the timeline for change is unclear at the moment. **Mr. Kelper** confirmed that there are several interested applicants, though only one so far has experience with architecture, design, or historic preservation. The group suggested that **Mr. Kelper** invite the one applicant (a landscape designer) to informally sit in on the next DLC session, to meet the members and begin getting familiar with the group’s work on the DDG update.

8.0 Design and Landmarks Committee Discussion Items – None

9.0 Forecast for Future Meetings:

November 14, 2016 DDG revisions, (Milwaukie Character, cont.) – Page 18

Chair Grau adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Kelper, Associate Planner



Sherry Grau, Chair