

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Village Hall Auditorium
53 South La Grange Road
La Grange, IL 60525

Monday, July 8, 2013 - 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board of Trustees of the Village of La Grange regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Livingston. On roll call, as read by Village Clerk John Burns, the following were present:

PRESENT: Trustees Holder (arrived 7:32 p.m.), Kuchler, Langan, McCarty, Nowak and Palermo

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn
Assistant Village Manager Andrianna Peterson
Village Attorney Mark Burkland
Finance Director Lou Cipparrone
Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin
Assistant Community Development Director and Planner Angela Mesaros
Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham
Fire Chief William Bryzgalski
Police Chief Michael Holub

President Livingston requested Clerk Burns lead the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Livingston announced that the annual La Grange craft show would be held on Saturday, July 14 and Sunday, July 15. Encouraging residents to visit the La Grange Business Association website for additional information, President Livingston noted that Mr. Steve Jasinski, President of the La Grange Business Association is in attendance.

Providing information on the Green Built Home Tour, President Livingston noted that the Lewandowski residence at 61 N. Edgewood Avenue would be featured in the tour.

President Livingston indicated that Kama Indian Bistro Restaurant is relocating to a new larger facility and seeking an upgrade for their liquor license this evening.

President Livingston announced that both the July 22 and August 12 Village Board meetings are being canceled and the next regularly scheduled Village Board meeting will be Monday, August 26.

In preparation for the Village's 135th Anniversary next year, President Livingston noted his goal to form a La Grange 2020 Task Force. Encouraging Board Members to submit names of interested individuals, President Livingston provided some topic details and hopes to have the panel in place by the next Village Board meeting on August 26.

A. Presentation – Chaddick Municipal Development Award

President Livingston requested Dr. Joseph Schwieterman, Director of the Chaddick Institute come forward and provide information on why the Village was selected to receive this prestigious award.

Dr. Schwieterman explained that municipal practices in La Grange provide an active balance with good development and planning for the community. The selection committee recognized the successful application in the administrative adjustment process to the Village's Zoning Code in order to simplify home improvements and preservation to historic residential properties. Dr. Schwieterman expressed his gratitude to the Community Development staff and presented President Livingston with the Chaddick Municipal Development Award.

On behalf of the Village Board and his predecessors, President Livingston accepted the award and expressed thanks to Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin, Assistant Community Development Director and Planner Angela Mesaros and Village Attorney Mark Burkland for their efforts in achieving this honor for La Grange.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Steve Jasinski, President of the La Grange Business Association thanked the Village Board for their support with the upcoming craft fair. Mr. Jasinski also noted his availability for questions related to parking management in the Central Business District.

John Pappas, 504 S. 7th hopes the Board will look favorably on the liquor license for Kama Indian Bistro restaurant for their new larger facility.

4. OMNIBUS AGENDA AND VOTE

A. Ordinance (#O-13-19) – Creating an Additional Class A-2 Liquor License, Kama Restaurants LLC d/b/a Kama Indian Bistro, 9 S. La Grange Road

- B. Award of Contract – Leaf Hauling and Disposal
- C. Award of Contract – 2103 Crack Sealing Program
- D. Equipment Replacement – Public Works Department / Replacement of Two 3” Ejector Pumps at Police & Fire Facility
- E. Resolution (#R-13-13) – Resurfacing of Kensington Avenue From Cossitt Avenue to Burlington Avenue / STP Grant Approval
- F. Minutes of the Village of La Grange Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, Monday, June 10, 2013
- G. Consolidated Voucher 130624 – (\$568,229.78)
- H. Consolidated Voucher 130708 – (\$1,234,350.35)

It was moved by Trustee Langan to approve items A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H of the Omnibus Agenda, seconded by Trustee Holder.

Trustee Holder inquired about cost for the ejector pumps. Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham responded that these pumps are not the standard utilized in residential homes. Mr. Gillingham added that the new pumps would replace outdated pumps which are malfunctioning.

