



# City of Aurora

5th Floor Conference  
Room  
44 E. Downer Place  
Aurora, IL 60505  
www.aurora-il.org

## FoxWalk Overlay District Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday

November 01, 2023

6:00 PM

---

### CALL TO ORDER

*Chairman Zine called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.*

### ROLL CALL

*The following Committee members were present: Chairman Zine, Mr. Castrejon, Mrs. Diaz, Mr. Failing, Mr. Hoffman, and Mr. Palmquist.*

### OTHERS PRESENT

*The following staff members were present: Mr. Sieben, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Vacek, and Ms. Burden*

*Todd Vanadolik (Egret + Ox Planning)*

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**23-0473**

Approval of Minutes from 4/19/2023 FoxWalk Design Review Committee Meeting

*MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY: Mr. Failing*

*MOTION SECONDED BY: Mr. Castrejon*

*AYES: Chairman Zine, Mr. Castrejon, Mrs. Diaz, Mr. Failing, Mr. Hoffman, and Mr. Palmquist.*

*NAYES: 0*

*Motion passes by voice vote.*

**A motion was made by Mr. Failing , seconded by Mr. Castrejon, that the minutes be approved and filed. The motion carried by voice vote.**

**23-0766**

Approval of minutes from 6/21/2023 FoxWalk Design Review Committee Meeting

*MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY: Mr. Failing*

*MOTION SECONDED BY: Mr. Castrejon*

*AYES: Chairman Zine, Mr. Castrejon, Mrs. Diaz, Mr. Failing, Mr. Hoffman, and Mr. Palmquist.*

NAYES: 0

Motion passes by voice vote.

Chairman Zine said alright, moving right along.

Mrs. Morgan said alright, I will just turn it over to Todd, our consultant, to kind of go through the next sections.

Mr. Failing said do we have to do each minutes separate?

Mrs. Morgan said no, I think that's fine for voice call for both minutes.

**A motion was made by Mr. Failing , seconded by Mr. Castrejon, that the minutes be approved and filed. The motion carried by voice vote.**

## AGENDA

23-0774

### 2023 FoxWalk Overlay District Design Guidelines Update

Mr. Vanadolik said great, thank you Jill. Good evening, Commissioners, or Committee Members. Thanks for having me again. So, today we're finishing up our review process with the DRC for the proposed amendments to the FoxWalk Overlay Design Guidelines. Like the previous 2 meetings, we are using a multi-step process to draft, review, and refine the draft amendments. I will cover out next steps in the very last slide of the presentation, so we know where we're headed after tonight's meeting. On this next slide, which should be familiar to you. We presented this is the previous 2 meetings. Again, this slide just shows the general structure of the Design Guidelines update. So, we began our review process with the DRC here in September, which we covered Sections 1 and 2. Last week, we covered Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6, and tonight we're in part 3 of our review and we're going to finish up with Sections 7, 8, and 9. So, for Section 7, this section outlines guidelines for providing elements and improvements within the public right-of-way and other spaces accessible to the public. Section...uhh...the first bullet, Section 7.1 covers Street Furniture, Signage, and Other Amenities. This section previous included elements like benches, bike racks, lighting, landscaping, and wayfinding, and signage. The updated guidelines added some new elements including bike-share stations, recycling receptacles, public arts and murals, and sidewalk clocks. In particular, for those sidewalk clocks, we did want to make sure that they should always maintain...they should always operate in a manner that accurately reflects the current time...or the correct time.

Second bullet point, Section 7.2 covers Sidewalks and Paving. Staff is actually still working on this so this is a work in progress, so nothing to report tonight on that.

And then, Section 7.3 is with regards to guidelines for Maintenance and Renovations...or Restorations, I should say.

In terms of bridge rails, the reference to replacing non-original metals rails was removed from the existing guidelines. And that was because that process has already been completed. Instead, the standard now relates to the regular...relates to regular cleaning and repair of rails. And speaking of repair and replacement, bridges should be regularly cleaned and repaired. If a bridge becomes deteriorated, a replacement bridge should be in-kind to match the original bridge design, however, alternative materials may be considered.

Section 7.4 is a new section relating to the Riverfront. One of the main topics that actually trended from the public comments that we received throughout this process

was related to access views and treatments...and treatment of the riverfront. As a natural artery running through the downtown area and the City as a whole, the Fox River greatly defines the identity of the FoxWalk Overlay District. The following Design Guidelines below and on the next page are intended to enhance the visual and physical connectivity of the FoxWalk District to the riverfront to maintain functionality, natural aesthetics, and sustainable spaces open to the community.

First bullet point is to provide safe and convenient access to the riverfront for people of all physical abilities and non-vehicular modes of transport. That includes bikes, scooters, strollers, wheelchairs, and so on.

Second bullet is to continue adding to the pathway system in accordance with the 2008 Aurora Riverwalk Master Plan...or Revised Master Plan. The updated document includes a detailed description of existing trails and opportunities to provide new trails in close...and close gaps in the trail network. I'll actually cover that in a future...in a later slide.

