

**VILLAGE OF HINSDALE
ZONING AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, May 19, 2008
Memorial Hall
7:30 p.m.**

Present: Trustee Follett, Trustee Smith, Trustee Cauley (via phone)

Absent: Trustee Orler

Also Present: Village Manager David Cook, Chief of Police Bradley Bloom, Fire Chief Michael Kelly, Community Development Director Tim Bleuher, Robb McGinnis, Tim McElroy

Minutes

The Committee continued approval of March 17th minutes until June 23rd as they were not included in the packet this month.

March & April, 2008 Monthly Reports

Chief Bloom presented the March and April Police Department monthly reports. Trustee Cauley asked why the number of "citizen assists" had gone up so dramatically between 2007 and 2008. Chief Bloom indicated that it may be due to a re-classification of incidents in the new records management program, but would investigate and provide a better answer at the June ZPS meeting. Trustee Follett inquired why meter tickets dropped and regular parking tickets went up between 2007 and 2008. Chief Bloom said that it may be due to the new T2 parking ticket software calculations, but would check and report back at the June ZPS Committee meeting.

Chief Kelly reported to the Committee that on May 1st the Fire Department celebrated 20 Years of providing paramedic level service to the community and Hinsdale Hospital sponsored a luncheon on May 13th to recognize this achievement and presented the Fire Department with a commemorative plaque.

Director Bleuher gave a summation of the revenue numbers for the months of March and April noting that they were largely based on the updated permit fees that the department had brought forward in May of 2007. Director Bleuher also reported on his attendance of the American Planning Association's National Conference in Las Vegas where he attended four days of planning-related seminars and networked with other community development directors and private consultants on current issues regarding community development and how they were being addressed.

Permit Fee Waiver Request for Grace Episcopal Church

Chairman Smith introduced the request from Grace Episcopal Church to waive permit fees related to redevelopment plans for their properties along First Avenue. Trustee Follett noted that these fees were not profit-oriented and only applied toward direct costs related to the work proposed by the church. Trustee Follett went on to state that if the fees were waived in this instance than it would provide a negative precedent related to all churches and not-for-profit organizations doing work in the community. Village Manager Dave Cook mentioned that the Village, in his eighteen years, has never waived fees for churches, only extending permit deadlines in some instances.

Trustee Follett made a motion to deny the request and Trustee Cauley seconded the motion. Unanimously denied

Case A-03-2008 – Applicant: Village of Hinsdale – Text Amendment to Section 9-106, Signs, of the Hinsdale Zoning Code as they Relate to Signage on Awnings in the B-1, B-2 and B-3 Business Districts

Chairman Smith gave a summary of the request for additional awning signage and noted that at the Plan Commission hearing on this item there was a lot of discussion on the matter. Trustee Smith requested that the item be continued until the June 23rd meeting in order for the Committee to review the Findings and Recommendations from the Plan Commission. Trustee Follett agreed on the continuance in order to review the information.

Case A-17-2006 – Applicant: Salt Creek Club – Planned Development Amendment to Approve Major Adjustments to the Approved Planned Development (02006-061)

Chairman Smith introduced the item and turned the presentation over to Jim Prisby, architect for the Salt Creek Club. Mr. Prisby said that the new building proposed was 70 percent smaller than what was originally presented and approved by the Village. He also noted that the building was very similar in architecture and materials.

Trustee Cauley asked Mr. Prisby if the proposed four paddle courts were part of the original proposal. Mr. Prisby responded by stating no, but it was his understanding that they were a permitted use within the underlying zoning district. Director Bleuher confirmed that the courts were defined as an accessory use and permitted in the Open Space District per the Village's Zoning Code. Trustee Cauley stated that because they were not a part of the original proposal, he felt that the request should go back to the Plan Commission to review.

Chairman Smith read from the Village's Zoning Code; Section 11-603-D-3-(h), where if there had never been a final plan submitted within 60 days from the original approval, "the approval and all other approvals of the planned development and all permits based on such approvals shall automatically expire and be rendered void, and the Manager shall, without further direction, initiate an appropriate application to revoke the special use permit for all portions of the planned development area that have not yet been completed." Chairman Smith noted that because this did not happen, there was no Planned Development in place and therefore the process had to start again at the Plan Commission level. Trustee Cauley and Trustee Follett agreed to this finding and Trustee Follett noted that she had recently heard from a number of residents who were against the proposed paddle courts.

