

THE PLAN COMMISSION
MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2012 – 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. Chairman James Caporusso, Teresa Badillo, Patricia Letarte, Karen Special, Carla Argueta, Patrick Ainsworth (Planner for the Department of Community Development) and Lisa Manzo (Secretary). Absent: Giuliano Petrucci and William Thorn.
3. Member Letarte made a motion to accept the minutes of January 25, 2012 as presented. Member Argueta seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Chairman Caporusso opened this meeting to the public at 7:05 p.m. No members from the public came forward at this time; therefore, Chairman Caporusso closed the hearing to the public.

4. New Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea #3- B:

Mr. Ainsworth began the meeting by giving a brief overview regarding the parking studies that he had conducted in various “troubled areas” pertaining to parking within the Village limits. He stated that the memos that were distributed to the members summarize the inconsistencies within the Village code and exactly what signs are on the street. He continued that the job at hand is amending the Village Code and make sure that the signage that is erected on the street matches the Code.

Mr. Ainsworth discussed the Traffic and Parking Study as Presented to the Plan Commission for the February 2012 Meeting. It consists of various studies and observations conducted by Zoning and Planning Staff.

Chairman Caporusso stated for the record that he would like to move for signage to be installed at various parks throughout the Village. They shall be classified as “Park Zones”. There are certain regulations that vehicles need to adhere to in park zones. For example, there is no cell phone usage, lower speed limits, etc. The other members of the Plan Commission concur with the Chairman’s recommendation.

Mr. Ainsworth discussed the parking area behind 9490 Franklin Avenue. (Sirman) He stated that it is Metra parking. He continued that in the future if the Metra lot on 25th Avenue is expanded, the current lot behind Sirman can be used as special permit parking.

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Mr. Ainsworth discussed the tentative plans regarding Phase II of the Crossings at Franklin Station. There were various questions regarding construction and parking made by the Plan Commission, however, Mr. Ainsworth stated that the project is in its conceptual phase currently and there are not definitive answers yet.

There were questions and conversations regarding the LaSalle Bank site on 25th Avenue, also the vacant lot at Pacific Avenue and Ruby Street, and the site of the current Police Station.

Chairman Caporusso entertained a motion to recommend approval the 15 parking spots behind 9490 Franklin Avenue as long term permit parking.

Member Letarte made a motion to recommend to the Village Board Memo Parking Study Area 3-B. Member Badillo seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. Member Letarte-Yes; Member Argueta-Yes; Member Special-Yes, Member Badillo-Yes; Chairman Caporusso-Yes. Five (5) Ayes, Zero (0) Nays, Two (2) Absent. The motion was carried.

Mr. Ainsworth suggested tabling the next three items on the agenda. He mentioned the Memo on Subarea 5 to be moved to the next meeting. He continued that the Occupancy/New Business Requirements be tabled to the meeting in May so that more research can be conducted and survey of other Villages.

Chairman Caporusso discussed that all the Plan Commission members are required to take the Open Meetings Act Training class by the end of the year by law. Member Argueta is required to take the class by May, 2012 because she is a new member of the Commission. Chairman Caporusso also reminded the members that they should file their Ethics statements to the county. An email link was sent to all the members.

5. Old Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea 3-A: Reeves Court to Franklin Avenue Metra Station

Mr. Ainsworth discussed this memo with the members and let them know that he attended a meeting with the residents of Reeves Court regarding the future expansion and resurfacing. He continued that the residents were not in favor of turning Reeves into a two way street, so it will remain one way. He discussed various issues with the project to the members.

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Mr. Ainsworth discussed this memo at length and revisited the sites listed in this memo pertaining to the Metra Station parking lot, the parking at the Pool on Pacific, East Leyden High School, the Gage and Ruby Partial Intersection Closing and the information regarding Reeves Court.

Member Letarte made a motion to recommend to the Village Board Memo Parking Study Area 3-A. Member Special seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. Member Letarte-Yes; Member Argueta-Yes; Member Special-Yes, Member Badillo-Yes; Chairman Caporusso-Yes. Five (5) Ayes, Zero (0) Nays, Two (2) Absent. The motion was carried.

6. Old Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea #4 (Grand Avenue Business District, Hawthorne to 25th/Rose) Memo of 12-14-11

Mr. Ainsworth discussed this memo regarding the school areas and the various parking restrictions placed upon them. He also touched upon parking along Grand Avenue. He did ask that the bottom of page five (5) and all of page six (6) be stricken from the record at this time.

Mr. Ainsworth discussed that he met with Mr. Ron Kanaverskis of District 84. They discussed concerns for the schools (Passow Elementary and Hester Jr High) and it was the intention of the District to sublet 15 parking spaces, this will open up Gustave and 25th Avenue on the south side of the street. These 15 parking spaces will be shared with both schools.

Member Letarte made a motion to recommend to the Village Board Memo Parking Study Area 4 dated December 14, 2011. Member Special seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote. Member Letarte-Yes; Member Argueta-Yes; Member Special-Yes, Member Badillo-Yes; Chairman Caporusso-Yes. Five (5) Ayes, Zero (0) Nays, Two (2) Absent. The motion was carried.

At this time it was the recommendation of Chairman Caporusso to move back to New Business to entertain item number two (2) on the agenda, which is Parking Plan/Study, Subarea 5; Northeast Quadrant of Franklin Park. The members so moved.

7. New Business: Parking Plan/Study, Subarea 5; Northeast Quadrant of Franklin Park.

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Mr. Ainsworth discussed Memo of Subarea 5. He delved into the Street sign Matrix Study #5 and made three minor typographical changes.

The members discussed various issues within the memo pertaining to North School Parking/Gage Street, Park Zones, and the River Road/Robinson Road corner. The members discussed that the students need to have safe routes to school.

Mr. Ainsworth discussed the possibility that there may be a traffic signal erected on the corner of Robinson and River Road in the future. As of now, there is no timetable of specifics.

It was the intention of the members to move this memo entitled Parking Plan/Study, Subarea 5; Northeast Quadrant of Franklin Park to the next meeting of the Plan Commission in May for further review and discussion.

8. Old Business: None

Mr. Ainsworth and the members discussed bike paths being created within the Village and that the members should ride their bikes around the Village and see where they would like to see more bike path. There was also miscellaneous discussion that it would be a nice idea to have a dog park in the Village. It brings the community together.

Chairman Caporusso stated in light of the progress made through the agenda items this evening, the next meeting of the Plan Commission scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2012 be canceled. Chairman Caporusso suggested that Lisa Manzo email all the Plan Commission members as soon as possible and let them know about the canceled meeting.

7. 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 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Manzo
Secretary