And the last bullet on this slide is to provide public spaces along the riverfront, where feasible.

Some additional Design Guidelines regarding the riverfront: one is to make efforts to enhance views of the river including the use of glass for new construction on non-infill sites due to their transparency. We actually covered that last week with regard to glass and construction.

Two is to ensure safety measures are a primary consideration, including railings, lighting, and signage.

Three is to maintain a cohesive design theme and visual identity including lighting, signage, and streetscape/riverfront furniture.

Overall, the design...overall, the updated Design Guidelines are intended to achieve this cohesive design theme. Specific initiatives, like the City's recent sign code update and the ongoing Broadway Streetscape Project, will also help to achieve this cohesive design.

Four is to take care to protect the river's natural flow, topography, vegetation, and wildlife with context sensitive design to the local eco-system. The updated landscape guidelines covered last week will help accomplish this. And while the potential to remove the river dams is beyond the purview of this project, like we were discussing last week, the City is doing its due diligence to study the potential impacts of potential dam removal.

Next is to consider Flood Resilience and Safety, particularly through the use of sustainable design practices, like native landscaping, permeable surfaces, and so on. Again, the updated landscaping guidelines that we covered last week will help with this.

And the last point is to use durable materials and efficient infrastructure when designing riverfront spaces to ensure longevity of materials and ensure the design of spaces provides added value to the enhancement and protection of the natural environment.

That was a lot to cover for those 2 slides. Any thought or questions on riverfront?

Chairman Zine said just one comment.

Mr. Vanadolik said yep.

Chairman Zine said a couple of years ago, I did a presentation on the various pavers that we have, the designs. Are going to...

Mr. Sieben said so that was...uhh...I think 7.2, that...

Chairman Zine said yeah...

*Mr. Sieben said do you want to explain kind of where we're at with this?*

*Mrs. Morgan said so, we're still looking at all the pavers. We were hoping to have it by this meeting but just trying to get coordination with other departments. We're going to go next week to look some...umm...place that has pavers to kind of see what's some possibilities out there. So, we're hoping to have something. Unfortunately, I know it is the last meeting and we're trying to move this forward but we're hoping to have something outlined by that meeting.*

*Chairman Zine said that's okay. I just hope that we have actual illustrations in there on the design that we want.*

*Mr. Sieben said we're...we're looking at that...*

*Mrs. Morgan said yeah, we have a staff member who's helping us with some...uhh...some basic illustrations...umm...yeah.*

*Chairman Zine said okay, thanks.*

*Mr. Sieben said so the goal is to have something by a week from...*

*Mrs. Morgan said by Wednesday, yeah...*

*Mr. Sieben said by next Wednesday, which is your last...so this is the very last thing that we don't have.*

*Chairman Zine said okay, cool. Good, thanks.*

*Mr. Hoffman said is it intend to have something that's general enough that it'll...that it'll remain...uhh...that it's not too sensitive to changing products lines and that...that kind of thing, in terms of, like, shades, appearance, patterns? 'Cause there's some kind of trends that come and go in terms of the paver styles.*

*Mrs. Morgan said yes, and that's kind of where...what we've been trying to kind of...uhh...have the issue with is having something that is going to not go out of style, colors, the mix-match of colors that you see throughout the downtown. So, finding a way to figure out how can we try to keep the consistency. So, we're gonna address that but we're also gonna try to include language...and I think the current guidelines does that some too...that doesn't preclude us from alternating materials something...if in the future, something else can come up.*

*Mr. Hoffman said sounds good.*

*Chairman Zine said thank you.*

*Mr. Vanadolik said great. Any other comments about...umm...riverfront? Okay. Umm...another new section that we touched upon...or added to the Design Guidelines relates to the BNSF Railway Viaduct. So, this was following...uhh...the Design Guidelines providing methods to integrate railway design guidelines...umm...relating to the viaduct. So, this was meant to particularly activate seemingly dead spaces, so to speak, and transform these generally unusable spaces in often unattractive areas under the railway into benefits to the community for things like arts, culture, and*

recreation. This approach will help with the added...will provide the added benefit of mitigating the impacts of how the viaducts...the viaduct acts as a physical divide between the east and west sides of the FoxWalk District and the larger downtown area. In particular, two points on this slide:

- 1) To define the viaduct as a multi-functional space including options like public art installations, community spaces, greenery, bike parking, and off-street parking.
- 2) To formalize arrangements with businesses that currently use the viaduct for trash receptacles.

Currently, there are businesses or organizations that use the area for trash, but we also want to make sure that existing businesses, or potentially future businesses, if they continue to do that, we want to make sure that you formalize arrangements with their use of that space.

Mr. Hoffman said what is the ownership of the property in and around that? Does the railroad own the space below it throughout that area and so some of the...uhh...some of those other uses lease from them or some arrangements, or is it...

Mr. Sieben said yes. Yes, some are leased, that's why you see some...

