

THE PLAN COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 25, 2012 – 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, Teresa Badillo, Giuliano Petrucci, Karen Special, William Thorn, Edward Cendejas, Jeff Eder (Director of Community Development/Zoning Administrator), Patrick Ainsworth (Planner for the Department of Community Development) and Lisa Manzo (Secretary). Absent: Patricia Letarte.
3. Member Special made a motion to accept the amended minutes of December 28, 2011 as presented. Member Badillo 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. New Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea #3- A: Reeves Court to Franklin Avenue Metra Station

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.

Mr. Eder mentioned that another area of interest for parking is the 9800 block of Pacific Avenue. Mr. Eder continued that a recommendation be made that a sign be erected stating “no truck parking on north side”. All members concurred.

Mr. Ainsworth continued by discussing the “Street Sign Matrix Study #3-A” with the members. He went over this spreadsheet line by line to see if the members had any comments or questions or conflicts with “staff’s recommendations”.

Mr. Ainsworth stated that he had interviewed Battalion Chief Mark White regarding Gage Street. There was discussion whether parking can be granted on both sides of the street. Battalion Chief White stated that emergency vehicles have a hard time traveling down this street because it is very narrow. He doesn’t recommend parking on both

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sides of the street. Mr. Jim Winje came forward and questioned why there can't be parking on both sides of Gage.

There was discussion amongst the members regarding the traffic flow on Reeves Court. Mr. Ainsworth stated that there are talks that the street becomes a "one-way street" and asked the commission's pleasure on which way the traffic flow should be. Chairman Caporusso recommended that the resident's in this area have a voice in this matter and he doesn't want to make a decision on this until the resident's voices are heard.

Mr. Ainsworth discussed the Metra parking lot and his rendering of what the parking lot would look like in the future if it expanded. He further stated that it would be an appropriate use for pool patrons to park there as well. He continued that making the Metra lot bigger would ensure an addition 70 parking spaces. He stated that by expanding, it would mean the demolition of the Leyden News Agency.

A copy of the "Street Sign Matrix Study #3-A" will be attached to these minutes as the commission agrees with staff's recommendations. It will list all the trouble areas and the recommendations.

5. Old Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea #4 (Grand Avenue Business District, Hawthorne to 25th/Rose)

It was the commission's pleasure to table Old Business until the next meeting of Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. All members concurred.

There was discussion regarding the old Thompson Steel property adding the parking lot with an additional 130 more parking spaces.

Mr. Cendejas mentioned that the area of Grand Avenue between Scott and Mannheim Road be addressed in regard to traffic. He continued that the street lighting is poor and that people run across the middle of the street and are always close to being hit by cars on a regular basis. He also mentioned that turning left coming out of the Ace Hardware parking lot is very dangerous.

Mr. Eder suggested that staff contact the Fire Chief to assess which streets the emergency vehicles have a difficult time getting down.

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Mr. Eder suggested that the commission members view the T.O.D. study in the summer.

6. Old Business: None

7. Chairman Caporusso made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Plan Commission. It was seconded by Member Cendejas. The motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Manzo
Secretary