

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
PLAN COMMISSION

BOARD MEMBERS

Val Gomez, President  
Anthony Serna, Vice President  
Lilia Ramos, Secretary  
Joanne Moricz, Commissioner  
Douglass Sloss, Commissioner  
William Allen, Commissioner  
Lydia Lopez, Commissioner  
Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

Regular Meeting Minutes  
(Via Zoom Videoconference)  
Monday, December 21, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates  
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Val Gomez, Anthony Serna,  
William Allen.

Present Via Zoom: Lilia Ramos, Joanne Moricz,  
Douglass Sloss, Lydia Lopez, Stacy Winfield.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of Monday,  
December 7, 2020

Comments/Questions: None

Motion to approve December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes  
made by William Allen. Second by Anthony Serna.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

CITY PLANNER'S REPORT:

MR. GOMEZ: We'll move on to New Business. We have the  
City Planner's Report.

1 MR. POWERS: Good afternoon. Can everyone hear me all  
right?

2 MR. GOMEZ: Can everyone hear?

3 MS. RAMOS: Yes.

4 MR. POWERS: So today we're going to be looking at  
5 Chapter 5 which is discussing the Rules of Procedure.

6 So, you know, there's a few things I would kind of  
like to focus on or at least touch base on. And then if we  
7 have any questions feel free to, you know, bring those up at  
that time. And we can go into a little greater detail then.

8  
9 So when I am going here through the Rules of  
Procedures, we all pretty much know as to why these  
10 procedures exist. But there are a few things that are  
important to focus on. Like right here is the content.

11 So this kind of gives you an idea. Chapter 1 and  
Chapter 7 are a couple of chapters that we can refer to if we  
12 do have some additional questions or concerns, you know,  
after this meeting. Chapter 1 being more of the, you know,  
13 general Plan Commission as to the Master Plan in 7.

14 However we most likely won't discuss Chapter 7 that  
much unless you guys have questions regarding the Master  
15 Plan.

16 One of the other things I noticed here -- I'm going  
to come back to the Members and Officers here in a moment,  
17 that section. I thought this is kind of something important  
to point out about Suspension and Amendment of the Rules of  
18 Procedure.

19 So there may be instances where a Board is  
presented with a case for whatever reason that may need to be  
20 delayed or something else. And at that time you may choose  
to suspend the typical Rules of Procedure so that way the  
21 petitioner doesn't have to file or submit another petition.

22 For example if something was coming from the Tech  
Committee as to where there was a form in development and  
23 then we found out some additional information after that time  
that was going to cause this development to be pushed back  
24 and you didn't want to potentially have to have them, you  
know, submit a new application, you could allow them some  
25 additional time there.

1           One of the most important things that I really  
2 would like to, you know, bring to light is about Adopting and  
  Amending of Rules of Procedure.

3           So in general some of the general information, you  
4 know, can be found in the Zoning Ordinance. A lot of that  
5 you would find in Section 32.157 where it discusses in detail  
  about, you know, what it is that the Plan Commission -- why  
  you're there, what you do.

6           Excluding, you know, obviously some of the effects  
7 of like various other Boards, BZA and such, this also goes  
  into, you know, how officers are established.

8           And one of the other things that I'd like to  
9 mention is this section of the Ordinance hasn't been amended  
10 since 1995. So if you went through it, you know, within the  
  last 20 or so years, it should be pretty much the same.

11           The reason that I bring this up too is because as  
12 you're aware depending on if you're wanting to do something  
13 that amends the Rules of Procedure it may be something that  
14 your Board can choose to do or it is possible that we may  
  actually have to amend the Zoning Ordinance as well depending  
  upon, you know, what that is that you're trying to change or  
  hoping to achieve.

15           So those are a few important things to take into  
16 consideration when we're thinking about the Rules of  
  Procedure.

17           Do you have any questions about anything specific  
  that you would like me to kind of go over a little bit more?

18           MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?

19           Mr. Powers, that first item on the Planner's  
20 Report, Discussion Legal Citation Related to Plan.

21           MR. POWERS: This is something that we were hoping to  
22 do, you know, to kind of keep you guys up-to-date if there  
  was any new legislation that applied to, you know, the Plan  
  Commission. That way I can bring that to your attention.

23           Currently there isn't anything that happened recent  
24 that you should be apprised to. I just wanted to put that on  
  there as a note so that way I can reiterate, you know, trying  
  to keep you guys updated and informed.

