

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING

Town Meeting – Spring Avenue School
(Gymnasium)
1001 Spring Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, September 22, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange regular meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Asperger. The following were present:

PRESENT: Trustees Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, Palermo, and Wolf

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Matt Norton
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Assistant Public Works Director Mike Bojovic
Fire Chief David Fleege
Police Chief Mike Holub
Suburban Life Reporter Joe Sinopoli
Doings Reporter Jane Michaels

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Asperger welcomed all to the first in a series of Town Meetings being held in various areas of the Village. President Asperger began by introducing Village officials and noting their years of service and then expressed her privilege in working with all of her constituents. President Asperger then proceeded to explain that there would be a brief business meeting prior to opening the floor to the audience.

President Asperger stated that a Public Information Fair would be held on October 21 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center to inform and assist residents on programs to reduce heating costs; home improvements; and various tips for conserving energy. Representatives from Commonwealth Edison, Nicor Gas, the Southwest Suburban Center on Aging and the West Suburban Neighborhood Preservation Agency would be providing various hand-outs and information.

The Village Board will hold a special meeting on Monday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall to continue the discussion of the proposed renovation for the La Grange Theatre.

President Asperger indicated that agenda item 5A “Intergovernmental Agreement & Ordinance – YMCA Redevelopment Project / Land Exchange Between the Village of La Grange and the Park District of La Grange” is being tabled for changes by the Village Attorney. The item will be presented at a future meeting and the public will be notified.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

- A. Ordinance (#O-08-25) –Adoption of New Federal Floodplain Maps and Amendment to the Village’s Existing Floodplain Regulation
- B. Award of Contract – Leaf Hauling and Disposal (Dutch Valley Landscaping, Monee, Illinois \$6 per cubic yard)
- C. Consolidated Voucher 080922 (\$650,459.32)
- D. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, September 8, 2008

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, C, and D of the Omnibus Agenda, seconded by Trustee Wolf. Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Horvath, Kuchler, Langan, Livingston, Palermo, Wolf and President Asperger
Nays: None
Absent: None

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Intergovernmental Agreement & Ordinance – YMCA Redevelopment Project / Land Exchange Between the Village of La Grange and the Park District of La Grange: Referred to President Asperger

Tabled

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn reminded residents about voter registration requirements and deadlines and referenced Cook County's website for additional information.

Mr. Pilipiszyn announced that mopeds and scooters would have designated parking areas. At this time no cost will be assessed, however, future demand will be evaluated and addressed.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. TOWN MEETING

President Asperger welcomed Mayor Bob Conrad of Countryside who indicated he was impressed with the idea of Town Meetings and hoped to initiate the idea in Countryside.

Prior to opening the floor to the audience, President Asperger introduced members of staff and gave a brief description of the responsibilities assigned to each area.

President Asperger noted the Board's determination for a number of goals to preserve and enhance the community, along with accomplishments throughout the Village. Among them were:

- the approval of a mixed use, Planned Unit Development at the intersection of La Grange Road and Ogden Avenue (the former YMCA site)
- working with the La Grange Theatre for a public/private partnership to financially aid with the renovation of the theatre
- the La Grange Pointe project – residential and retail (the former IHOP site)
- continued improvements to the campus of La Grange Memorial Hospital
- hosted a congressional transit-oriented visit with Congressman Lipinski and U.S. Representative Jim Oberstar
- conducted Economic Development Workshop to direct staff to pursue post-TIF strategies for on-going business development such as the façade loan program
- approved a smoking ban and working towards developing comprehensive amendments to the current liquor code
- zoning code improvements; maximum lot coverage standards
- construction site management
- will be going out to bid for Bluff Avenue street and water main reconstruction project
- renovation of the Stone Avenue train station
- conducted the first Spring Clean Up day
- addressed the coyote issue
- launched a new automatic telephone emergency notification system (CodeRed) whereby residents may register their phone numbers to receive emergency notices
- in the process of re-tooling the Village's website

- receipt of a grant from the West Central Cable Agency to replace the sound system along with recording and playback equipment
- working on restructuring the Department of Public Works to better facilitate workload for capital projects

President Asperger noted staff's professionalism is reflected in the strong financial position of the Village. At 8:05 p.m. President Asperger opened the floor to audience questions, comments or concerns.

