

THE PLAN COMMISSION

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plan Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

A quorum was present. Chairman Patricia Letarte, William Thorn, Teresa Badillo, Daniel Particelli, Eric Richard (Planner), Zoe Heidorn (Planner) and Lisa Manzo (Secretary). Absent: Giuliano Petrucci and Alma Montenegro.

2. Member Letarte made a motion to accept the minutes of June 22, 2016 as presented. Member Badillo seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. New Business: Franklin Park Complete Streets Policy

Ms. Heidorn welcomed the members in attendance. Each person introduced himself or herself to the group. Individuals in attendance included a representative from Leyden High School District 212, Village Trustees, staff from the Village Departments of Community Development and Zoning, Public Works and Engineering, and Nancy Wagner and Hanna Kite of the Active Transportation Alliance. Ms. Wagner and Ms. Kite announced that they would provide a brief presentation to the attendees.

Ms. Heidorn stated that the Village of Franklin Park was selected to receive a Complete Streets Policy from the Active Transportation Alliance, on behalf of the Cook County Department of Public Health. She explained that a Complete Streets Policy is a tool to ensure that future street and corridor projects in Franklin Park are designed to encourage active transportation by incorporating features that accommodate not only freight and vehicular traffic, but pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users of all ages and abilities. More can be learned about Complete Streets on the Active Transportation Alliance's website at <http://atpolicy.org/resources/design-guides/complete-streets-complete-networks-design-guide/>.

Ms. Heidorn stated that the Village would like the Plan Commission to serve as the base of the Steering Committee for this project, accompanied by a variety of community stakeholders. Responsibilities of the Complete Streets Policy Steering Committee will include:

- Providing direction and feedback at every critical step of the process;

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- Reviewing interim deliverables as the policy is developed; and
- Promoting the Complete Streets Policy to members of the community.

In addition to the Plan Commission members, the Steering Committee will be comprised of appointed and elected officials and other community stakeholders. The Steering Committee meetings will generally be held during the regularly scheduled Plan Commission meetings over the next 5 to 6 months.

Ms. Heidorn invited Ms. Wagner and Ms. Kite to come forward at this time. Ms. Kite gave a presentation to the Steering Committee, stating that the Village of Franklin Park was selected to receive a Complete Streets Police from Active Transportation Alliance, on behalf of the Cook County Department of Public Health. She explained the benefits of a Complete Streets Policy. Benefits include improved resident and commuter health, economic growth, and improved social interaction and community cohesion. Ms. Kite defined active transportation as including walking, biking and public transit. By adopting a Complete Streets Policy, Franklin Park residents could expect to take more steps per day and significantly improve their overall physical health. She stated that Franklin Park's Complete Street Policy would create safe alternatives for people who cannot or choose not to drive.

Ms. Kite stated that more than 700 U.S. jurisdictions have adopted complete streets policies, with over 7,000 participants from across the nation. Ms. Kite reviewed the steps to completing a Complete Streets Policy, which include the following: Technical Assistance Process, Steering Committee Formation, Board Presentations, Policy Development, Policy Review and Adoption of the Policy.

Mr. Schneider stated that Franklin Park is already a relatively walkable city. He is in the process of working with Mayor Barrett Pedersen, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and neighboring municipalities to construct a paved Des Plaines River Trail and connect it with a new bike trail through the Village.

Member Letarte asked Ms. Wagner and Ms. Kite how long the Complete Streets Policy process typically takes. Ms. Wagner responded that it generally takes six (6) months to one (1) year for the development portion of the policy, but the implementation portion is a bit longer, approximately a year to several.

Ms. Heidorn and Mr. Schneider thanked them for attending this evening.

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5. Old Business: Franklin Park Comprehensive Plan Update

Ms. Heidorn stated that a consultant was recently hired by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to develop bike/pedestrian recommendations, to be included as a robust section in the Franklin Park Comprehensive Plan. The Complete Streets Policy will serve as an overlay to the specific recommendations for a bike/pedestrian framework. The Village of Franklin Park plans to receive a draft of the Comprehensive Plan within the next month.

6. Staff Update.

Mr. Schneider stated that on October 7th, students from Leyden High Schools are participating in an all-day field trip to Triton College to learn about the industrial trades and manufacturing. Staff from Community Development and Zoning will accompany the students to Triton for a presentation, then take tours of the manufacturing facilities of Sloan Valve, Lift Fitness and Sureway Tool.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Manzo
Secretary