



## **Architectural Review Committee Meeting Minutes**

Lower Level Conference Room

151 Martin St., Birmingham, MI 248.530.1807 Thursday, April 16, 2018

Meeting called to order at 8:17 a.m.

Present: Larry Bertollini, Chris Longe

1 vacancy:

City Staff: Joe Valentine, City Manager  
Paul O'Meara, City Engineer  
Austin Fletcher, Assistant City Engineer  
Lauren Wood, Director of DPS  
Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager  
George Ostrowski, Nowak and Fraus  
Joellen Haines, Assistant to the City Manager

Discussion on the approval of meeting minutes from the March 16, 2017 meeting. Motion by Bertollini to approve the March 16, 2017 minutes, seconded by Chris Longe. All were in favor.

Carrie Laird and George Ostrowski, Nowak and Fraus, presented the plan for median landscape enhancements which include expanding circular flower beds, not removing anything, but changing the composition of what currently is there. The idea is to have everything uniform from beginning of the project to the end of project, using spade cutting and covering the concrete edges. Everything would look the same throughout the corridor.

Chris Longe asked if city could explore a more tailored edge, possibly a metal edge; he had a concern that the planting bed would wash into the mulch and the mulch into the grass. He felt a hard edge was better to create a more manicured look in executing the design.

Ostrowski said the spade cut edge would hold the mulch in place with the concrete, it would be good for 2-3 years, and creates a uniform look, and the beds won't be mounded anymore but blended. They could propose a metal edge and have it set out once you work out the grade. The downside is that it creates a maintenance problem, and the metal pops out, but they will consider alternate options (cost analysis).

Larry Bertollini had a concern about planting near the tree to allow appropriate space for plantings, and explore adding more space if feasible to treatments. And he had a question about existing irrigation lines, which Ostrowski said will be retrofitted to the new design.

Motion to endorse the plan and include suggestions was made by Longe, seconded by Bertollini; 2 yeas, 0 nays.

The second agenda item was the landscaping design on the northeast corner of Chester and Maple. Chris Longe said that it looks fine, but the geometry seems boring and it should relate to the sidewalks. He said he doesn't mind the circular pattern, but it seems to need another access point to make it less isolated. Bertollini suggested moving it away from the street and favor the sidewalk to encourage use. The Committee suggested looking at a revised plan based on their

comments. Bertollini moved to look at revised plans and incorporate a second entrance to review.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

**Manager's Directives Resulting from the ARC Meeting of April 16, 2018:**

1. **To proceed with the landscaping designs of the medians on Woodward with suggestions made by the ARC.**
2. **To direct staff to revise plans for the corner of Chester and Maple Rd. for ARC review.**