

Community Design Commission

2-18-1: CREATION:

There is hereby created and established in and for the Village of Oak Park a commission to be hereafter known as the Community Design Commission, which shall consist of a chairperson and fourteen (14) members through October 31, 2011 and shall thereafter consist of a chairperson and twelve (12) members.

The members and chairperson shall be appointed on a staggered basis by the President with the consent of the Village Board. Members shall serve without compensation for three (3) year terms. At least six (6) of the members shall be trained as design professionals. At least two (2) members shall be trained in urban forestry or horticulture. The remaining members can be from other backgrounds and professions, provided they share an interest in the work of the Commission.

2-18-2: OBJECTIVES:

The Commission shall function with the objective of developing a continuous program to enhance the aesthetic quality of life in the Village with a view to maintaining and strengthening the Village as a flourishing community of growth, quality and beauty. Its functions shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- A. Actively promoting ever increasing pride of ownership and higher level maintenance of Oak Park dwellings, apartment buildings, commercial buildings and other structures; including, but not limited to, promoting, organizing, and conducting house garden and/or forestry educational programs, exhibits or shows, and/or awards programs for buildings or areas of exceptional or superior maintenance; and maintaining an annual pictorial record book of Community Design Commission activities, related to beautification.
- B. Holding public hearings and rendering decisions in connection with applications for sign variances which may be appealed to the President and Board of Trustees regarding said applications pursuant to section 7-7-5 of this code.
 1. Conflict Of Interest: No member of the Commission shall participate in discussion or vote on requests for a sign variation from any client he/she is serving or from any business or property in which he/she has financial interest or of which he/she is an owner, officer or employee.
 2. Commission Secretary For Sign Variation Hearings: The Zoning Administrator shall serve as secretary to the Commission for all sign variation hearings, but shall not be a member thereof.

3. Duties Of The Chairperson: The chairperson shall have the duty of calling all meetings and shall preside at all hearings.

4. Meetings Of The Community Design Commission:

- a. Seven (7) members of the Commission (including the chairperson) shall constitute a quorum. A majority decision of the full Commission at a duly constituted meeting shall be required to approve a sign variation.
- b. The Commission may promulgate its own rules of procedure, not inconsistent with this section and recommend adoption of same to the President and Board of Trustees.
- c. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public.
- d. The Commission shall keep minutes of its proceedings and official actions.
- e. The Commission may consult with and cooperate with other commissions, Village departments, other governmental bodies and interested persons on matters affecting a sign variance request.

- C. Researching and recommending to the Board of Trustees public improvements in streets or alleys, cul-de-sacs, public yard and building improvements, and possible sites for additional recreational facilities, walks and/or malls; and in connection therewith, researching and recommending decorative paving, signs, lighting, flowers, plants, shrubbery, trees and landscaping and/or seasonal plantings therefor.
- D. Studying and recommending action to alleviate and/or eliminate eyesores and/or litter on both public and private property; and/or conducting active antilitter campaigns.
- E. Stimulating civic organizations' care of small plats of relatively visible public lands as so called "minigardens", and maintaining and coordinating an active program of such minigardens.
- F. Researching and recommending revisions and additions to ordinances which relate to aesthetic values with particular attention to signs.
- G. Acting as a resource in aesthetics and design to other government agencies and civic organizations, maintaining liaisons with these organizations when appropriate to achieve a uniform approach to Village beautification.
- H. Consulting with the Forester on matters pertaining to forestry, including the following:

1. Amendments to the Oak Park Code dealing with forestry, and alterations or revisions to the Arboricultural Specifications Manual.
2. Policy concerning selection, planting, maintenance and removal of trees and shrubs within the Village.
3. Establishment of educational and informational programs whereby the public may be notified of any matters pertaining to forestry and to the Arboricultural Specifications Manual.