Mr. Hoffman said okay.

Mr. Sieben said parking, some aren't. So, some are cleared, some aren't, but it's all owned by the railroad.

Mr. Hoffman said okay. I know working with railroads in their right-of-ways...

Mr. Sieben said sometimes difficult.

Mr. Hoffman said challenging. (laughs)

Chairman Zine said that's an understatement.

(Laughing)

Chairman Zine said but there is one trash container that just drives me crazy. The one behind the old YWCA, where the riverwalk comes up behind Waubensee. And I thought there was some progress on that.

Mr. Sieben said we approved a...umm...

Mrs. Morgan said a dumpster location with a dumpster enclosure.

Chairman Zine said really? Oh.

Mr. Sieben said I'm not sure why it's not built yet.

Mrs. Morgan said yeah, well, I think their final approval just happened, maybe, not too long ago.

Mr. Sieben said it's been a little while. We've approved it. There's a...we're getting an

*easement, it's going to be a pad, and it'll be on the...what is that...the north side there...*

*Chairman Zine said that corner right around where it's...*

*(MULTIPLE VOICES SPEAKING)*

*Mr. Sieben said I think it's got to be filled a little. It's not an easy thing, it's not cheap...*

*Chairman Zine said I know...I know...*

*Mr. Sieben said because of the...but...uhh...we've approved the plan and hopefully it will...*

*Mrs. Morgan said be constructed.*

*Mr. Sieben said be soon, relatively soon.*

*Chairman Zine said I'm very grateful for that...*

*Mr. Sieben said so...yes...I know, I hate that.*

*Chairman Zine said because it's...it's like the entryway to the only place you can get down to the river and there's a big trash can right in the middle there, and lots of times there's garbage all around it too. So, thank you.*

*Mr. Hoffman said I've seen...I've seen animals scavenging trash out of that dumpster.*

*Mr. Vanadolik said some additional guidelines regarding...umm...viaducts:*

- 1) Design viaducts to encourage safe passage for all modes of transport.*
- 2) Broaden the viaduct's appeal as a community asset for arts, culture, and history.*
- 3) To ensure design maintains flexibility such as modular and movable pieces like furniture and so on that can be reconfigured easily for community events and general socializing.*
- 4) Collaborate with other agencies and organizations to activate the viaduct with programming, amenities, and opportunities for arts and culture.*

*So, the example photos that you see on the bottom of the slide; these are actually from Melbourne. I know it's way across the pond, but the reason why we wanted to show these was that it...and it was just to show that...umm...how the viaduct can be reclaimed as a usable space for the community in a variety of ways. You can actually see here...umm...people use it for...umm...passive and active recreation, some people use it for kind of bike paths or bike connections between different streets, especially on both sides of the viaduct. There's artwork, you can see on the far right, there's even a...this particular example is basketball court. You'll notice that this...in this particular example from Melbourne, the...the clearance of the...umm...viaduct is a lot higher and the spacing of the...the columns are a wider than they are here. But the general sense or the general idea to show these examples is just to show that you*

can...umm...there are opportunities to activate these spaces, especially like adding color, like, these colors are pretty bright and vibrant. Umm...if that's one of your first steps that you do, that could be a major change in terms of making it more inviting for people.

Chairman Zine said so, is there a COA in the process if somebody wants to lease space from the railroad? Do we get involved? Does Staff get involved in that? Like to put in parking or more trash receptacles...

Mrs. Morgan said yeah, I think we probably would work with...with anybody interested in that...umm...because of just the complicatedness of the pro...of doing something like that.

Chairman Zine said it almost sounds like we should require it though. I mean...

Mrs. Morgan said I don't think the railway is open to that, if I recall what I've heard before.

Mr. Sieben (off mic) said (inaudible) we can coordinate with them and work out (inaudible)...I think what we've been trying to do.

Chairman Zine said okay, I get it.

Mr. Castrejon said have they been open to working with the City?

Mr. Sieben said I'm not the point person on that. Is it...

Mrs. Morgan said it's more Public Works...umm...I feel like not nec...just from what I kind of recall conversations, it still...I mean probably more so than working with a private person but it's not...umm...like, even getting that mural approved that they painted took a lot of work. They did eventually allow it, but it did take a while.

Chairman Zine said okay.

Mr. Vanadolik said so, one thing to point out is that examples like these will be in the final document...umm...so it'll show a lot of examples so that you know what to look for. Another example that I thought of actually earlier today, but I didn't have time to put it in the slides, was for a more local example, not in Australia, is actually in Chicago there's a...under the brown line, it's called the low line. You've heard of...there's the high line in New York, but in Chicago it's under the CTA brown line where they basically activate the space underneath. It's basically like a viaduct like here, and they just have a lot of public art...umm...a lot of vibrant colors, kind of like what you see here...umm...I don't think they have recreational spaces, like basketball courts, but you do see people biking through there and jogging and so on. But again, it's just to reclaim the space for community and from what I've heard that the community organization in that neighborhood has coordinated with the CTA, and they've been very open about activating those spaces because to the CTA, an inviting space means greater ridership to them. It's a little different here because the Metra is a lot further...umm...further north...umm...but still, I think if...if it helps them keep their property clean and more inviting, BNSF may be open, more open to it than we might think so...umm...yeah, just to keep an open mind.

