

MINUTES

Community and Economic Development Commission Village of La Grange

March 3, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

A meeting of the Community and Economic Development Commission was held on March 3, 2016 in the Auditorium of the Village Hall at 53 South La Grange Road, La Grange, IL and was convened at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Russ Riberto.

Present: Commissioners Wimbush, Hall, Tussing, Gale, Sher, Palmer, Arnold, Dillon, Janevski, Carlson, and Chairman Riberto.

Absent: Commissioners Stiles and Williams.

Also Present: Village Clerk John Burns, Robert Pilipiszyn, Village Manager, Angela Mesaros, and Assistant Community Development Director.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion by Commissioner Arnold, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, the Minutes of the November 5, 2015 Community and Economic Development Commission meeting were approved.

Chairman Riberto reported that two Commissioners are stepping down – Commissioners Reich and Domanico.

III. OLD BUSINESS – UPDATE – STATUS OF VILLAGE ENTRYWAY & TRAILBLAZING SIGNS

Community Development Assistant Director Angela Mesaros presented information to the Commission regarding entryway and trailblazing signs. Ms. Mesaros presented the site survey and concept designs created by Infinity Signs. Commissioners agreed that they could eliminate styles 5 and 6 from consideration. They also agreed that letters should be in white, no cursive letters and all ground mounted signs should have stone at the bottom.

Next steps will be review of design by the Design Review Commission for feedback on design. Staff will also consult with Infinity Signs on lighting options and pricing for lighting. Staff will report back to CEDC for final recommendation at the next meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

“It Takes a Village to Build a Brand,” La Grange Business Association Request for Funding - Nancy Cummings, LGBA Executive Director and Phil Fornaro, President, LGBA

Nancy Cummings presented request for funding, including a description of who the LGBA is, the partnership with the Village, how to build a brand, general public relations campaign, the proposed La Grange app and increased online presence, paid advertising campaigns, obstacles, sales promotions and business retention. Phil Fornaro spoke about the two steps to building the La Grange Brand – financing and branding La Grange.

Commissioners asked questions about alternatives to hiring a company such as high school students, business events, sponsorships; LGBA membership, promotions at expense of business members; other similar nearby business organizations; amount of Village participation, branding. Commissioners expressed support for the LGBA. Next steps will be a future budget workshop with the Village Board.

Village Update – Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn gave an update on Village items: the Village budget was published online and budget workshop will be held at 8:00 a.m. on March 12, 2016 – existing revenues are showing sustainable growth and we budget conservatively; bids are due next week on the 50th Street storm sewer; status on Community Development department head recruitment that will be a 12 week process with Gov HR firm leading the process; Assistant Director Angela Mesaros will serve as CEDC liaison in interim; and an update on armed robbery

Community Development Updates – Assistant Community Development Director Angela Mesaros discussed new projects in the Village, including the Opus – Uptown La Grange, 40 S. Ashland, Pathway Senior Living, new businesses coming soon – Owl & Lark, Steak and Vine and 14-16 Calendar and various businesses opening and closing in downtown La Grange as well as the valet program.

V. NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Riberto recommended setting a date after Design Review Commission has met to review the entryway signs. He will coordinate with Assistant Community Development Director Mesaros to determine a meeting date, most likely in May.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being nothing further to come before the Community and Economic Development Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Janevski and seconded by Commissioner Gale that the meeting be adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Angela Mesaros
Assistant Community Development Director