

MINUTES

Community and Economic Development Commission
Village of La Grange

November 1, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

A meeting of the Community and Economic Development Commission was held on November 1, 2007 in the Lower Level Conference room of the Village Hall at 53 South La Grange Road, La Grange, IL and was convened at 7:32 p.m. by Chairperson Taylor Jaeger.

Present: (and constituting a quorum): Commissioners Laven, Palmer, Nowak, O'Connor, Carlson, Reich, Stiles and Williams with Chairperson Jaeger presiding.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village President Elizabeth Asperger, Trustee Mark Langan, Village Manager Robert J. Pilipiszyn, Assistant Village Manager Andri Peterson and Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin.

II. INTRODUCTION – CHARGE TO COMMISSION

At the beginning of the meeting Chairperson Jaeger asked that each Commissioner introduce themselves. Following introductions, President Asperger related what the purpose of the Commission was indicating that while a great deal of attention has been paid upon the Central Business District she would like the new Community and Economic Development Commission to redirect to all business districts and the inner relationships of those districts to the residential areas around them. She also encourages Commissioners to be receptive how residents in their particular areas feel about changes to the commercial areas as well as the residential. She further encouraged Commissioners to reach out to folks who would represent the community as a whole. As the Commission considers items brought before them either by the Village Board of Trustees or staff the Commissioners should consider the thoughts of their neighbors. It was further explained that this is an advisory body to the Village Board and that requests for input could come from the Village Board or Village staff on various issues.

There was a brief introduction as to the Trustee Liaison's role as well as items relating to the Open Meetings Act, ex-parte communications and economic disclosure statements. It was also reminded that the best way to keep in touch as far as other meetings in the Village is to sign up for Village News at www.villageoflagrange.com.

III. BUSINESS AT HAND:

Chairperson Jaeger introduced the first topic for discussion by the Commission. Specifically, two questions:

1. Does the CEDC believe that the La Grange Theatre is a community asset?
2. Is it appropriate to utilize public funds for the preservation of the theatre?

Extensive discussion ensued regarding the first question and it was the consensus of the CEDC that indeed, just as stated in the Comprehensive Plan, the La Grange Theatre is a community asset worth protecting. To that point there was a general consensus that members of the Commission felt that they would be surprised to hear of someone who would not think it was a community asset and would be interested to hear that point of view if it existed.

As to the second question, discussion generally ensued around preservation of the building and the infrastructure of the building versus operational aspects. There seemed to be consensus that was appropriate for the Village to assist in preserving the infrastructure. Another important point that was established was that many who are handicapped are unable to utilize the theatre in its present condition. This is an impediment which should be considered.

A key element for the Commissioners was the business plan. How would it make sense for the Village to participate in the rehabilitation of the La Grange Theatre? Several Commissioners remarked that they will plan on attending the November 12th Village Board session observing the further discussion of the owners of the theatre and the Village Board.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to come before the Community and Economic Development Commission, the meeting of November 1, 2007 was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patrick D. Benjamin
Community Development Director