



## Design Committee

### Feb. 5, 2008

Mission: Make Six Corners physically attractive to consumers

Item	Information	Action
Attendance	Attendance (7): Nick Tufano, chair; Joe Angelastri, Vincent Mastromauro, Rich Lang, Myrtle Robles, John Maloof, Ed Bannon	NA
Approval of minutes	Ed B. made a motion to approve the Nov. 2, 2007, minutes of the Design Committee. A second was waived because no one else present attended the November meeting, Nick T. not having yet arrived.	The minutes were approved without changes.
Laporte parking lot	<p>Ald. Levar called a meeting in January to discuss parking meter and parking permits in the Six Corners area. Six Corners representatives present were Joe Angelastri, Vincent Mastromauro and Ed Bannon. George Borovik, of the Portage Park Chamber of Commerce, and two representatives from the Department of Revenue, which manages the Laporte lot, were also present.</p> <p>The meter rates at the Laporte lot were increased earlier this year to 25 cents per 20 minutes, or 75 cents per hour. Over the course of the discussion at the alderman's office, the Dept. of Revenue expressed a concern that the lot's income had to increase to cover the annual maintenance costs of about \$25,000. The city's income from the lot increased to about \$14,000 in 2007 from about \$7,000 in 2006, but the 2007 amount still falls short of the annual costs.</p> <p>A tentative agreement was made at the meeting to raise meter rates around Six Corners including the parking lot to 25 cents per 30 minutes, or 50 cents an hour. This change would be a decrease for the Laporte lot but an increase for the on-street rates of 25 cents per hour. Also, the tentative agreement called for 25 monthly permit passes to be sold for the lot at a rate of \$55 per month. The city had originally proposed \$85 per month, which is the rate in higher-density neighborhoods. Finally, the meters were tentatively to be changed from a 4-hour limit to an 8-hour limit. The city DOR reps said they want to install a central payment unit for the Laporte lot, but the city is only in early bidding process and has none available.</p>	Convey new proposed changes to Ald. Levar.

## Design Committee minutes approved

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	<p>After the January meeting, the proposed changes were further discussed among Six Corners members and new changes were suggested. The changes would serve both the city's desire to increase meter revenue as well as business owners' desire to have the best parking available for their customers. To best manage parking, the meter rates at the Laporte lot should be 25 cents per hour to make it less expensive to park there than on the street. This change would use simple economics to shift more long-term parkers to the lot instead of having them feed the on-street meters. To offset the lower meter rate in the Laporte lot, the Laporte lot meters would be enforced 24 hours a day, instead of the current 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Also, the Sunday meter holiday for the on-street meters would be eliminated. The meters are already enforced every day in the Laporte lot. Finally, the Laporte lot meters would be increased to a 12-hour limit in order to comfortably accommodate any full-time workers.</p>	
Signage proposal	<p>As part of the above-mentioned January meeting, the Dept. of Revenue said they were working on new signs for the lot. We haven't seen what they would look like.</p>	<p>Forward Six Corners concepts to Dept. of Rev. and/or see their concepts.</p>
Landscaping	<p>With feedback from the city's landscaping experts, a planting plan and RFP for 2008 were drafted. The committee reviewed the plan. It was suggested that a clause in the RFP referring to contractor mark-ups be removed. The bids will be due back on Feb. 29 in time for the March 4 Design Committee meeting.</p>	<p>Send out RFPs. Obtain bids.</p>
Homelessness/ Panhandling	<p>The association continues to work with Hands To Help. We are having success with some people, but a homeless man who had left the area has returned. He has an appointment to work on disability benefits with which he can pay for an apartment. The information has been passed along to the Hands To Help social worker.</p> <p>It was clarified that it is legal to panhandle in traffic, but it is illegal to obstruct traffic and it is illegal to drink on the "public way" i.e. the sidewalk. 911 should be called if either offense occurs.</p>	<p>Monitor homeless situation. Call police if trespassing or public drinking occurs.</p>
Streetscape	<p>The city recently received IDOT feedback on its plans and will respond to those concerns by the end of the month then IDOT will take a month to review the response. This timeline puts the earliest start date around June, and CDOT confirmed that Six Corners is still on their work plan for this year. Also, CDOT reported that</p>	<p>Keep in touch with city on design changes and construction schedule.</p>

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	<p>funding is available for short fences to protect the curb planters and that perhaps a meeting will be arranged with the alderman to address the specific concerns raised by the Six Corners Association.</p> <p>The association, for its part, needs to continue to work on the information kiosks. Panels of 3-feet by 4-feet are available for the association to fill. One side is to be a business directory map, and the committee decided a history theme would be a good use of the other side. Rich Lang, who is president of the Irving Park Historical Society, and John Maloof, who is president of the Jefferson Park Historical Society and who has co-authored a history book on Portage Park due out in June, will meet to discuss the content.</p>	<p>John M. and Rich L. to work on kiosk design and report back 2 p.m. Feb. 19 after Six Corners ER meeting at Parkway Bank.</p>
Athletico mural	<p>The committee discussed the mural proposed for the north side of Athletico, 4080 N. Milwaukee. The budget for a medium detail mural of 10 feet by 60 feet would be \$54,000, according to the Near Northwest Arts Council, which is consulting on the project. This price is much higher than expected. The committee has ruled out trying to save money by using college or high school students because the quality would be too poor for this high visibility wall.</p> <p>There is some grant money available, and we can raise money through sponsorships. One option proposed by NNWAC was breaking the project down over a few years to spread the costs out. Spreading the project out over four years puts the cost at \$13,500 a year. With a \$10,000 grant, the rest of the budget would be \$3,500, which is a feasible goal.</p>	<p>Communicate latest news to NNWAC. Continue research on grants and fund-raising.</p>
New business	<p>John M. asked about plans for another beautification project – a statue of a Native American carrying a canoe to commemorate the "portage" in Portage Park. The co-author of the Portage Park history book with John Maloof, Dan Pogorzelski, is also interested in this project, which others have also suggested in the past. The committee did not discuss details but did want to move forward with this project.</p>	<p>John M. to research costs. Add to March agenda.</p>
Adjournment	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Design Committee was called for 1 p.m., March 4, at the Six Corners office, 4006 N. Milwaukee Ave. #205.</p>	