

**MainStreet Commission Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2015**

Members Present

Michael Clark, Chairman
Jim Fuentes
Dennis Suglich
Dr. Robert Theis

Staff Present

Donna Framke, Marketing Director
Ivan Baker, Econ. Development Director
Judy Bruning, Asst. to the Mayor
Nancy Byrne, Commission Secretary

Also Present

David Seaman, Liaison Trustee

Chairman Clark called the February 18, 2015 MainStreet Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There was a motion made by Jim Fuentes, seconded by Dr. Robert Theis, to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Clark declared the motion carried.

There was a motion made by Dr. Theis, seconded by Dennis Suglich, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2015 MainStreet Commission meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Clark declared the motion carried.

Benches on the Avenue Sketch Selection – The commissioners reviewed the bench submittals and indicated their selections. He noted that it has been a challenge for Nancy to find artists this year and asked for suggestions from the group. She indicated that because of the bench size, some artists may have trouble with transportation, workspace and time. Mike likes using a bench because it is functional art. Suggestions were discussed including artist workspace availability; mentoring; promotion by school boards to students; pay structure; scholarships for schools to promote; targeting retired art teachers. Nancy will be meeting with the selected artists and gather feedback.

Downtown Tinley Update – Mike mentioned that a speaker is needed for the April 8th meeting. With the tax deadline approaching, finding a tax professional has been a challenge. Jim suggested Paul Dillman, CPA. Other suggested topics were fraud protection, CPI compliance and credit card security. Nancy will contact Paul Dillman.

Landscape Survey – Mike asked if everyone had seen the Landscape Survey sent out by the Planning Department. They asked for input from the commission on examples of village-wide, high-quality landscaping. He asked the group to go through the survey today and answer it as a group. The commissioners complimented Public Works on their snow removal efforts this winter.

Mike Clark noted that it was very difficult to assess landscaped areas due to the fact that almost everything is covered in a great deal of snow. Going off of memory, they took into consideration Harlem Avenue, the Oak Park Avenue train station, Ed & Joe's parking lot, the area in front of Central Collision, 167th Street and Bailey's. Comments included the following: Harlem Avenue looks very nice; 167th Street is just okay, though the paver color is not ideal. Central Collision landscaping is very nice; Bailey's brickwork and landscaping is very nice; Gigi's Playhouse looks very nice. The train station always is well taken care of and looks good even all the way down the tracks. Areas that need improvement were also discussed.

Ivan asked if they were happy with the way the new ordinance is enforcing improvements. Jim said it has raised the bar but it is very costly to the business owner. Trustee Seaman noted that the ordinance mandated that trees be planted 25 feet apart which created a struggle with the Emerald Ash Borer situation. The village is still replacing them at the standard. Ivan asked how they liked the Brookside Glen landscaping and they thought it looks good but it was probably very costly to the business owner.

Dennis Suglich suggested flexibility with the ordinance so as not to negatively affect the Mom & Pop businesses in Downtown Tinley. Dr. Thies stated that if his business loses parking they are in big trouble because they are at capacity now, and if landscaping requirements are put in place they may lose parking. Jim Fuentes asked about the planned parking behind the downtown businesses and stated that he has been actively involved in Downtown Tinley for 30 years.

From a MainStreet Commission point of view, in addition to the aforementioned comments, the commission would want to emphasize flexibility in the landscape requirements.

Complete Streets Project – Trustee Seaman indicated that this project is in conjunction with the TOD which is focused on pedestrian traffic rather than automobile traffic. Rubino’s is concerned due to the semi-trucks going through the parking lot. The engineers have been invited to attend the next ECC meeting to further explain the project. Mike stated that his concern for the businesses at 165th Street is the turning lane there because it is so close to the 167th Street intersection. Trustee Seaman stated that the input of the MSC and ECC should impact the decisions that will be made. Dennis Suglich asked that the engineers provide examples of where this has been done previously so that the commission can go and take a look at the design. Donna played the video from Dan Burden about road diets.

Cruise Night Cancellation Policy – Donna passed out the cancellation policy for information purposes. Trustee Seaman suggested that the policy should only apply to dangerous weather, i.e., severe thunderstorms. Trustee Seaman would like the policy amended to read “severe and threatening weather”.

Special Events Update – Donna distributed an Events Update with details of upcoming events.

Irish Parade – Donna reported that the former Central Middle School lot has mounds of snow, therefore, there will be no parking there. She gave an update on the parade preparations and noted that judging will be at El Coco Mio and Jim Fuentes is the emcee.

Bunny Hop – March 29th in the southwest lot of the downtown train station.

Discover Tinley – April 11th at the Convention Center. Downtown Tinley row will be set up as in previous years. Prizes will be solicited for a gift basket.

Music in the Plaza – The commission may want to make recommendations on adding or improving sound.

Block Party – July 19th

Duathlon – June 28th with proceeds to Tinley Wish

Trustee Update – Trustee Seaman updated the commissioners on current projects.

Project Updates – Ivan Baker presented a report on existing projects and activities. He reminded the group about the “Starting a Business Seminar” with the SBA on February 25th in the Kallsen Center regarding social media for small businesses. Fifty businesses will be attending.

There was a motion made by Jim Fuentes, seconded by Bob Theis, to adjourn the meeting. Vote by voice call: Chairman Clark declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Reminder
Next MSC Meeting
March 18, 2015
6:00 p.m.
Fulton Conference Room

Upcoming Events:

- *Bunny Hop - Sun., March 29th*
- *Discover Tinley - Sat., April 11th*
- *Benches on the Avenue - Thurs., May 7th*
- *Cruise Nights - Every Tues. starting June 2nd*
- *Farmers Market - Every Sat. starting May 30th*
- *Music in the Plaza - June 13, 27, July 11, 25, Aug. 8, 22, 29th*
- *Tinley Park Duathlon - Sun., June 28th*
- *Caribbean Block Party - Sun., July 19th*
- *National Night Out - Tues., Aug. 4th*

Convention Center Upcoming Events

- 3/28-3/29 Family Time Magazine Kid's Expo
- 4/4 Narski Music - Morris Day, Zapp & Tommy Davidson
- 4/11 Discover Tinley
- 4/18 Yolobe Teen Expo
- 4/21 Catalyst Career Group
- 5/2 Tinley Park Brew & Vine Festival
- 5/9 Lady - A Woman's Expo
- 6/2 National Career Fairs
- 6/6-6/7 Body Mind Spirit Expo
- 6/11-6/13 Greater Chicago Coin & Currency Show
- 6/23 Catalyst Career Group