

MINUTES

Community and Economic Development Commission
Village of La Grange

March 13, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

A meeting of the Community and Economic Development Commission was held on March 13, 2008 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: Trustee Mark Langan, Assistant Village Manager Andri Peterson, Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin and Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros.

II. BUSINESS AT HAND – WEST END PARKING:

Approximately 15 participants shared their thoughts and concerns regarding either their existing buildings or businesses. We asked the building and business owners to identify concerns or challenges as it related to parking on the West End.

Issues expressed seem to fall into two categories, 1) those that could be resolved in a short term fashion; and 2) longer term planning issues for the future of the West End Business district. Current issues of concern that might be able to be resolved in the short term include the following:

- Timing of meters and most especially the fact that students were occupying a number of the metered spaces.
- Too many long term meters being located in the West End Business District not accommodating shoppers.
- Signage was not clear and the newly redeveloped parking spaces in the 800 and 900 Block of Hillgrove.
- Lastly, with businesses beginning to expand and the 512 Burlington building becoming fully occupied, there is a need for long term employee parking spaces.

There was a general feeling that there is an inadequate existing supply of parking for new retail growth that will be experienced in the West End, *Bongo Lounge*, etc. There was also a desire to identify opportunities to provide, especially for employees, parking on the West End. The possibility of exploring current vacant spaces that could either be purchased or develop lease arrangements (17 N. Brainard was mentioned) to relocate parking. There is a strong desire by the Commission to

engage an outside consultant in parking and/or circulation study as soon as possible to prepare for future business growth in the West End business district.

It was suggested that Patrick Benjamin would brief the Village department heads on these concerns, challenges and suggestions and obtain feedback regarding some of these recommendations to present at our next meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to come before the Community and Economic Development Commission, the meeting of March 13, 2008 was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patrick D. Benjamin
Community Development Director