

THE PLAN COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2025

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, Alma Montenegro, Natasha Brown Harris, Linda Suwalski, Kay Frey, Lisa Manzo (Secretary), Ryan Adriatico (Senior Planner) and Rudy Repa (Planner). Absent: Teresa Badillo.
3. Member Montenegro made a motion to accept the minutes of November 20, 2024, as presented. Member Frey seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.
4. Public Comment: None.

The Plan Commission welcomed its newest member Natasha Brown Harris to the committee. Welcome!

5. New Business: Presentation from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) – Grand Corridor Study Introduction

Mr. Adriatico and Mr. Repa introduced Lily Brack, Project Manager of CMAP to the members at this time. Ms. Lily began a presentation to the members of the status of the Grand Avenue Corridor Plan. She went over the planning process timeline from when it began in the summer of 2023 and expects the final draft to be released approximately February of 2025. She explained that there was robust community outreach which included canvassing, attending various events throughout the years as well as three steering committee meetings.

Ms. Brack described the plan structure which included seven goals, nineteen recommendations and ninety-six strategies. All would be outlined within the plan.

Some goals that were discussed this evening were presented as follows:

- Goal 1: Create a unified corridor.
- Goal 2: Ensure Grand Avenue is resilient to changing market conditions.
- Goal 3: Improved transportation.
- Goal 4: Safety.
- Goal 5: Diversify housing along Grand Avenue.
- Goal 6: Leverage to promote climate resilience in Franklin Park.
- Goal 7: Improve quality of & access to natural assets.

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Member Brown Harris questioned if there was any push back or concerns from the public or other bodies relative to the plan. Ms. Brack stated that there were some questions and concerns; for example: “will it make traffic congestion worse?” “housing concerns”, “tree accessibility”. Ms. Brack continued that by addressing those questions and concerns will show those remedies within the draft.

Chairman Letarte thanked Ms. Brack and the CMAP staff for their hard work thus far and creating a thorough presentation.

6. Old Business: None.

7. Staff Update: None.

Chairman Letarte stated on behalf of her and the entire commission thanked the Village for the fabulous village plaza that was constructed at the corner of Franklin Avenue and 25th. It is a perfect entryway to the downtown and provides an attractive look to the Village.

8. Member Montenegro made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Plan Commission. It was seconded by Member Brown Harris. The motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M Manzo

Lisa M. Manzo
Plan Commission Secretary