Peter May, 919 S. 7th Avenue expressed concerns related to the maintenance of vacant property in his neighborhood. President Asperger noted his concerns and indicated Village Prosecutor John Kenney will continue to serve notices and follow applicable court procedures relating to the violations.

John Powers, 845 S. Madison detailed his issues relating to residential structures being utilized for business purposes. Mr. Powers also noted issues with land usage and compliance thereof. President Asperger indicated Mr. Powers should further discuss his issues with the Community Development Department.

Julie Workman, 233 S. Park Road indicated her involvement with the citizens for a great Gordon Park and encouraged everyone to vote "yes" on the referendum for the Park District to sell all or a portion of the 2.82 acres located near the northwestern edge of Gordon Park. Ms. Workman explained her beliefs in the benefits of the referendum.

Harlan Hirt, 421 S. Spring presented the Board with his written statement and summary relating to the land exchange between the Village and the Park District. Mr. Hirt believes no further action should occur until the results of the referendum vote are known. President Asperger thanked Mr. Hirt for sharing his thoughts.

Kevin Shields, 45 N. Drexel does not believe the Park District should sell all or a portion of the land in Gordon Park. Mr. Shields explained his reasoning and encouraged everyone to vote "no" on the referendum.

Ann Okkema, 635 S. Catherine requested guidance for submitting requests to hold a 5k run sponsored by St. Cletus Parish. President Asperger explained policy and referred Ms. Okkema to the Village Manager for future considerations.

Ruben Varela, 1099 S. Catherine noted that organizers considering a 5k run should check with local groups to avoid conflicts.

Dr. James Bergschneider expressed his concerns relating to parking around Spring Avenue School and particularly in front of fire hydrants.

Steve Metsch, 1055 S. Catherine noted the need for more traffic enforcement at posted stop signs. Mr. Metsch also believes in the preservation of green space at Gordon Park and preservation the La Grange Theatre.

Andrew Dewall, 855 S. 12th Avenue inquired about beautification and having additional trees planted in his area to further screen the adjacent industrial area in Countryside. Mr. Dewall is also in favor of preserving green space and indicated he would vote no on the referendum. President Asperger referred Mr. Dewall to Community Development and Public Works relative to his inquiry.

Wayne Harej, 750 S. 10th Avenue noted issues with Commonwealth Edison and requested assistance to avoid having to remove a tree on his property. President Asperger referred Mr. Harej to Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson.

Donald Hogue, 937 S. 7th Avenue is a neighbor of Peter May and also expressed concerns related to the maintenance of vacant property in his neighborhood.

Sue Schmidt, 839 S. La Grange Road noted that coyotes have again been sighted near the McCook Quarry. Ms. Schmidt also expressed concerns with dumpsters in her area and intermittent power outages. Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn indicated that staff would follow-up on her issues.

Tom Beyer, 205 S. Catherine noted the need for traffic enforcement at posted stop signs. Also, Mr. Beyer does not believe state statutes are being complied with relative to the transfer act of property to the Park District. President Asperger noted his concerns would be taken under review.

There being no further public comments, President Asperger requested a motion to adjourn.

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Palermo thanked residents in attendance. Trustee Palermo encouraged publication of the special meeting to continue discussion of the La Grange Theatre as well as the newly established Code Red communication system offered to residents.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 p.m. it was moved by Trustee Langan to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Livingston. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Elizabeth M. Asperger, Village President

ATTEST:

Robert N. Milne, Village Clerk

Approved Date