TWIN OAKS BOARD OF ALDERMEN NOTICE OF WORK SESSION TWIN OAKS CITY HALL WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020, 6:00 P.M. TWIN OAKS, MO 63021

To balance both the need for continuity of government and protection of the health and safety of our residents, business persons and employees, this meeting of the Board of Aldermen will not be open to public attendance *in person* but shall be accessible by the public by telephone (audio only) or by using their tablet/laptop/pc (audio/video) at:

 Telephone:
 (312) 626-6799

 Computer:
 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5197276201?pwd=SHZXODU1cGtKOWJNSTFUUFRSQnY5Zz09

 Webinar ID:
 519-727-6201

 Passcode:
 9YgwmB

The Board apologizes for any inconvenience these requirements may pose but it is extremely important all measures in compliance with the orders issued by public health authorities be taken to protect employees, residents, and elected officials during these extraordinary times.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 1. Assistance Program for Business Impacted by COVID-19
- 2. The Villages of Twin Oaks Inspection Report
- 3. Adjournment

Frank Johnson City Clerk

POSTED: November 30, 2020, 3 p.m.

Please note: Any person requiring physical or verbal accommodations should contact the city office 12 hours prior to meeting at 636-225-7873. Copies of public records for this agenda are available for public inspection before and at the time of the meeting.



Memo to:	Board of Aldermen
From:	Frank Johnson, City Clerk
Subject:	COVID-19 Relief Program for Businesses
Date:	November 25, 2020

BACKGROUND

At the Nov. 18 meeting, the Board expressed an interest in exploring options for providing financial relief to Twin Oaks businesses impacted by COVID-19, particularly restaurants that have been forced to stop all indoor dining due to public health orders issued by St. Louis County.

The Board suggested that one possible avenue for this would be to forgive or reimburse businesses for the business license taxes paid to the City. While the City can not disclose exact figures, staff can generally give you some idea of the impact such a measure would have.

- For the 10 restaurants located in the City, this would amount to an average of reimbursement of \$776 each. To reimburse all 10 restaurants, it would cost the City a total of \$7,769.
- In addition to the restaurants, there are two other retail business that pay a gross receipts tax as well as Schnucks and Walgreens. From a fairness standpoint, it may be unwise to arbitrarily exclude certain businesses from the program while reimbursing business license fees for, say, restaurants only. The criteria for qualifying for the reimbursement would have to clear and specific as to who qualifies and who does not.
- Generally speaking, the Missouri Constitution forbids the granting of public money to any
 private individual, association, or corporation. See Art. VI, Sec. 25. So, in order to legally develop
 such a grant program, the Board would have to legislatively determine that there is a "public
 purpose" such as economic development, as the Missouri courts have held that "the presence of
 a legitimate 'public purpose' makes society or the people of this state the direct beneficiary of
 the expenditures." Because you are dealing with public funds, strict accounting and grant
 program criteria and grant fund usage oversight must be in place prior to launching any such
 program.

St. Louis County Small Business Rapid Deployment Fund

Following the Board's meeting on Nov. 18, St. Louis County announced the Small Business Rapid Deployment Fund. This program provides financial assistance to small businesses and restaurants in St. Louis County, including those located within Twin Oaks.

The program provides \$5,000 grants to pay for operating expenses or business costs, including rent and payroll. Restaurants that have had to adapt to COVID-related public health restrictions can apply for \$5,000 grants to off-set related costs for things such as equipment for outdoor dining, heaters, tents, and curbside service.



The City has taken several steps to ensure business owners in Twin Oaks are aware of this program. Information about the program has been posted to the City website and Facebook page and sent out in an email to residents. In addition, the City will be mailing a letter with this information to every business address.