Chairman Zine said okay.

Mr. Vanadolik said any other thoughts on this? That was the last part of Section 7. So, Section 8 is relating to Administrative Provisions that oversee the application of the updated Design Guidelines, including the DRC's role and responsibilities. So, Section 8.1.2 covers the Establishment of the Membership...the Establishment of the DRC and Membership of the DRC. Certain information was removed in this section and cited reference to Section 2-440 of the City's Code of Ordinances so that the information only lives in one place and isn't scattered over or duplicated across multiple City policy documents.

Second point is related to Section 8.1.2...I'm sorry...sorry, Section 8.1.3, referencing the powers and duties of the DRC. So, we removed the language about how the DRC will act in place of the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding Zoning Amendments.

And then Section 8.2, the last point on the slide deal with Procedures for Certificates of Appropriateness, or COAs. All exterior work shall be required to obtain a COA including, but not limited to the items here:

- Additions and New Construction
- Fencing
- Accessory Structures
- Winter Vestibules
- Outdoor Dining
- Construction of Public Spaces on a Rooftop (like rooftop decks)
- Decks

Any thoughts on your roles and responsibilities?

Continuing with language about the COA procedures. Section 8.2.2 relates to the Review Process. This includes the addition of samples for COA submittal.

Regarding decisions by the Zoning Administrator, the decision categories were streamlined from 3 down to 2, and that covers COA approvals and Denials.

•In terms of COA approvals, for all COAs that conform to the standards in this, in the Design Guidelines document, the Zoning Administrator shall issue approval. A report of all approved COAs will be provided to the DRC.

•In terms of COA denials, the denial procedure stays the same, but the previous timeline was replaced with the following statement: "If appealed, COA will be placed on the next regularly scheduled meeting of the DRC. The Committee shall render a decision to grant, deny, or modify the requested COA on the basis of the criteria set forth in this document."

There's a lot of...again, this section is a lot of administrative stuff, not necessarily design related.

And then, continuing with Section 8.2.3, this is about DRC review requirements.

•For rehab projects needing DRC approval, the minimum project size was reduced from 30,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet.

•The requirement of a preliminary and final review was removed, but updated language was added that multiple meetings could be scheduled to allow feedback early in the process.

•All new construction, additions, and demolitions require DRC approval.

This slide actually...yeah, this slide (Section 8.2.2.4) relates to Large Scale



*Developments. For new construction over 30,000 square feet, this now requires a Public Hearing at DRC with final approval by the City Council.*

*For new construction over 10,000 square feet, these projects will be categorized as either...*

*as either one of two ways. One is Preliminary Review and Final Review, or two, Final Review with no Preliminary. I'll actually cover those on the next 2 slides. Umm...as noted in the sidebar on the right, the actual process will be outlined in the City's Code of Ordinances as the City's policy is for processes to be located in one location among the City's policy documents. This is generally a streamlining measure.*

*Mrs. Morgan said Todd, I think the first point was removing the 30,000 square feet...*

*Mr. Vanadolik said oh, was it? Okay. You're right. Thanks for that correction, Jill. So, again, covering the 2 different points of Preliminary Review and Final Review:*

*•For Preliminary Review Process, the steps are outlined here:*

- oMeeting with Staff early in the process*
- oSubmittal of required documentation*
- oDRC review (which could be multiple meetings that can be scheduled)*
- oPlanning and Zoning Commission*
- oBuilding, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee*
- oCommittee of the Whole*
- oCity Council*

*•For Final Review Process*

- oMeeting with Staff early in process*
- oSubmittal of the required documents*
- oDRC Review*
- oBuilding, Zoning, and Economic Development – Final Decision*

*•Final Review with No Preliminary*

- oZoning Administrator can waive the Preliminary Review Process if it is determined that the Project is developed to the extent that a 2-step review is deemed unnecessary.*
- oFollow the Process outlined for Preliminary Review.*

*And then the last point...I probably should've put this on a separate slide because it's not directly related, but Section 8.3 is related to Murals. We just added existing language that was approved in 2016 regarding mural procedures, so we just put it into this document.*

*That is it for Section 8.*

*And the last section that we're reviewing tonight is Section 9. This is just Accomplishments. So, this section summarizes accomplishments that have been made. The original Design Guidelines in 2008 outlined accomplishments through 2008, so now that we're updating it here in 2023 this update adds accomplishments since 2008. One of the more prominent accomplishments is the City's commitment to Public Art and Celebration of Culture in the community. As you can see here, this is a list of Public Art and Celebration Accomplishments in the FoxWalk since 2008. You can see a lot of it is related to Public Art and Murals. I'm not going to go through each of them, but you can actually see...you're probably familiar with most, if not all of these. The next slide has a continuation of the more recent ones as well.*

