

VILLAGE OF GLENCOE
PLAN COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
December 3, 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 6:35 p.m. on the 3rd day of December 2014.

2. ROLL CALL

The following were present:

Caren Thomas, Chairman, Public-at-Large Representative
Barbara Miller, Vice-Chairman, Village Board Representative
Louis Goldman, Glencoe Public Library Representative
Ed Goodale, Zoning Board of Appeals Representative
Bruce Huvad, Public-at-Large 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:

None

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 OCTOBER 22, 2014 PLAN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the October 22, 2014 Plan Commission meeting were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

None

5. CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF DOWNTOWN TUNEUP

The Plan Commission hosted two panel discussions as part of the Downtown TuneUp planning process. The first panel featured the executive directors of local public bodies. The second panel featured local civic leaders - residents who have made contributions to the Village through public service, particularly by serving on public boards and commissions. Panelists included:

Panel One: *Executive Directors of Local Public Bodies*

- Cathlene Crawford, Superintendent, Glencoe School District 35
- Susan Cowen, Executive Director, Family Service of Glencoe
- Juli Janovicz, Executive Director, Glencoe Public Library
- Phil Kiraly, Village Manager, Village of Glencoe
- Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director, Glencoe Park District

Panel Two: *Local Civic Leaders*

- Steve Bisgeier
- Hilary Lee
- Scott Javore
- Joe Keefe
- Mark Piltingsrud
- Margot Flanagan

Panelists from the local public bodies discussed how recent and future trends in their respective organizations will impact demand for services and activities in Downtown Glencoe.

The prominent location of the Glencoe Library downtown was recognized, likely contributing to the community's 90 percent card holder rate. It was noted that recent Pew Research found that library users tend to be technologically well-versed, tend to frequent bookstores, and are more likely to be involved in the community.

With the proximity of Central School, it was mentioned that many students are in the downtown area after school. Providing a productive hangout/drop-in place for 7th and 8th graders after school was identified as a need. It was noted that South and West School teachers were at a disadvantage in terms of utilizing public transit (Metra) to get to work.

It was also shared that many dual-income families are looking for local activities and dinner/shopping opportunities in the evening, which is currently lacking. As such, the Park District is considering broadening evening programs and exploring new partnerships with Village organizations for special events. The Park District recently purchased a bus to shuttle students to after school programs at the Takiff Center.

It was noted that a recent community-wide needs assessment survey conducted by Family Service of Glencoe found that many in the community are feeling a lack of connection. It was agreed that an expansion of special events, with the goal of attracting all ages, would bring residents of the Village together, thereby fostering community.

It was noted that the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists sharing the road was a concern at times. It was questioned how to balance local traffic with out-of-town traffic arriving for attractions like Writers' Theatre.

Redevelopment of the Public Works Garage was discussed theoretically in terms of how such action may contribute to downtown's vitality.

The scale, walkability, "small town" character, streetscape improvements, and appearance in terms of architecture and signage were collectively identified as the strengths of downtown, and the elements that make Glencoe unique. The sense of pride the community has in terms of downtown was recognized.

It was noted that an update to the design guidelines for downtown was necessary to ensure the existing cohesiveness and character are maintained, while also respecting the Village's long tradition of architectural diversity.

It was agreed that continuing to identify what will attract people to downtown is essential in order for it to remain sustainable into the future. This is especially true as how people shop and what they leave home for is evolving.

Following a five minute recess, Commissioners returned to the dais to review a draft schedule prepared by staff for completion of the tuneup planning process. A key part of the schedule, in order to optimize efficiency, is meeting twice monthly January through June.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Goodale stated that the next Ravine Bluffs Centennial event sponsored by the Glencoe Historical Society will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 11th at the Library and will feature guest speaker Thomas Heinz.

7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING OF THE PLAN COMMISSION

The next meeting of the Plan Commission was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2014.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Parch
Planning & Development Administrator