POTENTIAL ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATION

While the goal of assisting businesses in the City through this difficulty time is laudable, City staff and City Attorney caution the Board that, possibly,the public entities best equipped to provide that help are county, state and federal authorities—not thinly-staffed municipalities with (relatively) undersized unrestricted fund balances. Reasons for this include:

- The City has a limited budget and is facing an uncertain financial outlook. Tax receipts received in November are down significantly. The COVID-19 funds we received from the County are expressly prohibited for being used for such a purpose. Given our budget constraints, it's unlikely that we could provide relief in any meaningful amount.
- Any such program would require significant administrative and legal resources to develop, as the City would need to develop a criteria for giving out such grants and in what amount, and ensure that the criteria is both fair and targeted toward the specific businesses that need help.
- County, state and federal governments are better positioned to offer this assistance. Not only do they have greater resources to deliver more meaningful impact, they also already have existing staff, policies and procedures around grant making.

Measured against the relatively small amount of money that could potentially be provided to businesses and the concerns outlined above, a COVID-19 relief program administered by the City is not likely to be an effective use of public resources.

Inspection Item	Property Management Response	
In the parking canopy located in the southwest portion of the site has been repaired.	 Property management considering this an operational issue and will continue to get them fixed as needed. 	
ADA access is not provided. Extend the sidewalk to the pavement and slope sidewalk to meet pavement grade.	 After discussing the issue, Propper will prepare drawing that will connect the sidewalk four feet over to the asphalt and install ramp that leads north to the Commerce Bank sidewalk. 	



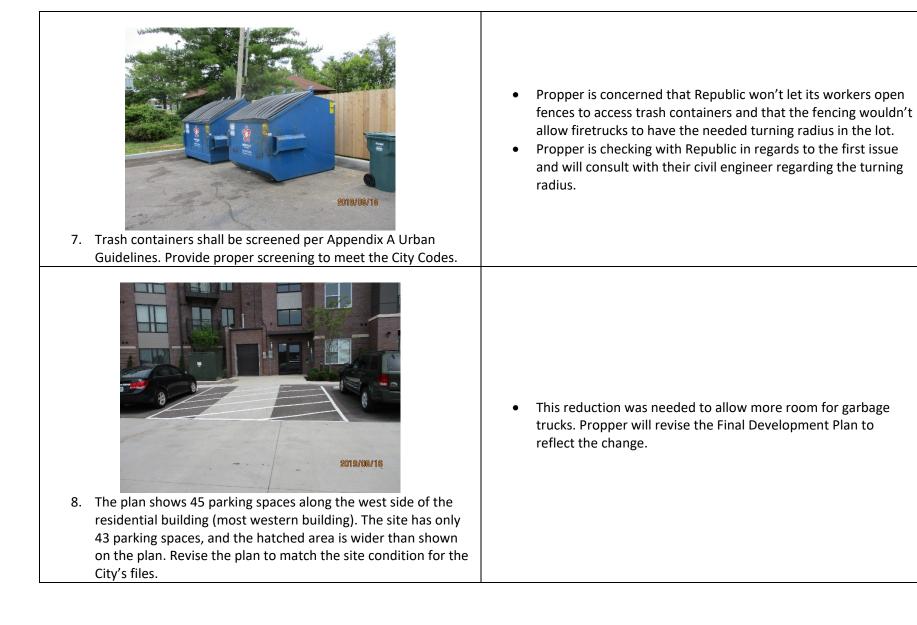
3. Backfill behind sidewalk to match grade.

- Propper noted that the walkability improvements requested by the City did not include backfilling/seeding this area. However, they are willing to work with us on this, if needed.
- City will inspect and notify Propper if work is required.



