

THE PLAN COMMISSION
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 28, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plan Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. A quorum was present. Chairman James Caporusso, Patricia Letarte, Teresa Badillo, Giuliano Petrucci, Karen Special, Edward Cendejas, Jeff Eder (Director of Community Development/Zoning Administrator), Patrick Ainsworth (Intern for the Department of Community Development) and Lisa Manzo (Secretary). Absent: William Thorn.
3. Member Special made a motion to accept the minutes of October 26, 2011 as presented. Member Letarte seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Chairman Caporusso opened this meeting to the public at 7:05 p.m. No members from the public came forward at this time; therefore, Chairman Caporusso closed the hearing to the public.

4. Old Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea #2 (revised plan dated 12-14-11)
Chestnut Avenue

Mr. Ainsworth began the meeting by giving a brief overview regarding the parking studies that he had conducted in various “troubled areas” pertaining to parking within the Village limits. He stated that the memos that were distributed to the members summarize the inconsistencies within the Village code and exactly what signs are on the street. He continued that the job at hand is amending the Village Code and make sure that the signage that is erected on the street matches the Code. He further explained that within each memo are two parking study maps; one that shows the signage that exists today, and the other would be what he would recommend be there.

Mr. Eder asked Mr. Ainsworth if he had spoken with Phil Ruch with the Police Department and communicated these issues with him. Mr. Ainsworth has communicated via email with Phil Ruch and also with the Village Engineer.

The members discussed the recommendation that there be the installation of “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop” signs so that potential accidents may be avoided. Mr. Ainsworth stated that the signs will work most effectively on Schiller Boulevard.

Member Special asked about the costs for these new signs. Mr. Ainsworth stated that the erection of these signs would be done over a period of time.

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The cost for each sign would be approximately \$30 and it would be the time expended by the Street Department to erect the signs. Member Special asked if a traffic study was performed in this area. Mr. Eder stated that one has not been completed at this time.

The members discussed the “15-minute” parking that is located on Lincoln Street between Schiller and Minneapolis.

Member Letarte asked if a recommendation can be made to remove the “15 minute parking signs” on Dora Street between Chestnut Street and Schiller Boulevard. The members concurred.

Mr. Ainsworth discussed the recommendation to the members that “park zone” signs be erected and that all parks be designated “park zones”. These park zones will have their own regulations. The members concurred.

The members discussed the future stop light that may be erected on Grand Avenue and George Street. Mr. Ainsworth discussed the details and the research that went into this potential project.

5. New Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea 3- Downtown Area

Mr. Eder stated that at the last Village Board meeting, a Resolution passed that at Ruby, Pacific and Gage intersection, the street will be closed and stop signs will be put in their place. Based on the Village Engineer, by placing stop signs at Gate and Pacific, it will act identical as the stop sign at Scott and Pacific that is there presently.

Mr. Eder also discussed there is discussion taking place on making the street on Atlantic, between King and Pacific a two-way route. This is still in the early discussion stages.

Mr. Ainsworth recommended regulation “unification” of the area on Pacific Avenue between Ruby and Rose and all the cross streets in between.

Mr. Ainsworth distributed a parking scheme of the Metra lot and showing how the parking can be extended in the future. He stated that after further studies, there can be approximately 70 more parking spaces added.

The members discussed the pool parking issue.

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Chairman Caporusso stated that the recommendation should be item number two, which is located on page six of Mr. Ainsworth's memo outlines as bullet point number two. It lists various parking restrictions along with "3 hour parking from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m." restriction should be in place for all other portions of this area.

Mr. Jim Winje, a member of public, asked a question regarding the parking on Gage on the south side of the street. He is wondering why parking can't be on both sides of the street.

Mr. Ainsworth stated that one of the recommendations was to remove the "15 minute parking" signage on Gage. There was discussion on the Gage street issues, how it is narrow and that police, fire and street department vehicles need access.

Chairman Caporusso recommends tabling this current issue until the next meeting so the Fire Department can weigh in on why there should or should not be parking on Gage between Rose and Calwagner. The members concurred.

Member Letarte asked why there is a "yellow" area on Franklin Avenue between Rose and Ruby. She is asking why is there two hour parking. Mr. Eder questioned if it is because of the taverns along that road in the area. This is something that the members can discuss at length in the future.

6. New Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea 4 Grand Avenue Business district, Hawthorne to Rose

The members discussed the stop signs that are currently posted up in subarea 4. They were concerned if they needed to remain in place or not.

The members discussed the 15-minute parking signs located on Hawthorne between Schiller going south toward Grand, on Ruby Street going south toward Grand and on Calwagner and Gustave near St. Gertrude's Church. They ensued in detailed conversation regarding the pros and cons in having them there.

The members concurred that they would like a recommendation made to remove the 15-minute parking signs on Hawthorne beginning at Schiller Boulevard and proceeding south ceasing right before Grand Avenue.

The members also concurred that they would like a recommendation made to "unify" the two hour parking regulations from Calwagner to Emerson.

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The members discussed extensively the parking near St. Gertrude's Church, Hester Jr. High School and Passow Elementary School. They discussed how each school has their own parking regulations during the school day; how the busses run, how the student pick-up runs, etc.

The members continued discussion other parking "hot spots" on the residential blocks near Small World Learning Center and other businesses that parking "trickles" onto the residential streets.

The members decided that it would be beneficial to talk with the schools before any current signage is removed to get their point of view, in reference to subarea 3 and 4. The members concurred that this topic can be re-addressed at the next Plan Commission.

The members re-addressed that subarea 2 is completed, subarea 3 will be moved to the next meeting in January, and subarea 4 will be moved to the meeting in February in order for Mr. Eder to contact the schools.

Chairman Caporusso suggested that the members take a drive along these hot spots between now and the next meeting to see it first hand.

Mr. Eder stated that this is just the beginning. He stated that there will be more trouble areas that the Plan Commission will look into in the future.

7. Old Business: None

8. Member Letarte made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Plan Commission. It was seconded by Member Petrucci. The motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Manzo
Secretary