

THE PLAN COMMISSION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 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, Patricia Letarte, Chairman James Caporusso, Giuliano Petrucci, William Thorn, Patrick Ainsworth (Planner for the Department of Community Development), Eric Richard (Assistant Planner) John Schneider (Director of Community Development), Mike Witz (Police Chief) and Lisa Manzo (Secretary). All members were present.
3. Member Letarte made a motion to accept the amended minutes of August 28, 2013 as presented. Member Petrucci seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. New Business: Noise Ordinance.

The members discussed the updated noise ordinance draft that was distributed to them. Mike Witz, Police Chief stated that once the noise ordinance is approved, the Police Department will enforce the Noise Ordinance by using a special sound meter called a Larson Davis PCB.

The members asked the Police Chief how many noise calls the department currently receives. Chief Witz stated as of today there have been minimal calls; possibly two (2) at best. Chief Witz continued that once the decibel level on the sound meter exceeds 72, then a citation will be issued.

Mr. Ainsworth discussed the revisions on the latest version of the Noise Ordinance such as on page three (3), item number four (4) outlining the word “continuously” in regard to “Yelling, shouting and the like...” He also stated that there was an added provision excluding block parties in the newest version as well.

The members reviewed the latest version of the Noise Ordinance at this time and seemed to be content with it.

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Member Petrucci made a motion to “approve the revised draft of the Noise Ordinance to be put forth to the Village Board for approval. Member Badillo seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. Member Letarte-Yes; Member Badilla-Yes; Member Thorn-Yes; Member Petrucci- Yes; Chairman Caporusso-Yes; Five (5) Ayes, Zero (0) Nays, Zero (0) Absent, Zero (0) Abstain. The motion was carried.

6. New Business: Discussion on Traffic/Parking Studies

Mr. Schneider stated that the discussion regarding traffic and parking within the Village’s hot spots will be coming back to the Plan Commission. The members discussed all the time and energy that has been put forth between them and Village Staff regarding this issue. Chief Witz stated that the department takes at least 9,000 parking calls per year on traffic and parking. Mr. Schneider stated that this topic has to start from scratch. He would like staff and the members to come up with at least three (3) to four (4) “hot spots” within the Village to start off with.

Chairman Caporusso asked the Chief where the residents’ calls coming from. Chief Witz stated that the calls that they are receiving are from all over the Village. Chairman Caporusso stated that the parking signage that is posted all over the Village is looking haggard and deteriorated. Chief Witz stated that the Police Department is issuing placards to residents that have guests stay overnight.

7. New Business: Discussion on miscellaneous Village Projects related to Planning.

Mr. Schneider discussed that the Metra Parking Station and that new electric meters have been installed. He continued that he is in the process of hiring a landscape architect for physical improvements on the property. He stated that the money from the meters will go directly back into the property.

Mr. Ainsworth stated that there are new businesses opening up within the Village. He discussed that Japan Airlines will be leasing spaces on Irving Park Road, Showtime Fitness has expanded at 9100 Belden from Unit B into Unit A.

Mr. Schneider stated that the “End of Summer Fest” was a huge success. They had a great turnout and the Village would like to do it again next year.

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Mr. Ainsworth discussed that there will be a Career Fair at East Leyden High School on November 6, 2013. This will be the fourth year that the Village will be involved. He invited all the members to come out and enjoy this event.

Mr. Schneider discussed the recent sale of the Grand Plaza Shopping Mall on Grand Avenue across the street from the Jewel. The new owners plan on doing a full exterior renovation of the property.

Mr. Schneider asked Mr. Richard to report on the new Bus Shelter project. Mr. Richard stated that staff is in the process of getting proposals to erect new bus shelters within the Village limits. A “request for proposal” is going out shortly for this project.

Mr. Schneider stated that River Grove has now become part of the Franklin Park/Schiller Park Chamber of Commerce. The Village welcomes River Grove as part of the Chamber!

8. Old Business: None.

9. 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 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Manzo
Secretary