

APPROVED

Village Center Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2018

A meeting of the Village Center Commission was held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall Conference Room, 850 Waukegan Road, Deerfield, Illinois. Chairman Jannes Zobus called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present were:

Garo Emerzian
Joan Reed
Janice Shaw
Victoria Street
Jannes Zobus, Chairperson

Absent was:

Kenneth Stolman

Also Present:

Dan Nakahara, Village Planner
Jeri Cotton, Secretary

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments on non-agenda items.

Document Approval

Ms. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2017 VCC meeting with a minor correction. Ms. Shaw seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote with minor corrections. Dr. Emerzian and Ms. Street abstained.

Business:

1. Discussion on Fine Arts Commission Collaboration

Mr. Nakahara reported at the last meeting that, Jeff Marks, Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, asked if the Commission would like to collaborate with the Fine Arts Commission on the sculpture park at the US Bank corner. He received clarification that the Fine Arts Commission would decide on the actual artwork, as that is their purview. Ch. Zobus noted the Commission would like to collaborate, but would not want to take the lead. Ms. Street asked if US Bank has approved the sculpture park. Mr. Nakahara explained the Village leases the property and the Fine Arts Commission has received approval for one sculpture for the corner property. Ms. Reed questioned how the

Commission would be involved. Ms. Street believes the Fine Arts Commission is looking for VCC support. Ms. Reed questioned why the project would not have the Commission's support as it would beautify and enhance the downtown. Ms. Street indicated this is an expensive proposition, as the sculpture, which would be on consignment, needs to be insured and properly maintained. Dr. Emerzian questioned the cost. Ms. Shaw noted the sculpture park would need to be landscaped as well, which would add to the cost. Ch. Zobus suggested asking the Fine Arts Commission for their expectations of the Commission as well as the cost. She questioned whether the Village would be taking over the US Bank corner. Mr. Nakahara noted the Village maintains the landscaping of the corner property. He explained that the Fine Arts Commission would like to start with one sculpture on the property with the intent to add more sculptures in the future. The sculpture would be display on a consignment basis and available for sale if someone wanted to purchase the piece.

Mr. Nakahara noted that the corner park was one of the items the Commission wanted to address as a future project. Ms. Street noted there is a lot of public art within the Village, but it is not marketed for sale. She indicated the new sculpture would be on consignment and questioned what would happen if it sold. Ms. Reed noted the VCC would not be approving the artwork and have not approved other artwork in the Village Center. She believes the VCCs involvement should be to have knowledge of what is going in and when. She would like the Fine Arts Commission to share photographs. Ms. Reed believes the landscaping plan should be the VCCs responsibility as landscaping is not art. If the VCC is involved, they should be involved in the landscaping plan. Ms. Shaw questioned whether the Fine Arts Commission is only looking for the VCCs support. Dr. Emerzian believes the plan should come before the VCC before they offer support.

At the last meeting, Mr. Marks suggested the Commission take the lead on this project. The commission members questioned what that would mean. Dr. Emerzian suggested asking the high school to come up with a sculpture as a school project. He volunteered to contact the high school teacher. Ch. Zobus asked to get the specifics on what the Fine Arts Commission expects. She suggested letting them know the idea of contacting the high school.

Mr. Nakahara noted the Fine Arts Commission also mentioned VCC involvement with the murals. The Commission could look at possible locations for murals during their annual Village walk. Ch. Zobus would like to know more specific information on the Fine Arts Commission's expectations.

2. Discussion of 2018 Projects

Mr. Nakahara noted one project on the Commission's list was offering support for the Farmers Market. He suggested the Commission highlight a business twice a year at the Farmer's Market. Ms. Street noted the Chamber of Commerce is already doing this successfully at the Farmers Market. Ch. Zobus suggested having a business come speak with the Commission occasionally. Mr. Nakahara asked the Commission how

they would like to formulate a Farmer's Market project. Ch. Zobus suggested having the Farmer's Market chairperson speak to the Commission annually to provide a yearly summary on the Farmers Market after the season is complete and ask if she needs anything from the VCC.