25

1           So if for whatever reason, you know, we did  
2 potentially have to amend the Rules of Procedure, at that  
3 time I would present it to you. And then me and legal  
4 counsel would then confer later, at a later date to try  
5 resolve that issue.

6           MR. GOMEZ: One more time. Any questions or comments?

7           OLD BUSINESS:

8           MR. GOMEZ: We'll move on to Old Business. We have our  
9 Revised 2021 Plan Commission Meeting Schedule.

10           Any questions or comments on the new schedule?

11           MS. CEJA-RAMIREZ: I just wanted to point one thing out.  
12 The reason why there's a revision is because Monday, January  
13 18, is actually a holiday. So that's the reason why we had  
14 to move it from Monday to Wednesday.

15           MR. SERNA: Mr. President, do we need to move to adopt  
16 the schedule for '21?

17           Comments/Questions: None

18           Motion to approve 2021 Plan Commission Meeting Schedule made  
19 by Anthony Serna. Second by Lilia Ramos.

20           Roll Call: "All in Favor": All           Abstain: None  
21 Opposed: None           Motion Carries.

22           COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

23           MR. GOMEZ: We'll move on to Commissioner Comments. Any  
24 comments from the Commissioners?

25           MR. SLOSS: This is Pastor Sloss. Real quick I just  
would like to say if I don't get an opportunity to see  
everybody before the holidays I just wish everybody a safe  
and happy holiday.

          MR. SERNA: Thank you.

          MR. ALLEN: Thank you.

          MR. GOMEZ: Same to you.

          MS. RAMOS: Thank you, Pastor.

25

1 MS. MORICZ: Thank you.

2 MS. LOPEZ: Same to you.

3 MS. WINFIELD: Thank you, Pastor. Same to you all.

4 MS. CEJA-RAMIREZ: If I may say something, Board  
President.

5

MR. GOMEZ: Yes.

6

MS. CEJA-RAMIREZ: The Indiana Citizen Plan that we just  
7 reviewed I want to make sure that everyone has a copy of it.  
And if they do, if they have all the way up to Chapter 12 or  
8 13.

9 What I'll do is I'll follow-up with an e-mail to  
everyone. And I'll go ahead and supply Chapter 13 because I  
10 think some of you have it and some of you don't.

11 I just want to make sure that everyone has all the  
documents that are necessary to insert in the binders.

12

Thank you.

13

MR. GOMEZ: Does everybody have the binder?

14

MR. ALLEN: I have a binder. Mine only goes up to  
15 Chapter 7. I need 8 through 13. But I'll talk to Esperanza.

16 MR. SERNA: I have a binder. But I don't think I have  
all the chapters. I'll shoot an e-mail to you.

17

MR. GOMEZ: If everybody would let Esperanza know what  
18 they're missing or if they have a binder. If they don't have  
a binder, let her know.

19

MR. SERNA: We should have 13 chapters?

20

MS. CEJA-RAMIREZ: Yes. And actually I've been informed  
21 that there should be a Chapter 14 coming out.

22 PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

23

\* Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, January 4,  
24 2021 @ 4:30 p.m.

25

1 Motion to adjourn was made by William Allen. Second by  
Anthony Serna.

2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
3 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

4 \* Meeting ended at 4:42 p.m.

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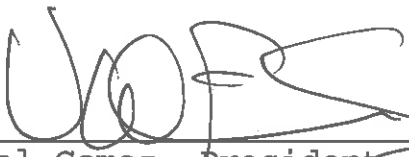
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1 Approval of Meeting Minutes of  
2 Monday, December 21, 2020  
3 Approved and Signed Monday, January 4, 2021

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6 Val Gomez, President

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9 Anthony Serna, Vice President


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12 Lilia Ramos, Secretary

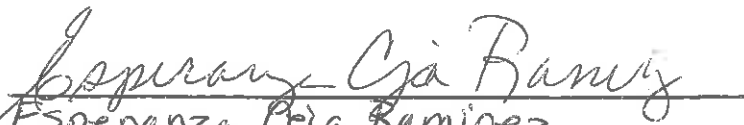
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14 Joanne Moricz, Commissioner

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17 Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

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20 Douglass Sloss, Commissioner

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22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 William Allen, Commissioner

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26 Lydia Lopez, Commissioner

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29 Esperanza Cja Ramirez  
30 Recording Secretary


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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Pena, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 29th day of December, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Pena  
Notary Public Porter County  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
License Number 084-003483