*• Blues Mural (2017) at 6 E. Downer*

- *Great Blue Herons (2018) under the New York Street bridge on the west side of Stolp Island*
- *Cultural Context of a Fox (2018) at 54 E. Galena Boulevard*
- *Hope Wings (2018) at 118 E. Grand Boulevard*
- *Pierpont Grocery (2018-2019) at 83 S. LaSalle Street*
- *Mexican Heritage (2019) at 36 E. Downer Place*
- *Yetee Station Arcade (2019) in the alley behind 11 N. Broadway*
- *Graffiti Wall (2021 and ongoing) on Parking Lot O at 14 Middle Avenue*
- *Calaveras (2021) at 36 W. Downer Place*
- *Alexa (2021) at 13 S. Broadway*
- *Cultural Heritage Stamps with Augmented Reality: Brazil, Greece, Luxembourg, and Kenya (2021) at 7 S. Broadway*
- *Diversity in Technology (2021) at 105 E. Galena Boulevard*
- *Alebrijes (2021) under the BNSF viaduct at E. New York Street*
- *Aurora Downtown Gateway (2021) at 210 E. Galena Boulevard*
- *City hosted a Warhol Exhibit with Activities throughout the Downtown (2023)*
- *Routinely the City installs temporary art installations throughout the downtown*
- *Throughout the year the City celebrates cultural heritage with flag raisings*

- *Another accomplishment has been the City's establishment of a few pocket parks.*
- *The renovation of the Water Street Mall in 2018. This included new decorative concrete, brick pavers, new planter beds, string lighting, tables, and benches.*
- *Mundy Park is another one that provides outdoor seating for the neighboring music venue along with some landscaping like trees and flowers, and interpretative plaques.*
- *Skinny Park (2021) has new brick pavers, planter beds, ping pong tables, water feature, artwork, bean bag toss, and string lighting*

• *Decorative News Racks. One thing to point out here is that as web-based media has impacted the circulation of print media, new language was added to enable the City to consider actions like consolidating, reducing, or removing news racks from the streetscape.*

• *Winter Holiday Decorations. Here we added language for commercial uses regarding painted storefronts, colored lights around light poles, large holiday displays on parking garage, and free-standing decorations scattered throughout.*

*Chairman Zine said so, I have one question or comment here. On pocket parks, below the FoxWalk on the west bank next to the canoe chute are some terraced areas that are pretty bare. There's lots of material, plant...or earth there where we can plant them. We've done such a great job with the rain gardens and the planters up on Downer. I'm wondering if we can extend it down there. I know that they may be gone in 4 years, you know, if they take the dam out and that comes up, but that's still 4 years away.*

*Mr. Sieben said you're saying like overlooking where the Ballydoyle deck is down there...?*

*Chairman Zine said yes, correct.*

*Mr. Sieben said okay. It's a little barren.*

*Chairman Zine said yeah, it's bare, and the impact on Downer has been just phenomenal with those gardens. It just looks incredibly great, and this is about the*

*only riverwalk that's at river level and I think it could be better, so I'd like to think about that if we could. And I know it needs to be budgeted and all that stuff but just to put it on the radar.*

*Mrs. Morgan said yeah, I think we have talked about that as well, Charlie, and some of the greenery that used to be there seems to have kind of been taken away.*

*Chairman Zine said okay.*

*Mr. Vanadolik said some additional public amenities in the area:*

- Kiosks – In 2019, new digital kiosks were installed throughout the downtown, including in front of City Hall, in front of the Paramount Theater, and by the old library.*
- Parking – There is a table of existing parking facilities in the FoxWalk. We updated that to include all the parking lots around the downtown area, especially ones that have been added since 2008. We included not only where the parking lots were, but also the number of parking spaces.*
- Bike Paths and Multi-Use Trails – We added language about the current status of the Fox River Trail including sections that have been built since 2008, and existing gaps that can be filled. There's a description of that, and we actually mentioned that earlier, in an earlier slide as well.*
- Architectural Illumination – The addition of new lighting design guidelines advances the City's continued support for the use of lighting to enhance building architecture and the overall character of Downtown Aurora. We actually covered lighting in a previous meeting as well.*

*Chairman Zine said one more point: in the last year, we've approved the fabulous Fox Water Trail, which is a 2-state water trail that covers the entire Fox River, which comes right through downtown. They do have new signage over at Veterans Island where the beach is there, so...but that is a multi...well, it's a trail, it's a recreational trail, so...but when the dams come out, hopefully it will be much more in use and better signage access and everything else.*

