



## **“CBD-Northtown-Parking Task Force”**

Sixteenth Meeting: Monday, March 31, 2008 @ 7:30 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** Ardie Baroni, Beth Barrow, Chris Callahan, Julie Crnovich, Jean Follett, Chuck Foster, Dave Friedman, Jeanie Janes, Jeff Keller, Gary Peart, Eric Pitcher, and Karl Weber

**Staff in Attendance:** Timothy Scott, AICP, Community Development Strategist

**Others in Attendance:** Bob Saigh, Resident

### Opening Remarks

Chairman Friedman opened the meeting at 7:34 p.m. He informed the group that the evening’s meeting would cover approval of minutes, a re-cap of informal meetings with Hinsdale Center for the Arts and The Community House, review of the draft of the group’s final report, and steps to wrap up the Task Force’s work in June.

### Approval of Minutes

Chairman Friedman asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of March 3, 2008. Since several members had not yet reviewed the minutes sent via e-mail in advance of the meeting, hard copies were passed out to the group. Chairman Friedman requested that members review in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting.

### Hinsdale Center for the Arts and The Community House

Chairman Friedman and Jeff Keller summarized for the group the feedback that they received from Greg Didomenico, Executive Director of the Hinsdale Center for the Arts, and Theresa Forthofer, Executive Director of The Community House, regarding the idea of a performing arts center within the area being studied by the Task Force. Mr. Didomenico and Ms. Forthofer reportedly expressed great interest in the Task Force’s thought process and the idea of a downtown location. Both commented that such a facility would be additive to downtown Hinsdale and

communicated their willingness to work together to explore the concept. Ms. Forthofer remarked that the facility would not cannibalize the offerings from their existing building and that The Community House Players would find such a facility particularly interesting. Chairman Friedman noted the Executive Directors' possible reservations as the impact on the facility of showing first-run films and the ability to secure the funds necessary to construct and to establish a maintenance endowment. Chairman Friedman concluded by suggesting that a trip or trips to benchmark other like facilities may be beneficial, and he cited the Beverly Arts Center, the Metropolis in Arlington Heights, and the facility at North Central College in Naperville as potential destinations for those interested members of the group.

### Review of Draft Final Report

Chairman Friedman passed out the newest version of the draft final report, noting that he incorporated comments that he had received from the group. He mentioned that he used the feature that tracks the changes made to the electronic file of the report and reviewed those that had been made to date. Ms. Crnovich commented that due to its ongoing efforts, the Beautification Task Force should be consulted regarding the proposed items in the report that relate to the Memorial Building's grounds.

Some discussion occurred regarding the location of the main train station (Brush Hill Depot), existing railroad crossings, and the potential to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Trustee Follett suggested that the report should mention that a grade-separated pedestrian crossing should be incorporated somewhere within the study area.

The potential to control the intersection of Garfield and Chicago was discussed, with Chuck Foster recalling that a traffic light was installed there approximately 40 years ago and that it was a relatively short-lived experiment. Members agreed that attention should be given to making the intersection more hospitable to those not in cars, and if possible, to better manage the flow of cars.

The notion of appropriate buffering was discussed briefly by the group. Mr. Scott mentioned that one technique is to establish detailed landscape buffering criteria for the areas where differing zoning classifications meet one another. He added that such a tool is typically spelled out in the landscape ordinance of a community's zoning code and that one of the recommendations of the "Beautify Hinsdale" Solutions Exploration Group from the Hinsdale 2025 Strategic Plan was to establish a detailed landscape ordinance.

With respect to the potential recommendation of modeling sections of the study area in a fashion similar to the scale model of the downtown, several members were concerned that there might not be adequate space to display and store these additions. As a result, one potential way to achieve the objective without the space

issue that was recommended for consideration was virtual modeling. Mr. Saigh also suggested that the downtown scale model be displayed in a more visible location so that a broader audience could view it.

#### Steps to Completion for Task Force

Chairman Friedman reviewed the tentative timeline that he had established for the group's review. He stated that the process for adopting the report would include review and consideration by the Zoning and Public Safety Committee and the Board of Trustees. In order to receive feedback from Hinsdale residents, Chairman Friedman suggested that the draft be posted onto the Village's website and that a town hall meeting be considered.

#### Next Meeting

Chairman Friedman announced that the next meeting of the Central Business District-Northtown-Parking Task Force would be held on Monday, April 14, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room (located in Memorial Hall, 19 East Chicago Avenue).

Ms. Baroni made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Weber seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Timothy Scott, AICP