

MINUTES

Community and Economic Development Commission
Village of La Grange

May 8, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

A meeting of the Community and Economic Development Commission was held on May 8, 2008 in the Lower Level Conference room of the Village Hall at 53 South La Grange Road, La Grange, IL and was convened at 7:35 p.m. by Chairperson Taylor Jaeger.

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

Absent: Commissioner Williams.

Also Present: Trustee Mark Langan and Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion by Commissioner Palmer and second by Commissioner Stiles, the Minutes of the March 13, 2008 Community and Economic Development Commission meeting were approved as typed and distributed.

III. BUSINESS AT HAND – CONTINUATION OF WEST END PARKING DISCUSSION:

Mr. Benjamin touched upon the three areas of focus on the short term horizon that were recommended by the Commission: First, examining signage on Hillgrove Avenue in the 900 and 1000 Block to better provide customers where decal parking exists. Public Works has been entrusted to look at this and make changes as necessary.

Second, was the introduction of an exhibit indicating where the multiple family districts were south of Burlington Avenue that might be utilized for the west end business district parking. An examination by staff revealed that the two hour parking in this area is significantly under utilized during the day and could afford long term parking in addition to the two hour parking for customers. After general discussion it was agreed that the Community and Economic Development Commission would recommend the changing of signage to allow for west end business district parking on Spring and Waiola Avenues where multiple family buildings exist.

There was a concern raised by Commissioner Laven that some of the multiple family residents may ultimately need longer term parking on the street. After thorough discussion it was agreed that we would wait to see what the impact was of allowing the business parking to exist and if there was an individual request for longer term parking we would examine it at that time.

Third, discussion proceeded regarding the 20 metered spaces directly in front of Stone Avenue Station, right at the curb along Burlington Avenue at Waiola. The Village Manager had requested Community and Economic Development Commission input on these spaces as to how they might be better designated.

After significant discussion it was agreed that a two hour designation for these spaces would be highly recommended by the CEDC to accommodate current shoppers and customers as well as those anticipated in the future with the opening of a restaurant in this area. One suggestion that was raised regarding the feeding of meters and shuffling of cars by students and their parents during the school day, the idea of a “super ticket” that is currently utilized in Hinsdale. That is if an individual receives more than a few tickets a “super ticket” with a higher monetary value could be assigned. Lieutenant Vic Arnold, who was in the audience, indicated that they do often see parents of students coming in to feed meters and this bank of 20 spaces is very close to the school. Upon further suggestion it was advised by the Community and Economic Development Commission to take a look at some of the decal parking Zoned “D” spaces in the 900 to 1000 Block of Hillgrove Avenue to see if these could be shifted further to the west and create more two hour parking for customers since that area continues to receive pressure.

The Community and Economic Development Commission also wanted to reiterate to the Village Manager and Board that the long term parking study should be initiated sooner rather than later and it should include an examination of the potential of purchasing the long vacant auto parts store on Brainard Avenue for additional service parking.

The Commissioners also inquired as to how long it would take to initiate some of the short term changes that were discussed this evening. It was indicated that it was our hope within 30 to 45 days we could have a resolution to the redesignation of spaces.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners inquired as to the status of the La Grange Theatre. It was explained by Mr. Benjamin that this is largely in the Village Board’s hands and that they have been engaging in discussions on financial analysis with the owners and we hope to have resolution soon. Trustee Palermo, who was in attendance, also gave further guidance indicating the Village Board was trying to establish what the fire code regulations might be in relation to any improvements and what the total cost for the project might be.

Another question from Kevin Allodi, owner of 1 South Waiola, asked when streetscape improvements might be coming to Burlington Avenue in the west end. Mr. Benjamin indicated that we would have to investigate what, if any, plans currently exist for this project. It was explained that the Hillgrove Avenue project was a service transportation program federally funded project that afforded the ability to install streetscape improvements.

Dr. William Gross, 512 W. Burlington, gave his thanks to the Commission and staff for working so diligently on these issues and for being so open to discussion.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being nothing further to come before the Community and Economic Development Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Palmer and seconded by Commissioner O'Connor, the meeting of May 8, 2008 was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patrick D. Benjamin
Community Development Director