*Mr. Vanadolik said so, some additional accomplishments:*

- The Grand Army of the Republic – This included extensive renovations in 2011 and 2016, which produced a museum with dozens of exhibits documenting contributions of Aurorans and Illinoisans to the Union effort in the Civil War.*
- Accomplishments around the FoxWalk, that bord the FoxWalk District, but not in it.*
  - oRiverEdge Park was constructed in 2012.*
  - oNext to that was the Pedestrian Bridge that opened in 2021 that connects the RiverEdge Park and the Aurora Transportation Center on the east to neighborhoods and parks on the west side.*
  - oWilder Park undertook a major renovation in 2021.*

*So, this slide about Section 9.1.2, this summarizes various Policies and Programs including:*

- Conversion of Downtown One-Way Streets to Two-Way Streets: Again, this is one of the more prominent accomplishments in the past several years. Since 2008 certain one-way streets in and around the FoxWalk District have successfully been converted to two-way streets, including those listed:*

- oNew York Street (between Broadway and Smith Boulevard*
- oGalena Boulevard (between Ohio Street and Broadway*
- oRiver Street (between Gale Street and New York Street)*
- oLake Street (between Gale Street and New York Street)*
- oDowner Place (between Broadway and State Street)*
- oBenton Street (between Broadway and Locust Street)*

*The first four streets officially opened to two-way traffic in 2015. Then the last two, Downer Place opened to two-way traffic in 2018, and Benton Street followed soon after.*

*Mr. Sieben said now just to clarify, though, Galena and New York are not two-way downtown, it's just a part of downtown, but mostly...*

*Mr. Vanadolik said yeah, yeah...we even cover...*

*Mr. Sieben said just to clarify.*

*Mr. Vanadolik said good point. Next slide is related to the Creation of a Special Service Area, or an SSA:*

*•The updated Design Guidelines added new language regarding the SSA serving the downtown. The SSA was initially created with an eight-year "sunset" provision and that has been continually renewed each time it was up for renewal. While the SSA supports local businesses, Aurora Downtown hosts events like First Fridays, outdoor movies, and arts and cultural activities.*

*The last side is related to 2 previous sections that were in the 2018 version of the Design Guidelines. So, this actually had 2 sections:*

*•Section 10 was about Next Steps. Removed this section entirely as it references an outdated Plan and new steps should be in Comprehensive/Master Plans and not Design Guidelines. The Downtown Master Plan done with CMAP includes next steps for the FoxWalk area along with the rest of Downtown.*

*•Section 11 was about the FoxWalk Revised Master Plan. Removed this section entirely as there is a separate Master Plan for the Riverwalk and information on the vision for the Riverwalk should be included in that document and not here in the Design Guidelines.*

*Mr. Hoffman said did the Riverwalk Plan...was it separated or created after the FoxWalk Guidelines were established or were they in tandem...*

*Mrs. Morgan said they were in tandem...*

*Mr. Hoffman said for a little while and there was just some redundancy?*

*Mrs. Morgan said yes, and I think the separation specifically helps with, like...with the Riverwalk, there's Engineering stuff to be taken into account and that's really beyond the scope of Design Guidelines.*

*Mr. Sieben said permitting, that kind of thing, so...*

*Mr. Hoffman said 'cause the...the FoxWalk Guidelines apply to work on the Riverwalk,*

*but the Riverwalk itself is in more specific development focuses, beyond the scope of what these guidelines are meant to cover.*

*Mrs. Morgan said correct, yeah. And there's certain things in order to (unintelligible) I think grants for (unintelligible) has to be in that...umm...Riverwalk. Like getting more of the Engineering-related.*

*Mr. Sieben said and I believe the goal, once we get this done, is in the next year or two to look at the Riverwalk Master Plan because that was last done in 2008...yeah, 2008.*

*Mr. Hoffman said okay, so that's a...a kind of visioning planned...*

*Mr. Sieben said yeah...*

*Mr. Hoffman said more to the Downtown Plan or some of these others...*

*Mr. Sieben said correct...*

*Mr. Hoffman said yeah, that makes sense not to have any...*

*Mr. Sieben said you know, things change, permitting changes, we want to update that and guidelines and stuff. And where we filled in and where we haven't and stuff...*

*Mr. Hoffman said so, this makes...removing these out of the guidelines makes it a little...little less of an expir...less dated, I guess. There's just not...portions that are going to become obsolete...*

*Mr. Sieben said and don't...we don't...*

*Mr. Hoffman said timeless...*

*Mr. Sieben said to confuse things because it is confusing sometimes for the public, because the guidelines are the FoxWalk is the district, and I guess the Riverwalk is the Riverwalk, you know...*

*Mr. Hoffman said yeah.*

*Mr. Sieben said sometimes they're used interchangeably...*

*Mr. Hoffman said yeah...*

*Mr. Sieben said which is a little confusing.*

*Mr. Failing said that makes sense.*

*Mr. Vanadolik said any other thoughts on any of the slides...I think that was the last slide...yeah, so next is covering Next Steps. I can...so, here...I guess we can talk about this as a group in terms of where we go from here. So, we do have another DST (DRC) meeting, if needed, next Wednesday, November 8th. There will be a public presentation of the Design Guidelines, the amendments, to the general public on Monday, November 13th. Then a presentation to Building, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee a few days later on the 15th. November 21st will be 2 meetings: one will be with the Rules, Administrations, and Procedures Committee and*

