

APPROVED

Village Center Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2018

A meeting of the Village Center Commission was held on Wednesday, April 4, 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
Janice Shaw
Kenneth Stolman
Victoria Street
Jannes Zobus, Chairperson

Absent was:

Joan Reed

Also Present:

Dan Nakahara, Village Planner
Jeri Cotton, Secretary

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments on non-agenda items.

Document Approval

Dr. Emerzian motioned to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2018 VCC meeting with minor corrections. Ms. Street seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote with minor corrections.

Business:

1. Discussion with Green Acres Landscapes Blanca and Roberto Hernandez

Mr. Nakahara explained Green Acres Landscaping is a full service landscape company in Lake County. Blanca Hernandez, Vice President and her son Roberto were present. Ms. Hernandez discussed their capabilities, including rain gardens, plantings, retaining walls, dormant pruning, herbiciding and fertilizing. She noted they have worked with the Village of Lincolnshire for 11 years and recently extended their contract with Lincolnshire for three additional years. Mr. Nakahara explained the Commission looks at the aesthetics of the Village Center and wants to keep the streetscape and flower

planting program looking vibrant. Ms. Shaw explained the streetscape pots have four planting changes per year. The Commission wants attractive, vibrant flowers and plantings that look good all year long. Ms. Hernandez explained they have done pots for other customers, but not Lincolnshire. Mr. Hernandez noted they are working on the corner park on the northeast corner of Waukegan and Deerfield, the area in front of the train station as well as the Deerfield streetscape and flower pots. They are also working on the Village Hall arrangements.

Ms. Hernandez distributed images of possible planting materials for the flower pots. Ch. Zobus noted the pots should have a thriller, a filler and a spiller referring to the planting arrangement. Ms. Hernandez noted they hope to plant the pots beginning May, depending on the weather. Mr. Nakahara indicated the flower pot program has been advertised in D-Tails and on the Village website. The Village also sent out letters to Village Center businesses. They currently have three businesses interested in the program this year. Last year, there were nine participants. Mr. Nakahara asked how the program could be reinvigorated. Ms. Hernandez questioned whether the businesses are responsible for flower plant maintenance. She believes the maintenance may deter businesses from participating. Ms. Street suggested calling the businesses. She could also advertise in the next Chamber e-blast. Ms. Shaw suggested contacting the businesses that participated last year but did not respond this year.

The Commissioners discussed the cost of the program. New participants would have to purchase the pot from Green Acres for \$210. The Village would provide a \$50 subsidy for first time customers. The four plantings cost \$140. Ms. Street questioned whether the business could pay quarterly. She suggested possibly having a rental program in the future. Mr. Nakahara noted the commissioners could take an inventory of the pots during the next Village Center walk.

2. Discussion on Village Center Resident Survey

At the last meeting, the Commissioners discussed a survey. Prior to working on a survey, the Commission needs to send a proposal to the Mayor and Board of Trustees. Mr. Nakahara suggested sending a printed survey in the water bill, putting something into D-Tales as well as the Village website. The Commissioners believe the survey needs to be both online and printed.

The actual survey would be short. Dr. Emerzian suggested the question, "What type of businesses or services are not in the Village that you would like" should read, "What businesses/services would you like to see in the downtown?" Ms. Street suggested the "Do you patronize downtown businesses" should read, "What type of businesses do you patronize in the downtown?" and provide check box options with choices with categories such as restaurants, apparel stores, services such as salons or financial institutions, etc. Ms. Shaw believes the introduction sentence should also define the Village Center. The survey should also have gender and age range check boxes.

The Commissioners believe the question, “What prevents you from patronizing downtown businesses?” should be removed. The question, “How often do you patronize businesses in the downtown?” should have the following options: daily, a couple times per week, a couple times per month, monthly, less than once per month. The last question should ask whether the overall appearance of the downtown is inviting. It should also be followed by comments. The survey should also ask optional demographic information such as age and gender.

Mr. Nakahara suggested adding a small map of the Village Center to define the area to which the survey pertains.

3. May Village Center Walk Discussion

Mr. Nakahara explained the Commission discussed having a walk in May. Ch. Zobus is not available May 2, 2018. Ms. Street will not be at the walk. Mr. Nakahara suggested moving the walk to May 9, 2018. Dr. Emerzian suggested postponing the walk until the planters are completed. The commissioners will look at May 16 or May 17 for the walk. They will ask Clint Case to attend. Mr. Nakahara noted some aspects of the Village Center walk that the Commissioners discussed were the possibly highlighting a business, determining locations for bench seating and picking up garbage in the Village Center.

4. Village Center Update

Mr. Nakahara noted the Commission discussed working with the Fine Arts Commission at the last meeting. They wanted to know more detail and how the Fine Arts Commission wanted the VCC to be involved. Mr. Nakahara noted the Fine Arts Commission would like VCC support on the concept of public art in the corner park. Ch. Zobus asked if the public art would include artists outside of Deerfield. Mr. Nakahara noted the VCC suggested having an art piece from DHS. The Fine Arts Commission has a good relationship with DHS, but decided a consortium would be the best way to get public art. The Commission asked if there would be local artists. Mr. Nakahara explained the Fine Arts Commission would have a wider variety of art to choose from if they went through the consortium. Ms. Street does not believe it makes it special to Deerfield if the artists are not local. Mr. Nakahara will report back to the Fine Arts Commission. He noted the VCC wanted to know about the cost. Mr. Nakahara explained the art would be on consignment from the artist. The Fine Arts Commission would ask the Board of Trustees for financial support of the pedestal on which the art would be displayed. It was his understanding that the artist would sign a waiver against damage. Ms. Shaw noted the Commission supports the public art in the Village Center and encourages public art from local artists.

711 Waukegan Road – Representatives from Massage Heights were in front of the Board last Monday for their Special Use. The 2nd reading of the Ordinance will take

place on April 16, 2018. Mr. Nakahara noted the Special Use Ordinance includes licensing all massage establishments.

Studio Beads closed at the end of March. The owner is retiring.

The Plan Commission will look at 464 and 502 Elm Street on April 12, 2018. The 8 unit single-family development will have to be rezoned from R3 to R5. In November, this came before the Plan Commission with a 10-unit plan and the Plan Commission did not recommend approval.

The developer of 702 Elm, 662 Elm and 668 Elm came through with eight townhomes. The Plan Commission did not recommend approval of that proposal at the March 22, 2018 Plan Commission meeting.

There will be a Historical Society event on May 20, 2018 from 11 – 3. They have a lot of activities including a spinning wheel demonstration. The Italian Kitchen will be there. They will have a blacksmith, antique vehicles, building tours, antique appraisals, children's story time, and games of yesteryear, train station tours and more.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, Dr. Emerzian moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Stolman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Village Center Commission will take place on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Cotton
Secretary