

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
PLAN COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS:

Valeriano Gomez, President  
Anthony Serna, Vice-President  
Lilia Ramos, Secretary  
Joanne Moricz, Commissioner  
Douglas Sloss, Commissioner  
William Allen, Commissioner  
Lydia Lopez, Commissioner  
Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

STAFF:

Esperanza Ceja-Ramirez  
Douglas Powers

Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.

By: Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR RPR

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Present: Valeriano Gomez, Anthony Serna

Present through Zoom: Lilia Ramos, Joanne  
Moricz, Lydia Lopez, Stacy Winfield

MR. GOMEZ: Meeting is called to order.  
We have a quorum. First order of business is approval  
of minutes.

Motion to approve meeting minutes of Monday, January 4,  
2021, as written, made by Val Gomez. Second by Lilia  
Ramos.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Next we are going to move to new  
business. City Planner's -- first, a moment of silence  
for Patricia Ann "Patty" Naumoff, former plan  
commissioner. Moment of silence, please.

(Moment of silence.)

Thank you everyone. Next on the  
agenda we have election for new plan commissioners.  
First position is for president. Do we have any  
nominations?

CHIEF SERNA: I nominate Val Gomez for

1 president.

2 MS. RAMOS: Second.

3 MR. GOMEZ: Any other nominations?  
4 (None) Roll call.

5 Roll Call: "All in Favor": Serna, Ramos, Moricz,  
6 Lopez, and Winfield Abstain: Gomez Opposed: None

7 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.  
8 Nominations for Vice-president.

9 MS. RAMOS: I nominate Anthony Serna.

10 MR. GOMEZ: Second. Any other  
11 nominations for Vice-president? (None) Roll call for  
12 Vice-president, Anthony Serna.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": Gomez, Ramos, Moricz,  
14 Lopez, Winfield Abstain: Serna Opposed: None

15 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.  
16 Finally we have nomination for  
17 secretary. Floor is open for nominations for secretary.

18 CHIEF SERNA: I nominate Lilia Ramos.

19 MR. GOMEZ: I'll second the nomination.  
20 Any other nominations for secretary? (None) Roll call  
21 for secretary.

22 Roll Call: "All in Favor": Gomez, Serna, Moricz,  
23 Lopez, Winfield Abstain: Ramos Opposed: None

24 MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.  
25 That closes the nomination for  
today's meeting.

Next on the agenda is the Planner's  
Guide, Chapter 6, Ethics.

MR. PALMER: Good afternoon everyone.  
The chapter is primarily dealing with Ethics. I'm not  
going to try to bore you or speak down to you, I'm sure  
a lot of you are fairly familiar with what ethics are.  
So, you know, obviously we are dealing with moral  
choices. And in regards to the Indiana State Law, there  
isn't a lot that specifically relates to the Planning  
Commissioners. There are some things that deal with the

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1 BZA members, such as ex parta contact.

2 However, being as how your position  
3 varies -- you know -- some of the more primary concerns  
4 that you have to be aware of are conflicts of interest.  
5 So, for example, Planning Commission, the code says that  
6 a Plan Commission member may not participate in a  
7 hearing or decision concerning a matter in which he or  
8 she has a conflict of interest, which includes the  
9 following: The member is bias or prejudice or otherwise  
10 unable to be impartial. Or the member has a direct or  
11 indirect financial interest in the outcome of the  
12 decision.

13 So, clearly this type of conflict  
14 will be defined somewhat differently, depending -- you  
15 know -- on the community that you are referring to.  
16 That's where this is so imperative because it's  
17 primarily going to be based on your judgment. We want  
18 to make sure that we are not doing anything that could  
19 possibly be illegal. So obviously if you do have  
20 concerns, feel free to contact me or legal counsel to  
21 verify or -- you know -- abstain from the vote would be  
22 within your best interest.

23 So other things, obviously if there  
24 is a financial conflict of interest, if you are employed  
25 by or represent a business in which there may be  
positive or negative impact by action that is being  
proposed in front of the Plan Commission, that certainly  
could render a conflict there.

So what to do if there was potential  
conflict of interest. So, first -- you know -- alert me  
and the attorney would be your primary issue, that way  
we can discuss whether or not there is a possible  
conflict.

So Planning Commission -- one thing  
I'd like to note -- if a Planning Commission member  
recuse himself or herself due to financial conflict of  
interest or conflict of interest due to lack of  
impartiality, Indiana Code -- the code referenced in the  
book -- can have an alternate member to substitute for  
the regular member during the application, public  
hearing, discussion, and voting. That's one of those  
things too, when you are made aware of possible issues  
coming in front of the Planning Commission -- you  
know -- getting us due notice of some extenuating  
circumstances so we can be aware prior to that.

Another book, if you want to learn  
more, this primarily deals with actual Planner's role,  
not such the Planning Commission members, but the book  
that is cited in the Citizen Planner is the Ethical

1 Planner Practitioner, that does have a lot of good  
2 references along with scenarios, that discuss some of  
3 the ethical dilemma we may be presented with at any  
4 given time. That certainly is a good resource to  
5 familiarize yourself with, more especially if you are  
6 planning on remaining with the commission.

7 And that would be all that I have  
8 for you today. I don't know if anyone has any questions  
9 or anything specific that they'd like me to discuss in  
10 regards to ethics.

11 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions for Mr. Palmer?  
12 (None) Thank you, Mr. Palmer.

13 There being no further questions or  
14 comments, we'll move on. I believe we have no Old  
15 Business. Are there any other comments from  
16 commissioners? (None) Any comments from the public?  
17 (None)

18 Our next meeting will be Monday,  
19 February 1st, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. That concludes our  
20 business for tonight. I'd entertain a motion for  
21 adjournment.

22 CHIEF SERNA: So moved.

23 MS. RAMOS: Second.

24 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
25 Opposed: None

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries. Meeting  
adjourned.

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\*\*\*\* Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.\*\*\*\*

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Wednesday  
January 20, 2021

Approved and signed Monday, February 1, 2021


  
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Valeriano Gomez, President


  
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Anthony Serna, Vice-President


  
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Lilia Ramos, Secretary

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Joanne Moricz

  
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Douglas Sloss

  
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William Allen

  
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Lydia Lopez

  
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Chanthini Fowler  
as of January 1, 2021

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Stacy Winfield

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Esperanza Cefia-Ramirez

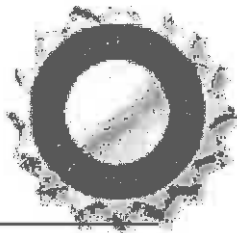
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## C E R T I F I C A T E

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2  
3 I, Peggy S. LaLonde, a competent and duly  
4 qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did  
5 report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings  
6 and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and  
7 place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my  
8 personal direction.

9  
10 I further certify that the foregoing  
11 typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of the said  
12 proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to  
13 be transcribed.

14  
15 Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 25th day  
16 of January, 2021.

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20 Peggy S. LaLonde

21 Peggy S. LaLonde, CSR, RPR  
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