*the City Council Committee of the Whole. Then a week later on the 28th is the review and adoption by City Council.*

*Chairman Zine said so, what's involved with the public presentation on the 13th? Where's that gonna be and...*

*Mr. Vanadolik said it will be at Pierce Arts...*

*Chairman Zine said okay...*

*Mr. Sieben said on Downer.*

*Chairman Zine said and Staff will be there, and we should be there, or we could be there?*

*Mrs. Morgan said yeah...*

*Chairman Zine said from when to when?*

*Mr. Vanadolik said it will be from 6 to 7.*

*Chairman Zine said okay.*

*Mr. Vanadolik said yeah so, it'll be...it'll be just...I'll just present a set of slides summarizing...it won't go into like the actual, like, depth that we went to with you all in the past 3 meetings with...here at the DRC but it'll give them a high...kind of a high level of what's changed, what's new, and so on.*

*Chairman Zine said is it going to be a slide show that you said? Is that what you said or...*

*Mr. Vanadolik said yeah, it'll just be a presentation.*

*Chairman Zine said okay...okay.*

*Mr. Hoffman said has there been any engagement or outreach or any direction from media or press on this...this process or is it kind of below the level of what our skeleton crew of reporters does now?*

*Mrs. Morgan said yes...yeah.*

*Mr. Hoffman said okay.*

*Chairman Zine said but has it been publicly posted already? The public meeting on the 13th?*

*Mrs. Morgan said yes...it's on...*

*Mr. Vanadolik said it's on the project website, I'm not sure if you use social media...*

*Mrs. Morgan said and I have it...right...I have (unintelligible) probably send it out to...umm...our group who sends...does the public notifications to like Facebook...umm and then...umm...some others. I'll see what else and I'll send a...I*

*should send the fliers to all of you so if there's anybody...*

*Mrs. Vacek (off mic) said I think we wanted to get it kind of through here first.*

*Mrs. Morgan said yes.*

*Chairman Zine said well, that doesn't give the public a lot of lead time, though. I mean...*

*Mrs. Vacek (off mic) said yeah, we can get it...we can start getting it out there.*

*Chairman Zine said alright.*

*Mr. Failing said will there be like a mailing or a postcard going out to all the businesses within the SSA...I mean, sorry...within the FoxWalk?*

*Mrs. Morgan said not a mailing. I was thinking more of the social media, the emails, the...you know...Aurora, Then and Now. Kind of get the...typically I think most of the people. I'll send it, obviously, to Aurora Downtown and their distribution, I think, would probably...I...I...I don't want to, like, you know, again the whole send it out too much where people think it's a new Master Plan...*

*Chairman Zine said right.*

*Mrs. Morgan said try to target the people who are actually going to be interested in it. Those people more affected by it...*

*Chairman Zine said so, if you do...social media, I think, is the way to go. If you do that, can you forward it to us, and would we be able to forward it to our own contacts?*

*Mrs. Morgan said yup...mmhmm...absolutely.*

*Chairman Zine said that would be a good thing because that's wide reaching, I think. Alright.*

*Mr. Sieben said next week, it does say "if needed" but I thought we are going to...*

*(Laughing)*

*Mr. Sieben said we are meeting next Wednesday so keep it on your calendar. And I think we'll have the sidewalk...*

*Mrs. Morgan said the sidewalk...mmhmm...*

*Mr. Sieben said by then and hopefully a recommendation.*

*Mrs. Morgan said yeah.*

*Mr. Hoffman said the sidewalk? You're talking about pavers?*

*Mr. Sieben said yeah.*

*Mrs. Morgan said the pavers, yeah.*

*Chairman Zine said and you said that's 6 to 7 on the 13th?*

*Mrs. Morgan said yes.*

*Mr. Sieben said correct. At the Arts Center.*

*Chairman Zine said on the 1st floor...2nd floor?*

*Mr. Sieben said top floor.*

*Chairman Zine said top floor, alright.*

*Mr. Sieben said whatever floor that is. Whatever the top is...is that 2?*

*(Laughing)*

*Chairman Zine said I don't know what that is...3?*

*Mr. Sieben said or is that 3?*

*Mrs. Morgan said 3.*

*Mrs. Diaz said it is 3.*

*Chairman Zine said the DLP.*

*Mr. Vanadolik said any other questions, comments? I definitely appreciate your time. I know it was a lot to go through over 3 meetings and then the 4th next week, but your input is definitely valuable as we tie this up.*

*Chairman Zine said thank you for all the work you're putting in, to the Staff and you guys. I know it's a big undertaking, but I'm glad we're doing it.*

*Mr. Sieben said I know we're down 3 people. I think...I think one of them...*

*Mrs. Morgan said 2...*

*Mr. Sieben said we got 2?*

*Mrs. Morgan said yeah, so...umm...Megan Paul with Vero Design and Shannon...I can't think of her last name...*

