

THE PLAN COMMISSION MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2019

1. The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plan Commission was called to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. A quorum was present. Chairman Patricia Letarte, Mike Rickert, Daniel Particelli, Linda Suwalski, Teresa Badillo, Ryan Adriatico (Planner), Rudy Repa (Intern) and Lisa Manzo (Plan Secretary). Absent: Alma Montenegro.
3. Member Badillo made a motion to accept the minutes of June 26, 2019 as presented. Member Rickert seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. New Business: Discussion of New Uses in Village Districts – Downtown Franklin Park

Mr. Adriatico began the meeting with seating the members in a round table-like forum. The Ariel map of Downtown Franklin Park was in the center so that the members can have a hands on view of the area in question for today's meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was a planning session so that the members can discuss and assess what uses they would like to see along Franklin Avenue as far as future land uses. This input will be used and forwarded over to the new Village Consultant that will be re-writing the Zoning Code in the future. He asked the members to think of different uses to revitalize the Downtown District. What can be infused in the District? Mr. Adriatico stated that the downtown area focuses on retail plus residential.

The members had many ideas for Franklin Avenue. They discussed the positive aspects to Franklin Avenue. The members stated that the idea of a higher class residential rental with attached or enclosed parking would be an idea. They stated that unique boutiques will bring a trendy quality to the area as well as better lit signage and advertising the downtown area. They mentioned that creating a slogan for the downtown would be eye catching as well as creating a "brand" for the downtown.

The members mentioned the thought of an old fashioned ice cream parlor, a family restaurant, a dry cleaners, as well as a small movie theatre (like Classic Cinemas has in Elmhurst and Downers Grove) as well as a live theatre, can be a draw. Another creative idea was to erect a Railroad Museum since Franklin Park is a railroad Village. People and railroad enthusiasts would love to frequent a Railroad Museum as a large number of participants come out to Railroad Daze every year.

The members discussed the idea of hiring a public relations firm to market, advertise and entice businesses to come to Franklin Park.

Member Letarte stated that a possible marketing idea is to say that Franklin Park's addition of Digital Realty's campus to town shows that we are the "cloud" capital with an abundance of fiber optic/logistic businesses in the Village.

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Member Letarte asked for a copy of the ariel map for each member to have in case they think of ideas after the meeting. They can log their ideas later. Mr. Walny stated that they can email the members the “PDF” to them.

Member Rickert stated that Franklin Park is known for the planes and trains and could be marketed that way as well. He continued that Franklin Park should market toward the young professionals, as we are close to the trains, airport and expressways.

Mr. Adriatico gave an idea to bring the public art aspect to the Village. Bring local artists to display their murals, which would create gathering places around town.

The members mentioned creating a catchy slogan for the downtown area to draw public interest.

6. Old Business: None.

7. Staff Update:

Mr. Repa stated that he’s been working on the Des Plaines River Trail Project which will run from Wisconsin to South Cook to Will to DuPage to Kane Counties. During Phase 1 of the project, some of the areas will be re-routed. There is also a “Friends of Group” for the Des Plaines River Trail on Facebook.

8. Member Rickert 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 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M Manzo

Lisa M. Manzo
Plan Commission Secretary