

**PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Don Kendeigh called the meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Chairman Don Kendeigh and Members Viki Karls, Kim Prell, Mick Welch, Mike Schiestel and Bob Nunamaker. Member Ron Hameetman arrived at 7:35. Also in attendance Administrator Osten, Jr. and Secretary Jane Bartolai.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 15, 2008 MINUTES

A motion was made by Karls and seconded by Nunamaker to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2008 PEDC meeting with no changes.

RESIDENT'S COMMENTS – None present.

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT

Downtown Properties Inventory –The data collected from the inventory, as well as the form, have been set up in Excel and will be maintained by members Schiestel and Welch. Photographs are still pending; they are waiting for better weather. Osten plans on having this information added to the village website either as in Excel or PDF format.

Train Depot Repairs UPRR/Metra – After contact with Senator Pam Althoff he sent a letter to the Director of the Board with a list of necessary improvements.

Banners, Updates – Member Prell presented the approved final design and distributed the Sponsorship Program application. The vinyl banners carry a 2-year guarantee. There are only 25 banners available. Members will approach the businesses as assigned on the Sept. 2, 2008 business list.

OTHER BUSINESS

Signs, ZBA Status – Due to passing of Superintendent Ulrich, the Zoning Board meeting has been postponed until end of February. That meeting will look at prohibiting new pole signs, larger garage sizes, and limiting number of garage car doors facing the street.

The passing of Superintendent Ulrich is deeply felt by the Village and the PEDC extends its sympathies to his family.

Residential Design Guidelines – The PEDC discussed the development of guidelines to prevent new home designs that would negatively affect neighboring property values. Administrator

Osten asked the PEDC to generate specifics without being too restrictive. He distributed memos dated October 16th & November 26, 2008 concerning Residential Appearance Regulations and Review. Member Schiestel reiterated the goal that the development of guidelines not lead to the creation of a Design Review Board and additional bureaucracy.

Marketing Subcommittee – Nunamaker, Prell, Welch, Schiestel and Administrator Osten attended the PEDC Marketing Subcommittee meeting today from 5:45pm to 6:45pm. The goal is to develop a new marketing program to encourage economic development. The Subcommittee would like to combine the target and uniqueness into a Marketing Theme, such as Small Town Pride & Profits, and implement programs which tie into it. The uniquely positive features of FRG are: Schools, River, Metra Station, Rt 14/Rt22, Norge, Diverse Housing Stock, Parks, Sledding Hill, and Small Town Atmosphere. Possible target audiences are: Mixed Use Development which is more a role for the Village Board, Reducing Commercial Vacancies by attracting mutually complimentary commercial establishments, and Improving Existing Businesses by constructive criticism blog site. It will meet again prior to the PEDC meeting at 5:30pm to choose a target and develop a program for future PEDC and Village Board approval.

NEWS & UPDATES

PH&S Report – Advanced Auto Parts will not be filling the vacant Blockbuster building because they determined that while their business to business sales would be good, their generate enough sales to individuals would not be sufficient to cover the cost of acquisition and remodeling.

MCEDC – Osten distributed the Insider via e-mail prior to the meeting. There were no comments.

Cary-Grove Area Chamber of Commerce – Nunamaker presented the Village with the Chamber's 2009 Special Recognition Award. On February 18th, Acting Village President Cindy Cramer will be hosting the annual FRG Business Roundtable. Osten gave members the flier to hand out to businesses to encourage attendance. Also, Nunamaker mentioned that contestants are needed for the Miss Cary and Miss FRG Business Scholarship Pageant.

McHenry County 2030 Plan, Regional Sprawl Control Tools – No report.

CMAP 2040 Plan – Administrator Osten announced that CMAP has selected FRG to be a model city for transit oriented development (TOD) in the 2040 Plan. This will provide extra resources at no charge for FRG to update and market its downtown redevelopment plan.

Land Conservancy of McHenryCounty – Member Nunamaker reported highlights from their annual meeting. Author of the book, Coming To A Town Near You discussed material from the book about the downsides of urban sprawl. There was also a silent auction.

Transit Oriented Development Seminar - Chairman Kendeigh distributed a handout with highlights. The overview of the national economy was interesting.

Member Schiestel will deliver a story on a local business by the second Friday of February to highlight in the Village newsletter.

NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2009 at **7p.m.** We will host the CMAP 2040 TOD mtg. The Marketing Subcommittee will meet at 5:30pm beforehand.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Schiestel and seconded Karls by to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Don Kendeigh, Chairman

Jane Bartolai, Secretary

Date Approved