The Commissioners discussed the flower planter program. Mr. Nakahara explained that the Village has a new landscape contractor. Ms. Shaw questioned how the contractor got changed. Mr. Nakahara explained that each year the Village puts out the landscaping contract for bid for Village landscaping services, which includes the Village's streetscape and Flower Planter program. This year the Village selected Green Acres Landscapes. Last year, the flower planter program had nine participants. Ch. Zobus suggested getting a representative from Green Acres to speak at the next VCC meeting.

Mr. Nakahara noted the Commission discussed having two Village walks. The Commissioners believed having the Village Center walk at the next meeting would be too cold and would like to have the Village walk in May. During the walk, the commissioners could identify locations for benches and potential artwork. Ch. Zobus would like Clint Case and Barbara Little to be invited to the Village walk in May.

Ms. Shaw would like the Commission to work on a Village cleanup day. Ms. Street believes it is difficult to get volunteers. The Commissioners agreed to use the Village Center walk as a time to help pick up garbage during their walk.

Mr. Nakahara commented that this Commission is an advocate for the downtown businesses and asked whether the Commission would interested in sending out a 5-7 question survey to businesses to ask the businesses how the VCC can help their businesses. Ms. Street does not believe the Village will receive a lot of answers. She suggested the Commission attend grand opening events and speak with new businesses to build relationships with them. Ms. Reed questioned what the Village would do with survey results once they are tabulated. Mr. Nakahara noted this could assist the Commission in determining the needs of businesses in the Village and formulate future VCC projects. Ms. Reed suggested asking the community what they think of the Village Center. The Commissioners believe that asking the Deerfield community would be a better idea. The Commissioners came up with the following questions:

Do you patronize downtown businesses?

How often do you patron businesses in the downtown?

What prevents you from patronizing downtown businesses?

Is the overall appearance in the downtown inviting?

What type of businesses or services are not in the Village that you would like?

Dr. Emerzian suggested asking residents to complete the survey in D-Tails and post the survey on the Village website. Mr. Nakahara will follow up on getting a survey out to the residents.

3. Village Center Update

Mr. Nakahara reported there will be a Historical Society event on May 20th. The Historical Society is in need of financial support for repairs to the structures and asked if the VCC would be interested in volunteering or getting a corporate sponsor from the Village Center. Ms. Shaw suggested the Historical Society contact the Boy Scouts as they frequently look for Eagle Scout projects. Dr. Emerzian suggested that the Historical Society contact Home Depot for sponsorship. Ms. Street noted there is an architecture firm in downtown Deerfield. Ch. Zobus suggested the Lion's Club may want to be contacted, as they were instrumental in erecting the buildings. Ms. Street will pass a fundraising idea to Village Planner Jean Spagnoli. Ms. Shaw suggested the Historical Society should have a booth at the Farmer's Market to educate the public on their needs for financial support. Ch. Zobus suggested the Historical Society involve the Cemetery Commission.

Mr. Nakahara reported Essence Pilates was recognized at the November 20, 2017 Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Stolman spoke about the business and Mayor Rosenthal presented owner Marilee Papale Shipman with a Proclamation on the upkeep of her business and her involvement in the community.

The Commissioners discussed the holiday lights. Ms. Reed questioned the trees at the US Bank corner. The lights look nice wrapped around the garland, but believes the trees wrapping need improvement. Ms. Reed does not believe the white LEDs display a warm look. She noted that the lights would give off a warmer look if they had more of a yellow hue to them.

Massage Heights had a pre-filing conference with the Plan Commission. They would like to take over the former Blockbuster location. There will be a Public Hearing on February 22, 2018.

Tempur-Pedic just opened up in Deerfield Square in the former Tria location. My Care Dentistry opened up in Deerfield Square. Chick-Fil-A is going into Office Depot. Office Max is moving within Deerbrook and Stein Mart is going into the old Office Max location.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, Dr. Emerzian moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Village Center Commission will take place on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Cotton
Secretary