Trustee Langan conveyed his favor that Kama Indian Bistro Restaurant is maintaining their presence in the Village.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Palermo, Nowak, McCarty, Kuchler, Holder and Langan
Nays: None
Absent: None

5. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. Resolution (#R-13-14) – Variations – Second Floor Wall Signs and Joint Identification Sign at, 1 North La Grange Road / Mid America Asset Management: Referred to Trustee Nowak

Trustee Nowak explained that at the Village Board meeting on June 10, the Board considered an application for variations to permit second floor signage at the building at 1 North La Grange Road. As previously discussed, Trustee Nowak noted that the Zoning Code does not permit wall signs for second floor users in any zoning district. The Board determined it would be in the best interest to provide staff's research on second floor wall signs to the Plan Commission for their review and

discussion with the Design Review Commission and thus continue the matter. Trustee Nowak indicated a resolution denying the variation application and require the removal of the temporary banners would be the appropriate action.

Trustee Nowak moved to approve the resolution denying the variation application; require the building owner to remove the temporary banners within ten business days; and direct Village staff to undertake a study of second floor business wall signs, seconded by Trustee Langan.

Trustee Kuchler supports the resolution, however has concerns that advertising is being utilized on parked panel trucks. Attorney Burkland responded that location of the parked panel truck would determine if a citation is applicable.

Trustee Nowak inquired about the timeline for the process. Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin noted that scheduling with the Plan Commission and dependent upon their findings may take up to three months.

Trustee Palermo questioned why the resolution did not provide penalties for negligence in the removal of temporary banners. Attorney Burkland responded that it was not necessary to include them in the resolution as they are already stipulated in the existing Village code.

Trustee Langan noted his support of the resolution and expressed his favor for the Plan Commissions review of the matter and looks forward to their recommendation before the Board takes formal action.

Trustee Holder also supports the motion. He is very pleased that the policy matter is being forwarded to the Plan Commission and Design Review Commission for review.

Trustee McCarty is in agreement. However, he expressed caution that the right solution may already exist in the zoning code as currently written.

Trustee Nowak appreciated the discussion but expressed concerns that leaving businesses without any signs may be detrimental. Noting his interest in the balance between resident's interest and business interest, Trustee Nowak encouraged the Board to allow the temporary banners for an extended period. President Livingston inquired what time frame Trustee Nowak was considering. Trustee Nowak indicated that since both commissions would need ample time to review and discuss he believes that the temporary banners be allowed until September or October.

Trustee Palermo suggested painted window signs may be a temporary alternative until a permanent solution is in place.

Trustee McCarty agrees that window signs or a directory sign are alternatives, however does not feel the Village should be obligated to provide relief. Trustee

McCarty feels the responsibility rests with the tenant to review what zoning codes allow prior to signing a lease.

Trustee Nowak feels that an extension of time should be granted on the removal of the temporary banners.

Trustee Langan supports the resolution as written and does not support changes.

President Livingston inquired if more aggressive planning with the commissions is feasible. Mr. Benjamin responded that the process would require about three months.

Approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Trustees Holder, Palermo, McCarty, Langan, Kuchler, and Nowak
Nays: None
Absent: None

President Livingston directed staff to work towards expediting the scheduling of meetings with the Plan Commission and Design Review Commission.

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Parking Management – Central Business District (CBD)

Stating that parking management is a strategic priority for the Village Board, President Livingston explained that this is not a decision item but rather a policy discussion and requested Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn to elaborate.

Mr. Pilipiszyn noted that since November 2012, the Village has been actively working with the La Grange Business Association on operational enhancements to improve the way that the parking supply is managed in the Central Business District. Operational enhancements implemented thus far have included trail run of free valet service during the holidays for both customers and employees; improved circulation within the parking structure by creating a traffic circle on the top level to facilitate return movements; and extending the hours of parking enforcement on Friday and Saturday evenings to discourage business owners and employees from occupying prime on-street and off-street parking spaces. The Village also evaluated a proposal to change the direction of Calendar Avenue and determined that there would not be a net gain in parking spaces or improved traffic circulation.

In summary, Mr. Pilipiszyn noted staff recommendations would be to continue with extended hours of parking enforcement; explore the expanded usage of the Cossitt School playground; encourage the purchase of employee decal parking; and to consider an assessment on all dining establishments to more equitably fund valet services.

President Livingston opened the floor for discussion.

