

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
PLAN COMMISSION

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
(Via Zoom Videoconference)
Monday, October 19, 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,
October 5, 2020

Comments/Questions: None

Motion to approve October 5, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
made by Anthony Serna. Second by William Allen.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": Val Gomez, Anthony Serna, Lilia
Ramos, Joanne Moricz, Douglass Sloss, William Allen, Lydia
Lopez. Abstain: None Opposed: None
No response: Stacy Winfield Motion Carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

CITY PLANNER'S REPORT:

1 MR. GOMEZ: We have the City Planner's Report. Today we
2 have an Education Session, Indiana Citizen Planner's Guide,
3 Chapter 4, Communications, Page 71, Orderly Conduct.
4 Mr. Morrisroe.

5 MR. MORRISROE: I am coming here because I think the
6 people who have called in cannot hear unless I use the
7 microphone.

8 Again if you have your Communications, your
9 Citizen's Guide, page 71 begins to talks about Orderly
10 Conduct.

11 We made it through a very serious set of hearings
12 that have to do with Superfund Zone 1. And we managed
13 despite strong expectations to keep a very orderly meeting.

14 We didn't have total agreement as far as the people
15 who were taking part. But they were reasonably orderly and
16 followed the time limits of the Chairman.

17 Notice that about speakers providing name and
18 address. Sometimes it defuses people who are wanting to say
19 strong things about something when they have to identify
20 themselves, their name and address. They become quieter.

21 One person speaking at a time. Testimony be
22 provided under oath. That's especially true for the Board of
23 Zoning Appeals. And the time limit which has usually been
24 three minutes.

25 Again Board, Staff Members conduct ourselves
professionally. Not make statements or ask questions that
would put the Board in legal jeopardy.

So that has to do with the Orderly part.

As far as the Legal Communications on page 72,
notice the Open Door Law, the importance of having the agenda
posted which is taken care of.

The agenda is always downstairs for the public to
see spelling out day, time, place of the meeting, members
present and absent as far as the last meeting, the general
substance of the matters proposed, discussed or decided.

For instance for this it's listed as a General
Education Meeting.

ORIGINAL

1 Again notice the following terms which are put
2 there by public agency which we are. We're an Advisory
3 Commission. We're created by Statute and Ordinance. The
4 Statute refers to the State Law that enables this Plan
5 Commission to exist and then the City Ordinance and the Code
6 of Ordinances in which we exist.

7 Official Action, we receive information,
8 deliberate, make recommendations, establish policy, make
9 decisions and take final action.

10 We do deliberate and do our best to come up with
11 sound decisions.

12 Notice on the next page the importance of a public
13 record. For the last three to five years we have had a court
14 reporter which makes that a little bit easier if we have some
15 inquiries.

16 For instance we have a pending inquiry, two pending
17 inquiries, Freedom of Information Act inquiries about
18 Superfund Zone 1. They not only wanted the minutes which
19 were provided. But they have asked for the slides that were
20 presented as part of those hearings on Superfund Zone 1.

21 We have received those slides. But on the other
22 hand we're requesting of the people inquiring that they
23 identify themselves if they filed a Freedom of Information
24 Act request.

25 When that is all filed, we will forward them the
materials that they have asked for.

Again Notice of Public Hearings, we mentioned some
of this. We do this for the Plan Commission by simple
notice.

However for the BZA we have to have letters because
Indiana Statute require that we send that notice for people
who are within it's about 300 feet to 500 feet. 300 feet of
the proposed project.

If we can go to page 74, the types of
communications. We have internal communications which have
to do with staff. We have discussions of what's taken place.

Notice that those rules and procedures are in
Chapter 5 as well as here.

1 Be responsible for the fair and equitable
2 application of those rules.

3 The external communications, we usually allow the
4 press to give those to us.

5 When it comes to BZA matters, however, we have to
6 make recommendations to the Council. We have to submit
7 findings of fact. We have to give them the recommendations
8 of the BZA and then draft a recommendation ordinance.

9 Notice that it mentions down at the bottom of 75
10 the importance of citizen groups and neighborhood
11 organizations. That can provide an efficient method of
12 communication between the Boards and area citizens.

13 We occasionally have that. However when it came to
14 Superfund Zone 1, the citizen's group, the community group
15 while had talked about the difficulty of putting housing
16 where there had been so many environmental problems, when it
17 came to the hearing they took a position of wanting housing
18 even though it would be next to impossible with both the EPA
19 and HUD that if there were to be housing it would have to be
20 entirely funded by the City or by the developer rather than
21 having the advantage of some public moneys that could be used
22 because both the EPA and HUD were not going to prevent the
23 use of federal public moneys for any housing in that area.

24 Turn to page 76, Community Education, we can do
25 some more of this. Perhaps have meetings. It might be
something we'd want to look for this next year as we come out
of the Covid crisis. We might be able to do some of that.

Social Media, I had mentioned earlier to one of the
-- yes? Someone had a question?

Just to acknowledge this and know how important it
is even though if it weren't for Belinda and Courtnee and
Esperanza I would not be doing much with Social Media.

Are there any questions or comments about this
part?

Well, then I will say that we have finished this
chapter. And we will look at another chapter.

Notice the difference? We have meetings with very
extensive projects and trying to get everything together and
then we have a nice quiet evening like this where all we have

1 is one another. Thank you.

2 MR. GOMEZ: Thank you, Mr. Morrisroe.

3 OLD BUSINESS: None.

4 COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.

5 PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

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7 * Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, November 2,
2020 @ 4:30 p.m.

8

9 Motion to adjourn was made by Anthony Serna. Second by Lilia
Ramos.

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

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

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1 Approval of Meeting Minutes of
2 Monday, October 19, 2020
3 Approved and Signed

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5 Val Gomez, President

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7 Anthony Serna, Vice President

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9 Lilia Ramos / ZOOM-ECR
10 Lilia Ramos, Secretary

11
12 Resigned 10/2020
13 Monique Kurmis, Commissioner

14 Joanne Moricz / ZOOM-ECR
15 Joanne Moricz, Commissioner

16
17 Stacy Winfield / ZOOM-ECR
18 Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

19 Douglass Sloss / ZOOM-ECR
20 Douglass Sloss, Commissioner

21
22 William Allen
23 William Allen, Commissioner

24 Lydia Lopez / ZOOM-ECR
25 Lydia Lopez, Commissioner

Esperanza Ceja Ramirez
Esperanza Ceja Ramirez
Recording Secretary

C E R T I F I C A T E

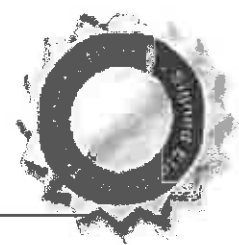
I, Lisa Pena, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

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 28th day of October, 2020.

Lisa Pena

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



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