

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 13, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Swetlik called the meeting to order at 7:59 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In Attendance at Roll Call: Chairman Swetlik; Commissioners Carlson, Consorti, Hanson, Loitz, Lorenzo, Walker.

Also Present: Building Commissioner Habecker; Attorney Dillner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Loitz, to approve the April 15, 2015, Public Hearing Minutes, as presented.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Consorti, to approve the April 15, 2015, Planning and Development Commission Meeting minutes, as presented.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

FENCE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Chairman Swetlik reported all commissioners were supplied a copy of the current Village code for fences. Commissioner Carlson stated he just received this information and has not had a chance to look through it. On-line, in the Village ordinances, fences are referenced in many different spots. He suggested the Commission take this fence information, read it and discuss it at the next meeting.

Chairman Swetlik commented there have been quite a few setback issues that have arisen recently in the Village; and there are many different shaped properties in town. He would suggest leaving the setbacks the way they are. If there is a property that doesn't fall within the setback, they could then approach the Board for a variance.

Attorney Dillner stated Section 7 is the building code which talks about the material and height. It comes up in the zoning code as far as location. Every single fence variance the Board has had recently has been because it's a corner lot which are problematic because the front yard could be the back yard or the side yard. In Thornton, historically a lot of the zoning variances were a case of beer and a handshake. At some point you have to start enforcing. It also causes legacy problems as well because, if someone years ago built a fence but now they want to rebuild it, it's nonconforming and needs to come before the Commission. Every property is unique, which is why we have the variance procedure. Attorney Dillner commented the zoning code could use a revision and be updated.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING REPORTS

Commissioner Hanson attended the April 20 meeting which was Youth Night. The students did a great job. There was a motion made and passed to accept the Village architect's plans for a new Public Works building. The fence variance for 152 Indianwood was passed. A maintenance proposal for the ball field was passed.

Commissioner Carlson attended the April 27 meeting which was for presenting and discussing the budget for FY '15-'16. It was passed.

Commissioner Carlson attended the May 4 meeting. The primary discussion was the Menards purchasing agreement regarding Brown Derby Road. The motion to continue this negotiation passed 4 yes votes to 3 nay votes. The vehicle sticker prices were discussed and raised. There was talk about Public Works vehicles, and appointment of the department heads and swearing in of re-elected and newly elected trustees.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Carlson mentioned the clock at the four corners is repaired. Chairman Swetlik once again mentioned pride in property. He asked commissioners to keep an eye out for any properties that may qualify. Commissioner Lorenzo mentioned 39 Indianwood. Chairman Swetlik suggested Max's old house on Arrowhead. Commissioner Walker stated the house behind where he lives has done a lot of landscaping work.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Loitz thought it might be a good idea for Thornton to sponsor an electronic recycling day. Attorney Dillner stated he tried to work it into the garbage contract, but they said no. By law, you can't throw it away. Commissioner Walker stated there should also be an old fertilizer and paint day. Chairman Swetlik will look into that. Fire Chief Habecker stated SSMMA does those events sometimes.

Commissioner Lorenzo stated there is a sign missing on Williams Street by 7-Eleven. Commissioner Lorenzo also suggested taking one of the open properties in town and possibly making a dog park. She would like to open discussion regarding this topic once again.

Chairman Swetlik stated the planter signs need to be updated this year. Commissioner Loitz stated a big drawback to taking care of the planter boxes is trying to water them. They should be watered at least once a week. Also, if water was delivered on a weekly basis, people would be more apt to take care of their planters. Fire Chief Habecker stated he might be able to water the planters once a week. Commissioner Lorenzo suggested getting a list of locations where the planters are located.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to adjourn the Commission Meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Chairman Swetlik adjourned the Commission Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Jonathan Swetlik, Chairman

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Village Clerk