



MEMORANDUM

TO: William "Bill" Ware, Chairperson
Economic and Community Development Committee

FROM: William J. Heniff, AICP, Director of Community Development

DATE: October 7, 2009

SUBJECT: **Downtown Landscape Enhancement Recommendations**

At the Village Board meeting on September 17, 2009, staff presented a Downtown Lombard Landscape Enhancement Recommendations report prepared by Hitchcock Design. Included in the report is the following information:

- Identify key locations in which enhanced landscape design can contribute to improving the overall design aesthetic of the downtown;
- Develop recommendations as to appropriate landscape features on public property, public rights-of-way and private property;
- Offer a narrative and recommendations as to appropriate plant materials and structures for each of the identified locations;
- Offer cost estimates for implementing each of the identified elements; and
- For sites not specifically identified within the report, identify common design elements that should be carried through the downtown area.

The Village Board directed that the Downtown Landscape Enhancement Recommendations report be presented to various Committees and Commissions for review at their October meetings. Attached is a memorandum from the Village Manger to each of the Committees and Commissions identifying items to consider when reviewing the report. Specifically, the Economic and Community Development Committee was asked to consider the following:

"The Hitchcock report includes costs for the proposed improvements on private property but does not discuss the funding source for the proposed improvements . Staff has recommended that the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds to offset a portion of the cost of the improvements made by private property owners. As the ECDC has approval authority on major TIF grant funding activities, additional input regarding the overall landscape enhancement concept for the downtown is sought. The Committee has been asked to review how the existing Downtown Grant programs can be used to assist with and implement the enhancements. In the event that changes to the existing programs, or the development of a new grant program, are required, staff will work with the ECDC to make recommendations to the Village Board. "

Comments received from the ECDC will be combined with comments from other committees and commissions and will be forwarded to the Village Board for consideration.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the ECDC consider the following aspects when reviewing the Downtown Lombard Landscape Enhancement Recommendations report:

1. Does the ECDC support the use of TIF funds for landscape enhancements in the public right-of-way?
2. Does the ECDC support the use of TIF funds for landscape enhancements on private property through the use of Downtown Grant programs?
3. Are there any additional comments or recommendations the ECDC wishes to include in the Downtown Lombard Landscape Enhancement Recommendations report?