

VILLAGE OF GLENCOE
PLAN COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
April 9, 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 7:38 p.m. on the 9th day of April 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
Bruce Huvad, Public-at-Large Representative
Gary Ruben, School District #35 Representative

The following were absent:

Andre Lerman, Glencoe Park District Representative
Marya Morris, Public-at-Large Representative
Tom Scheckelhoff, Historic Preservation Commission 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 FEBRUARY 26, 2014 PLAN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the February 26, 2014 Plan Commission meeting were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

Juli Janovicz, Executive Director of the Glencoe Public Library, was in attendance.

Dudley Onderdonk, of 228 Randolph Street, spoke in favor of encouraging the use of the commuter lots on the east side of Green Bay Road for patrons of the new Writers' Theatre. Mr. Onderdonk shared several possible improvements that could be implemented to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing Green Bay Road.

5. REVIEW FRAMEWORK FOR DOWNTOWN PLANNING PROCESS

Village Planner Lee Brown began by emphasizing that downtown Glencoe is not broken and does not need to be fixed, however change is inevitable and an updated plan is necessary to help guide public and private decisions that maximize the value, enjoyment, and sustainability of downtown. Updating a plan necessitates a process that involves the efforts of the Plan Commission, staff, and community participants. Mr. Brown explained that such process should consider three objectives:

- 1) Maximize opportunities for public engagement and meaningful participation;
- 2) Respect contributions of time made by all participants; and
- 3) Efficiently use Village resources to complete the process.

Mr. Brown distributed a preliminary proposal on the planning process for updating Chapter 10 of the Comprehensive Plan, entitled *Downtown Subarea Strategic Plan*, with the intent of seeking input and further direction from the Plan Commission. It was noted that Mr. Brown worked closely with Village staff since the February meeting to outline the proposed planning process. Chairman Thomas acknowledged Commissioner Huvad for his assistance in providing suggestions to staff on the process.

Mr. Brown explained that the suggested framework for the plan update would be for Plan Commission meetings to be organized into a series of workshops that would each focus on a broad topic relevant to downtown – land use, economic development, housing, public spaces, parking and circulation, etc. Each workshop would include a list of questions agreed upon by Commissioners intended to seek answers from the community. Panel discussions with invited participants, included as part of the workshops or as stand-alone meetings, would assure broad representation of perspectives and encourage involvement. It was noted that panels were successfully incorporated into the Chapter 10 planning effort in 2003-2004. The series of workshops would begin with a walkabout downtown intended to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and conclude with an identification of specific action steps necessary to induce recommended changes.

Commissioners strongly supported a process that maximizes opportunities for public engagement and meaningful participation.

Commissioner Cogan stated that her biggest concern was transparency, specifically in making the community aware of the process before it begins and of the specific opportunities available for participation.

Commissioner Huvad noted his preference for an early, high-profile event intended to engage the public rather than panel discussions along the way, as proposed by staff.

Trustee Miller encouraged all modes of communication to be used in publicizing the process and any specific events.

Commissioner Goldman was concerned that public engagement would be limited by the use of technical planning topics intended to solicit interest, and instead suggested using key words that all residents could identify with. He also voiced his support of a kick-off event at the start of the process for public participation.

Mr. Brown encouraged Commissioners to forward to him their suggested changes to the approach and any questions. The Plan Commission agreed to continue its review of the planning process on April 23rd.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

7. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING OF THE PLAN COMMISSION

The next meeting of the Plan Commission was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, 2014.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Parch
Planning & Development Administrator