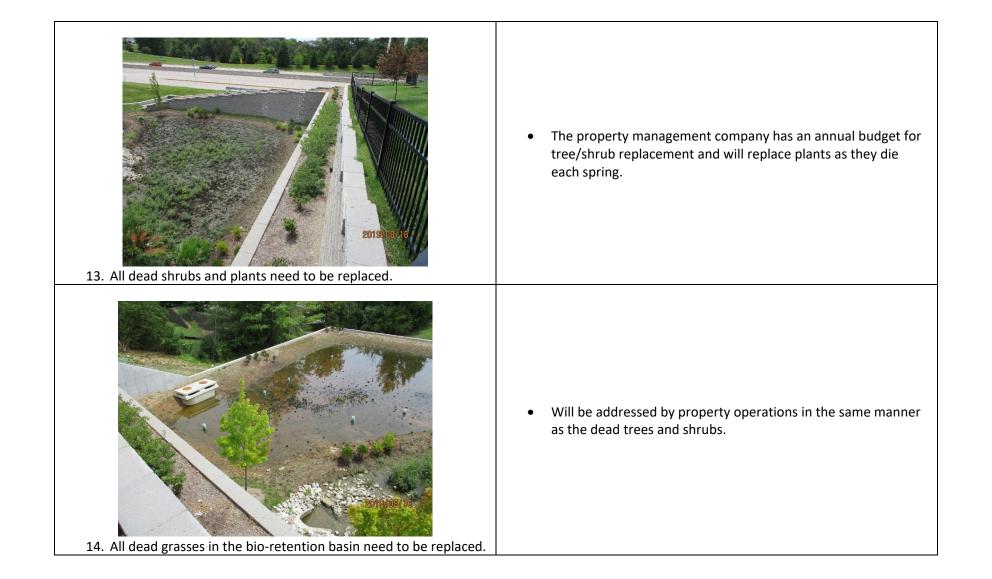
- 4. The drive isle was widened. Revise the plan to match the site condition for the City's files.
- Propper is working with their civil engineers to revise the Final Development Plan as requested. They will send it to us when finished.

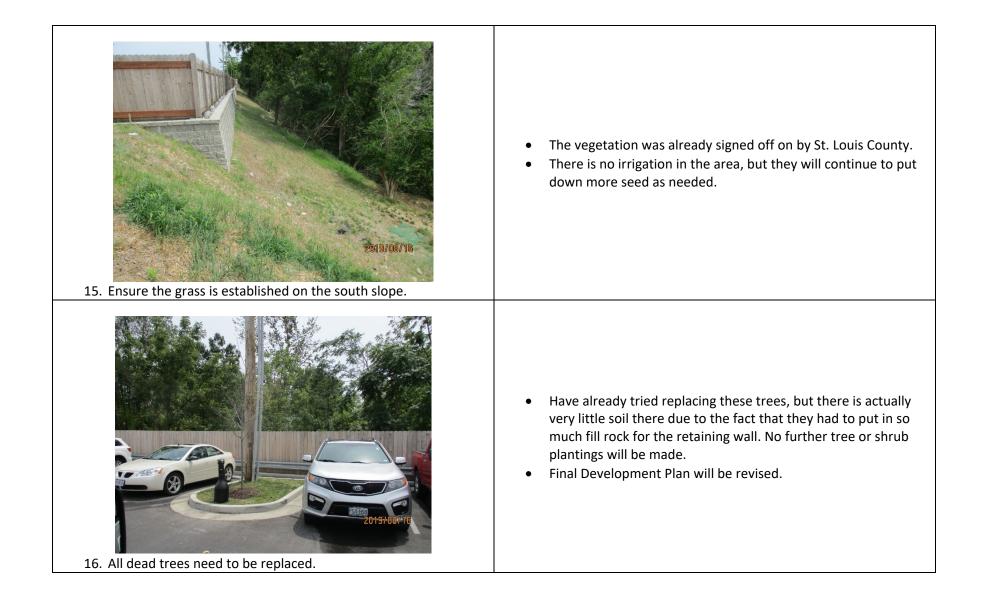














18. The plan shows 20 plants along the south side of the bioretention basin retaining wall. Install landscaping, which shall meet the number and size of trees as shown on the plan.



19. There is seepage along the south wall. Repair bio-retention basin to ensure stormwater is conveyed through the system. Submit signed and sealed repair plans for review.



20. Provide landscaping around the pylon sign and striping, per the plans.

- The bio-retention area was not designed to be 100% sealed. Propper installed a French drain to catch water and carrying it to an inlet on Anne Avenue.
- Asked to let them know anytime the City feels additional maintenance is needed.

• This is being addressed as part of the Dunkin development.