

VILLAGE OF GLENCOE  
PLAN COMMISSION

Regular Meeting  
July 23, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Plan Commission of the Village of Glencoe, Cook County was called to order by Chairman Thomas in the Village Hall Council Chamber at 6:40 p.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July 2014.

2. ROLL CALL

The following were present:

Caren Thomas, Chairman, Public-at-Large Representative  
Barbara Miller, Vice-Chairman, Village Board Representative  
Deborah Cogan, Public-at-Large Representative  
Louis Goldman, Glencoe Public Library Representative  
Ed Goodale, Zoning Board of Appeals Representative  
Marya Morris, Public-at-Large Representative  
Seth Palatnik, Glencoe Park District Representative  
Gary Ruben, School District #35 Representative  
Tom Scheckelhoff, Historic Preservation Commission Representative

The following were absent:

Bruce Huvad, Public-at-Large Representative

The following were also present:

Philip Kiraly, Village Manager  
David Mau, Director of Public Works  
Nathan Parch, Planning & Development Administrator  
Lee Brown, Village Planner

3. CONSIDER THE JUNE 25, 2014 PLAN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the June 25, 2014 Plan Commission meeting were approved as amended.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Chairman Thomas welcomed Seth Palatnik as the new Park Board Representative on the Plan Commission.

5. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN TUNE UP

The Plan Commission hosted its first panel discussion focusing on Downtown Glencoe's Cultural Resources. Panelists included representatives from Writers Theatre, Glencoe Historical Society, Chicago Botanic Garden, and Glencoe Public Library. The range of cultural offerings and programming provided by each of the organizations was shared, as well as suggestions for improvements to Downtown Glencoe:

- Chris Pfaff, President, Writers Theatre Board of Directors
  - Some patrons have indicated Glencoe is secluded and hard to get to
  - Others feel Glencoe lacks places to mingle and congregate before/after a performance – many would like to make an “evening” of their theatre experience
  - Once open, the new theatre facility could have up to 350 attendees in an evening
  
- Jennifer Litowitz, Board Member, Writers Theatre Board of Directors
  - Would like to reinvigorate the community spirit – cited Nantucket’s July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities as an example
  - Suggested more Village events that promote sense of community and attract visitors
  - The connection between the theatre and the rest of downtown could be enhanced
  
- Karen Ettelson, President, Glencoe Historical Society Board of Directors
  - All-volunteer organization – Museum and Research Center open limited hours on Wednesday & Saturday
  - Mission is to collect, preserve, and exhibit history of the Village
  - Museum and garden area provide a west-end cultural anchor in the downtown
  - Greatest challenge is that people don’t know about us/where we are located
  - Current cultural offerings include:
    - Early Glencoe exhibit opens September 13<sup>th</sup>
    - Kick-off for Ravine Bluffs centennial celebration – September 28<sup>th</sup> (Glencoe is home to the third largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright structures in the world)
  
- Ginny Hotaling, Vice President, Government Affairs, Chicago Botanic Garden
  - The Garden has grown considerably in 42 years – welcomed over one million visitors in 2013
  - World-renowned plant collections and displays
  - Operated by the Chicago Horticultural Society, which will be 125 years old in 2015
  - Along with Writer’s Theatre, one of four cultural organizations that comprise the “Do North” marketing campaign
  - Trolley transports guests to/from Glencoe train station on Sundays
  - September 13<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting ceremony for North Branch Trail addition
  - Cultural offerings include live music concerts on summer evenings, among others
  
- Juli Janovicz, Executive Director, Glencoe Public Library
  - Ninety percent of Glencoe residents have a library card
  - Regular cultural offerings include:
    - Page to Stage program in partnership with Writers Theatre
    - Classical music concerts
    - Art lectures in partnership with Museum of Contemporary Art
    - Lyric Opera lectures
    - Film screenings
    - Visiting authors
    - Open mic nights
    - Young adult writing workshops

- o Senior programs
- Additional financial support for programs provided by Friends of the Library

Panelists also shared what conditions in Downtown Glencoe they felt were impediments to their success. A common theme voiced was the lack of gathering places (specifically restaurants) for their visitors to patronize before or after attending a cultural event at one of their organizations. In addition to restaurants, more outdoor spaces for people to congregate were noted. The addition of public sculpture was encouraged. Wyman Green was identified as being underutilized.

In terms of signage, several commented that additional signage for both parking and the cultural attractions would be beneficial particularly for those traveling to Glencoe from out of town.

The potential synergy of all of Glencoe's cultural institutions was recognized as a significant advantage. Opportunities for cross promotion were identified.

Following the panel discussion, Village Planner Lee Brown addressed the Commission concerning general factors impacting economic development in downtown business districts with specific reference to those circumstances unique to Downtown Glencoe. The cultural arts were identified as an engine for economic development in Glencoe. However, Mr. Brown cautioned that focusing solely on cultural arts was less than enough. He recommended a balanced economic strategy with multiple economic drivers to ensure long term sustainability.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Thomas noted that she, Mr. Kiraly, and Mr. Brown recently attended the Library, Park, and School Board meetings to introduce the Downtown Tune Up planning process.

7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING OF THE PLAN COMMISSION

The next meeting of the Plan Commission was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 27, 2014.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Parch  
Planning & Development Administrator