

THE PLAN COMMISSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2019

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plan Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. A quorum was present. Chairman Patricia Letarte, Mike Rickert, Alma Montenegro, Linda Suwalski, Ryan Adriatico (Planner), Nicholas Walny (Planner) and Lisa Manzo (Plan Secretary). Absent: Teresa Badillo and Daniel Particelli.
3. Member Rickert made a motion to accept the minutes of October 23, 2019 as presented. Member Suwalski seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. New Business: Discussion of Bicycle Improvement Initiatives

Mr. Adriatico began the meeting with a power point presentation discussing the Bicycle Infrastructure and Improvement Initiatives.

Mr. Adriatico stated that implementing bike networks strongly supports the Village's commitment to creating a safe and efficient community. It connects students to schools, residents to the downtown and families to park and entertainment destinations. It promotes complete streets, where landscaping and bike lanes are added to improve community mobility. He continued to speak about neighborhood bike routes by stating that there will be shared lane markings with signage going from Scott Street from Fullerton to Addison; Calwagner and Edgington from Grand to King and Elm Street from Grand to Belmont. There will be reduced speed through residential neighborhoods. Completion should be the Fall of 2019.

Mr. Walny discussed the Des Plaines River Trail at this time. He stated that the project plans to replace dangerous mid-block crossings and flood-prone underpasses with signalized intersections or overpasses. To re-route low-lying segments to higher ground. Extend the trail past North Avenue to the Illinois Prairie Path. It will increase connectivity to communities and residents. To upgrade the path from dirt to a more durable surface as well as installing amenities such as benches, signage and lighting.

THE PLAN COMMISSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Member Rickert suggested that the members follow the app on Facebook: “friendsofthedesplainsrivertrail”.

Mr. Adriatico continued to discuss the Comprehensive Plan to the members at this time. He stated their goals and recommendations would be to encourage developers and property owners to consider bike, pedestrian and transit circulation. (Sidewalks, crossings, bicycle parking, and pedestrian-orientated signage) It will create more local bikeways. He continued that there are proposed improvements; however, they are not yet implemented, such as: for Belmont Avenue: a multiuse side path between the police station and Des Plaines River Road as well as connectivity to the Des Plaines River Trail. Franklin Avenue (Downtown): realignment to facilitate bike lanes.

Mr. Adriatico continued that they would install bike infrastructure; to capitalize on the Village’s grid street patterns and encourage cyclist travel as well as implementation of bike lanes, signed bike routes, sharrows, pedestrian refuge islands and off street paths.

Mr. Walny stated that there is a regional network between the local communities to make connections to bike networks in adjacent towns. Bensenville, River Grove and Melrose Park are among the communities which have recently completed and adopted bike plans. Franklin Park should attempt to connect to those routes and follow CMAP and Active Transportation Alliance’s Regional Trail Plan.

Mr. Adriatico discussed the Franklin Avenue and Belmont Connector in regard to the Des Plaines River Trail. He stated that following along Franklin and Belmont Avenues, there will be a connection between the Des Plaines River Trail and DuPage County. On-street bike lanes or shared lane markings through downtown and residential neighborhoods. Off-street multi-use paths through industrial corridors and east of Village Hall. They are currently applying for funding on the Franklin Avenue reconstruction as well.

Mr. Adriatico thanked the members for their participation this evening.

THE PLAN COMMISSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2019

6. Old Business: None.

7. Staff Update:

Mr. Adriatico stated that the Zoning Code Re-write is in process with the consultants. They are very excited and looking forward to the next steps. He also stated that the public portion of the process will be coming up very soon and notification will be sent.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M Manzo

Lisa M. Manzo
Plan Commission Secretary