No motion was put forth and Chairman Smith asked Dave Cook to follow the direction of Section 11-603-D-3-(h) and "initiate an appropriate application to revoke the special use permit" for the Salt Creek Club.

2006 Building Code Update

Chairman Smith provided an opportunity for members of the audience to comment on the discussion of the 2006 Code Update. Nine members of the audience addressed the Committee and voiced their opinion on the issue of residential fire sprinklers. Audience members who addressed the Committee represented various interests including builders, architects, and developers. The members who addressed the Committee all voiced their opposition to a mandatory requirement for residential fire sprinklers. The reasons for their opposition varied

and included issues of cost/benefit, potential for water damage, that it should be a voluntary decision, and that smoke detectors provide sufficient protection.

Chief Kelly then provided a presentation in support of the requirement for residential fire sprinklers. Chief Kelly showed a short video that explained how sprinklers operate and some of the critical issues of time and how rapidly a fire grows. Chief Kelly provided a summary of his report on residential fire sprinklers that was submitted to the Committee in April. Chief Kelly reviewed the main reasons for moving forward with this recommendation as well as addressing some of the main issues that have been brought forward in opposition to this recommendation.

The Commissioners had two discussion items to cover based on the building code workshop. One was a proposal to amend the permitted work hours from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. The other was to grant the Building Official the authority to extend permit duration by up to 30 days.

The Commissioners had no opposition to the 30-day extension, but wanted to invite more public comment on the proposal to amend the permitted work hours to 7:00 a.m. vs. 8:00 a.m. The primary argument from the participants at the code workshop was that allowing a 7:00 a.m. work start during the week would remove a lot of construction traffic from the streets prior to 7:30 a.m., when school traffic increased, thereby creating a safer environment. Commissioner Follett asked staff to bring back the number of tickets written for early work starts for the year 2007 for discussion next month.

Based on feedback from the Commissioners, staff will move forward on preparing the building code ordinance for consideration.

Elevator Conveyance Program

Staff discussed the new state mandates required by the Office of the State Fire Marshall in order to continue our elevator inspection program. Based on the political backlash this act has caused, Staff recommended that any further discussion and recommendations be deferred for 90 days in order to see what amendments are approved at the state level.

Review of the Study of the Effectiveness of Photo Red-Light Enforcement System

Chief Bloom indicated that at a previous ZPS Meeting the Committee raised questions regarding the effectiveness in reducing accidents using photo red light enforcement systems.

Chief Bloom stated that a study was completed by the traffic safety officer. In summary, the Legislature approved photo red light enforcement systems in 2007. Since that time only a few municipalities outside of Chicago have installed systems but many are in the process of installing systems. However, at this point there is little conclusive data available that indicates that such systems reduce accidents.

Chief Bloom indicated that some of the empirical data from outside Illinois seems to indicate that right angle accidents are reduced but rear end accidents increase. This is due to motorists sudden stops when the light turns yellow resulting in an increased rear end collisions. The data further indicates that the number of injuries from accidents have been reduced at intersections using photo red light systems due primarily to the fact that rear end collisions have a lesser frequency of injury compared to right angle collisions. Additionally, we learned that legislation is pending that would prohibit the enforcement of right on red violations using photo red light enforcement systems. Data does indicate that was much as 70% of photo red light enforcement

violations are for this violation, which is largely not attributable to accidents and not something we have aggressively enforced in the past. Moreover, the pricing structures on many of the photo red light enforcement companies are based on total violations including right turn on red violations that if we chose not to enforce would make the systems financially unviable.

Chief Bloom stated that his recommendation at this time is to wait 12 to 18 months until more data is available within the State of Illinois that proves that photo red light enforcement is an effective tool at reducing accidents.

A brief discussion was held and the Committee agreed with the recommendation to wait until more conclusive data is available that indicates that automatic red light enforcement reduces accidents.

Trustee Cauley moved to adjourn. Trustee Follett seconded and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy Bleuher
Community Development Director