*Mr. Sieben said Gutierrez.*

*Chairman Zine said Gutierrez? From Wyckwood? Oh, good. Nice. And that leaves one more vacancy then?*

*Mrs. Morgan said one more vacancy, yeah. And I know Brian had mentioned the new lady with the...*

*Mrs. Diaz said Tina.*



*Mr. Failing said Tina.*

*Mrs. Morgan said yeah.*

*Chairman Zine said do these need to be specific types of people like...*

*Mr. Sieben said 2 of them are open, but they have to be City resident or business owner downtown, and then I know one of the 3 also had to also be on the Public Art Commission, which...*

*Mrs. Morgan said Megan.*

*Mr. Sieben said Megan is also on the Public Art Commission, so she fills that thing and then the other 2 are more at-large.*

*Chairman Zine said so, the one that remains open is more or less an at-large one?*

*Mr. Sieben said right, yes.*

*Chairman Zine said okay, alright.*

*Mr. Failing said so, they would either have to be a City resident or a business owner?*

*Mr. Sieben said or a business owner in the district, I think is how it reads.*

*Chairman Zine said or property owner?*

*Mr. Sieben said property owner or business owner.*

*Mr. Failing said so then would an executive director of an organization count?*

*Mrs. Morgan said umm...I'll have to double check the language on that.*

*Mr. Failing said because if so, that would include Tina. If not, it would exclude her.*

*Mrs. Morgan said okay, yeah. I'll double check how we word the language.*

*Mr. Sieben said it should.*

*Mrs. Morgan said I would think it should, yeah, but...*

*Mr. Sieben said isn't that what you are? Are you also a resident? (to Mr. Failing)*

*Mr. Failing said uhh...no, I'm Aurora Downtown. Doesn't Aurora Downtown have a...?*

*Mr. Sieben said oh, is that what it is?*

*Mr. Failing said that's how I originally joined the Committee.*

*Mrs. Morgan said yeah.*

*Mr. Sieben said you're multi...you're multi, yeah. (Laughs)*

*Mr. Failing said yup, right.*

*Chairman Zine said alright, do you have any other announcements or anything?*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Mrs. Morgan said do we have the date for the December event?*

*Mr. Sieben said the Annual Dinner that we have...the Planning Commission, all the other Commissions, is Wednesday, the 13th of December and it'll be at Craft Urban again, just like last year. It'll be upstairs, I thought that went real well last year.*

*Chairman Zine said yeah, it was.*

*Mr. Sieben said it's a nice separate area, but with a little bar. You could also go down to the main bar if you want to.*

*Mr. Failing said what time...6?*

*Mr. Sieben said yeah, I think 6...what's that?*

*Mrs. Morgan said 6 to 9.*

*Mr. Sieben said 6 to 9, like last time.*

*Chairman Zine said and what are we calling that?*

*Mr. Sieben said the Commission Committee Annual Dinner.*

*Chairman Zine said okay.*

*Mr. Sieben said or Holiday Annual Dinner.*

*Mr. Failing said it's the Ed Sieben Appreciation Dinner.*

*Mr. Sieben said oh, yeah.*

*(Laughing)*

*Chairman Zine said I did like that location last year. That was nice.*

*Mr. Sieben said yeah, it worked out well.*

*Chairman Zine said and that was 6 to 7.*

*Everyone said 6 to 9.*

*Chairman Zine said 6 to 9.*

*Mr. Hoffman said is that open to spouses or significant others?*

*Mrs. Morgan and Mr. Sieben said yes.*

*Mr. Hoffman said maybe I can convince my wife to come with.*

*Mr. Sieben said and I think we're going to do the same as last year where we will charge \$10...*

*Mrs. Morgan said \$10 a person...*

*Mr. Sieben said and then the City will cover the remainder.*

*Chairman Zine said I...I didn't catch that.*

*Mr. Sieben said it'll be \$10 a person, but the City covers the rest of it. It's like \$42 a person. The City covers all but \$10.*

*Chairman Zine said oh, oh...fantastic.*

*Mrs. Morgan said and a cash bar.*

*Mr. Hoffman said it's been \$10 as long as I remember, in spite of inflation.*

*Mr. Sieben said they take credit cards.*

*(Laughing)*

*Chairman Zine said okay, excellent.*

*Mr. Sieben said alright, anything else, Todd?*

*Mr. Vanadolik said no, that's all. Appreciate the time.*

*Chairman Zine said does anybody else have any questions or announcements or anything? Thank you very much.*

*Mrs. Morgan said is there a motion to adjourn?*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE BY: Mr. Failing*

*MOTION SECONDED BY: Mr. Castrejon*

*Carried by voice vote.*

*Chairman Zine adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.*

**A motion was made by Mr. Failing, seconded by Mr. Castrejon, that this meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote.**

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR CURRENT AGENDAS:**

**<https://www.aurora-il.org/AgendaCenter>**