

THE PLAN COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2013 – 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. Teresa Badillo, William Thorn, Karen Special, Patricia Letarte, Chairman James Caporusso, Carla Argueta, Giuliano Petrucci, John Schneider (Director of Community Development) Patrick Ainsworth (Planner for the Department of Community Development), and Lisa Manzo (Secretary).
Absent:
3. Member Letarte made a motion to accept the minutes of November 28, 2012 as presented. Member Special seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. New Business: Discussion on Elm Street traffic flow with Village of Franklin Park Engineering staff.

Steve Scheffel, the Village Engineer came forward and discussed on the aerial photograph, the triangle crossing of Elm Street, Belmont and River Road. The members discussed various options for Elm Street depending on the use of the properties adjacent to it. There was discussion to close it entirely, to only allow access from the property owners along Elm, or to make it a one-way street, etc.

There was a consensus that the Village assesses any and all traffic reports and to see what the prospective property owner's plans are before making any determinations.

Mr. Scheffel re-capped the discussion among the members by stating that there are four (4) options regarding the Elm Street matter. 1. To just leave it alone. 2. That on Elm and River Road there be no right hand turn. 3. Have signage closer to River Road and there be no right hand turn. 4. Elimination of whole or part of the street.

Mr. Scheffel and Mr. Schneider were polling the members for their opinion on this subject, and there will be more discussion in the future regarding Elm Street.

THE PLAN COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2013

6. New Business: Discussion on miscellaneous Village projects related to Planning.

Mr. Schneider discussed with the members that the Village is planning to erect new signage stating: “Welcome to Franklin Park.” The existing signage is in different places, and he would like them to be at the borders of town where residents and businesses can see where Franklin Park begins and ends.

Mr. Schneider stated that there was a third Downtown Merchants Meeting with the business along Franklin Avenue. Member Letarte, who is part of the Downtown Merchants Association discussed a flyer being distributed showcasing the businesses along Franklin Avenue. It would be great exposure. Mr. Schneider and Mr. Ainsworth discussed the Facebook page that is dedicated to the businesses along Franklin Avenue.

Mr. Schneider discussed the cleaning up of Phase 2 of the Crossings. The lot next to the condos will be cleaned and manicured, hopefully to host some Spring and Summer events this year. There was discussion as to moving the Farmers Market to that area, having a craft show, a car show and various music events. It will bring people to Franklin Avenue to enjoy the entertainment, shops and peruse the food establishments.

Mr. Schneider talked about the Village working with Leyden High School in making wooden signage for Franklin Avenue. He continued that it would bring a “home town” feel back to the downtown area.

Mr. Schneider discussed the influx of new businesses coming to Franklin Park. He continued that there were over 50 new businesses opened in the Village within the last few months.

Mr. Schneider mentioned merging the Zoning Board and Plan Commission meeting to discuss future planning projects associated with the RTA and CMAP within the Village. The dates are to be determined.

Mr. Schneider discussed the two grants that were awarded to the Village and what benefits it will bring to town.

There was discussion among the members regarding the old and new Police Station.

THE PLAN COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2013

The members discussed the parking congestion by the Franklin Park Pool and the conversations the Village is having with the American Legion Hall to partner in providing extra parking.

Mr. Schneider discussed the topic of the intent to install a bike trail going through Franklin Park starting at Franklin Avenue and then going eastbound to the River. He stated that there would have to be a bike study performed and the Village intends to work with Schiller Park, Elmwood Park, for findings. This will be a benefit to Franklin Park.

Mr. Schneider discussed the resurfacing of Franklin Avenue and the intent to construct the bridge on Taft Avenue. This will help Franklin Park's businesses and it will generate an influx to the industrial base in that area. It will provide faster access to O'Hare as well.

7. Old Business: None.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Manzo
Secretary