

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road – Conference Room A
Woodstock, IL 60098

Minutes of Thursday, April 3, 2008

Barbara Wheeler, Chairman	
Randy Donley	Mary L. Donner
Jim Heisler	Peter Merkel
Marc Munaretto	Virginia Peschke

Chairman Wheeler called the Planning and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Barbara Wheeler; Mary Donner; Jim Heisler; Virginia Peschke; and Peter Merkel. Randy Donley and Marc Munaretto were absent. Also in attendance: SuzAnne Ehardt, Director Planning and Development Department; Peter Austin, County Administrator; interested public; and the press

MINUTE APPROVAL

Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner, to approve the regular session minutes of the March 6, 2008 Planning and Development Committee meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATIONS: None

SUBDIVISIONS

Plat Extension – Hunter’s Woods: Ms. Ehardt reviewed a request by Inland Real Estate Development, LLC for a one year extension to bring their final plat before the Committee. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner, to approve a one year extension for the final plat of Hunters Woods, extending the date to May 7, 2009 as requested by Inland Real Estate Development, LLC. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Final Plat - Yadgar: Ms. Ehardt pulled this item from the agenda, noting that additional information was needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Household Hazardous Waste Information: In response to the Committee’s request at a previous meeting, a memorandum was provided regarding household hazardous waste collection funding. Staff had contacted the McHenry County Defenders and the Lou Marchi Total Recycling Institute to see if either organization would be able to provide a monetary donation to help secure a Household Hazardous Waste collection event. Neither organization would have funding available for this purpose, but reaffirmed their commitments to providing volunteer support should such an event be held. Ms. Ehardt reported that Falcon Waste and Recycling would pledge \$1,000 toward a collection event and they will contact other waste haulers to see if they might also be interested. Staff is also working to get information to the public regarding collection locations that are open to all Illinois residents.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE, AS APPLICABLE:

Stormwater: The ordinance will be on the April 15, 2008 County Board agenda for action. Consideration is being given to reinstate the Technical Advisory group over the next few months.

CMAF: No update.

MCCD: The Board continues to move forward with the comprehensive plan, office space allocations and land acquisitions. They are also working with McHenry County College to provide a link with trails.

Planning Commission: A presentation was recently made to the County Board. The April 10, 2008 meeting will review the open space section with water resources being discussed at the April 24th meeting.

Imagine McHenry County: The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2008. The group is trying to get re-established without strong ties to the Economic Development Corporation.

MISCELLANEOUS

Stormwater Engineer: Ms. Ehardt reported that the department has the opportunity to fill this position, but to do so will require pay above the mid-level, which would be within the previous salary level. She asked for committee consensus to move forward. Chairman Wheeler stated she was strongly in favor of filling this position. Mr. Austin reviewed the current hiring policy which allows the hiring of an individual above the mid-level with consent of administration and appropriate committees. The Committee consensus was to move forward and fill this position.

Chairman Wheeler reported that Ms. Donner will spearhead the initiative to address dark sky lighting. Ms. Donner stated she will be reviewing various ordinances from other counties and municipalities to see what they have done to address this concern. To date she has the Lake County ordinance and one from Homer Glen. She asked that if anyone is aware of other such ordinances to please let her know so they can also be included in the review.

Mr. Heisler left the meeting at 8:45 am

Ms. Peschke stated that the "lights out" event a few nights ago was an interesting concept. She noted that if businesses would embrace the idea of trying to cut-back on night time lighting there would be a tremendous energy savings. Chairman Wheeler questioned if incentives might be available to businesses to retrofit offices to address more energy efficient lighting systems. It was noted that some municipalities are adopting regulations for down lights to limit spillage. Members agreed that by cutting back on night time lighting everyone would benefit.

Mr. Merkel stated he is concerned that with the arrival of spring roadside signage once again becomes an issue. He asked if the Committee could discuss this at their next meeting. Ms. Ehardt stated that the Sign Ordinance allows for such signage under the "Temporary Signage" section. She stated there are some signs that have been up for 30 years that the owner claims are temporary. She also pointed out that the department has no jurisdiction over signage in right-of-ways. She also stated that some political signs remain standing long after elections. It was also noted that a permit for a temporary sign is not necessary. Members also questioned if a bounty on signs could be considered. After discussion, the Committee directed Ms. Ehardt to research and address these concerns with the State's Attorney and provide an update to the Committee at a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner, to adjourn at 8:58 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

None.