Trustee McCarty commended staff on their efforts in working with the community to better manage parking. Trustee McCarty is not in favor of parking meters nor is he in favor of changes to the traffic flow on Calendar Avenue.

Trustee Palermo inquired as to the number of Central Business District stickers issued. Finance Director Lou Cipparrone responded approximately 300 per month. Trustee Palermo inquired if there is information on how many employees are not purchasing stickers. Village Manager Robert Pilipiszyn responded due to variables in work schedules and those utilizing public transit it would be difficult to identify. Trustee Palermo asked if we knew which businesses are successful in having their employees utilize the parking structure and is there adequate availability. Mr. Pilipiszyn responded some businesses pay for their employee parking while others do not. Noting that there is adequate availability to purchase parking, Mr. Pilipiszyn identified the various parking lots. Although everyone enjoys convenient parking, Trustee Palermo noted it may be necessary to exploit a mechanism such as meters or parking boxes.

Trustee Holder inquired if it was discussed with businesses to mandate their employees purchase parking. Mr. Pilipiszyn responded it was discussed and found to be unfavorable. Trustee Holder requested additional information related to valet service. Community Development Director Patrick Benjamin noted that during the holidays, valet service was subsidized by the Village and the La Grange Business Association. Trustee Holder feels that businesses should be mandated to purchase parking for their employees; that since valet service is highly desirable there should be a way to subsidize the cost; and utilizing Cossitt School playground would be favorable.

Mr. Steve Jasinski stated that he is scheduled to meet with the principal of Cossitt School and the Parent Teacher Organization and will actively discuss permission to utilize their playground more frequently for parking.

Trustee Langan was in attendance at the La Grange Business Association meeting and commended Police Chief Holub for his educational discussion regarding the issues with parking management. Trustee Langan feels it is important to incent the purchase and use of parking decals; strictly enforce hourly parking; continue to pursue the playground; and seek a revenue source for valet services.

Trustee Kuchler suggested that keeping a log or using a software mapping system might be beneficial in tracking and verification of decal users.

Mr. Steve Jasinski noted frustration with those businesses who refrain to work with the association on equitable parking management.

Trustee Nowak inquired how parking decal funds are utilized. Mr. Cipparrone responded mostly for maintenance. Expressing his agreement with staff recommendations in trying to reach an equitable solution, Trustee Nowak noted his appreciation for this informational discussion.

Trustee Holder inquired if there was enough parking available and Mr. Cipparrone responded affirmatively.

Trustee Palermo desires more information about parking demand for patrons of the La Grange Theater.

Trustee McCarty expressed caution in requiring part-time employees who may only be making minimum wage to pay for decal parking.

President Livingston thanked Mr. Jasinski for his attendance and comments. President Livingston also complimented the Village Board on its excellent discussion.

B. Maple Avenue Relief Sewer (MARS) -- Status Update

Village Manager Pilipiszyn requested Public Works Director Ryan Gillingham to provide and update on the Maple Avenue Relief Sewer project.

Mr. Gillingham provided some background on the various stages of the project and how it has helped to alleviate some neighborhood flooding issues. Indicating approximate dollar amounts, Mr. Gillingham noted that the Village continues to pursue grant opportunities as they arise.

Village Manager Pilipiszyn commented on the recent ComEd electrical outages caused by severe storms. Providing information on emergency response procedures, Mr. Pilipiszyn noted scheduled meetings with ComEd to discuss details of their response to the outages and communication and infrastructure maintenance.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Langan expressed thanks to staff and the Village Attorney for working toward the administrative adjustment process and thus achieving the Chaddick Municipal Development Award.

Trustee Kuchler echoed Trustee Langan's congratulations for receiving this prestigious award. Trustee Kuchler noted the frustration for numerous power outages and hopes for improvements.

Trustee Holder added his frustration in the loss of electrical power. Acknowledging staff for the information provided on parking management, Trustee Holder noted a beneficial discussion. Lastly, Trustee Holder congratulated on the La Grange Country Club who will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary at their location.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 p.m. Trustee Langan moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Holder. Approved by voice vote.



Thomas E. Livingston, Village President

ATTEST:



John Burns, Village Clerk

Approved Date: August 26, 2013