

MINUTES

Community and Economic Development Commission
Village of La Grange

February 18, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

A meeting of the Community and Economic Development Commission was held on February 18, 2010 in the Auditorium of the Village Hall at 53 South La Grange Road, La Grange, IL and was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Taylor Jaeger.

Present: (and constituting a quorum): Commissioners Laven, Palmer, Holly, Stewart, Carlson, Stiles, Williams, with Chairperson Jaeger presiding.

Absent: Commissioner Reich.

Also Present: Trustee Palermo, Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson, Director of Public Works Ryan Gillingham, Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros, Lieutenant Chris Noel, Police Department, Police Officer John Hannon.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion by Commissioner Palmer and second by Commissioner Stiles, the Minutes of the May 8, 2008 Community and Economic Development Commission meeting were approved as typed and distributed.

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

Chairperson Jaeger began the meeting by introducing the continued discussion of West End parking that was continued from the May 8, 2008 meeting. The first item of business was a discussion of the upcoming construction project on Burlington Avenue which will occur in the next few months. Mr. Gillingham stated that the Village will be coordinating this project, on-street parking will not be allowed at certain times and that notices will go out in advance. Options for parking include Lot G, Lot 14 (the YMCA lot) and high school. Commissioners asked questions regarding parking for doctor's office at 512 Burlington, utilization of the alleyway from Spring to Waiola during construction, and the need to be sensitive to the residents who live in that area. Mr. Gillingham stated that the exact time frame has not yet been set; however, the project is expected to begin after June 4, 2010 (Pet Parade) and should be complete by the end of July.

Second on the Agenda was an update from Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson

regarding the West End parking lot recommendations from the May 8th meeting of the CEDC and action taken by the Village Board. Ms. Peterson thanked the CEDC Commissioners for their insights into this issue and for their patience. She stated that this is a complex issue with several identifiable stakeholders competing for parking in the West End, including businesses, building owners, shoppers, employees, and residents. The Village Manager's office spent time evaluating the issues as they wanted to be sure not to create any unintended consequences. Ms. Peterson further stated that they have identified a parking consultant, Walker Parking Consultants, who will be evaluating the community parking situation and recommending best practices.

The final item on the Agenda was discussion of two items introduced by Ms. Mesaros: (1) Commissioners heard from business owners at the last meeting that they are concerned by the lack of employee parking and need more convenient, short term shopper parking on the West End. Staff has monitored parking in Lot 2, which is located on Harris and 6th Avenue, just northeast of the Village Hall, and found that this lot has additional capacity. Therefore, the Village Manager has requested recommendations to move up to a total of thirty (30) commuter spaces from the West End to Lot 2. Options that might be appropriate are the twelve hour metered long term parking on Hillgrove north of Stone Avenue (13 spaces) and the decaded commuter parking spaces in the west 900 and 1000 blocks of Hillgrove (17 spaces). Ms. Mesaros asked for input on which spaces to move. Secondly, the question of whether these spaces should be designated as West End employee parking or two-hour short term customer parking was presented. (2) The second item was a recommendation to move eleven (11) spaces from Lot 11 (located on 6th Avenue one block south of Burlington) to Lot 2.

Chairperson Jaeger solicited comments from the audience regarding parking on the West End: Ross Bartolomei, owner of Salon Hype and building owner, 917 Hillgrove, stated that he has 43 employees and approximately 150 people visit his salon peak days. He believes that opening up parking in front of their store (as proposed by staff) would be a perfect solution to his parking issues. He stated that he does not have a preference for whether the spaces are designated for customers or employees -- both uses are needed in the West End. He further expressed concern about potential future growth and new businesses locating in the West End. He requested that the Village plan now to be prepared to accommodate future growth.

Chairperson Jaeger solicited comments from the Commissioners: Commissioners generally agreed, expressing consensus on moving spaces from Lot 11 to Lot 2 and taking up to thirty spaces from the West End to Lot 2. However, they did not feel that they had the expertise to recommend what the appropriate mix should be and stated that that should be up to the Village Manager's office in consultation with Walker Parking. A motion to recommend that the recommended spaces be moved and distributed as the Village Manager decides was made by Commissioner Palmer and seconded by Commissioner Stiles with a unanimous recommendation by voice vote.

Further comments from the audience: Monalisa Dugue, resident at 27 S. Stone Avenue, stated that she would like the Village to provide a decal to allow parking during the day for multiple family dwellings on the West End. She stated that she speaks on behalf of residents on South Stone. She finds it difficult to park in the designated parking lot and walk home with her two small children. In addition, she does not have parking options on her days off since on street parking is limited to two hours in front of her apartment. Commissioners discussed this issue at length. The Commissioners recommended that Walker Parking study the issue of parking for multiple family dwellers for a fresh perspective and develop recommendations to provide both short term and long term parking solutions. A motion was made by Commissioner Laven, seconded by Commissioner Williams to consider developing short and long term multiple family residential parking plans, with a unanimous recommendation by voice vote.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

None.

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 Williams, that the meeting of February 18, 2010 be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Angela Mesaros
Assistant Community Development Director