

VILLAGE OF HINCKLEY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
April 2, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kula at 7:00 PM.

Present: Chairman Russ Kula, members Joan Umano, Missi Lewis, Jason DeBernardi, and Danielle Marion. Quorum Established.

Absent: Gerald Bahl and Joe Edmeier.

Also Present: Village Clerk Elizabeth Losiniecki

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The pledge to the flag was recited.

COMMENTS FROM PERSONS PRESENT:

None.

AGENDA ITEM: Previous Meeting Minutes – 01/02/18 Presentation and Vote

Missi Lewis moved to approve the previous meeting minutes from January 2, 2018 and Danielle Marion seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Lewis-Aye, Umano-Aye, Kula-Aye, Marion-Aye, DeBernardi-Aye. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

° **Agenda item for discussion:** Tree City USA

Beth Corrigan and Trisha Bethke from the Morton Arboretum gave a presentation regarding Tree City USA certification. They stated that they had been to Hinckley last fall to meet with Molly Ferguson and Beth Losiniecki and tour the parks in town. Ms. Corrigan outlined the steps for certification, including the establishment of a tree board, passage of a tree ordinance, and an Arbor Day proclamation. She also highlighted some of the benefits the Village will realize, including benefits to the environment, increased property value and access to additional grant money/funding. Discussion followed regarding prohibited species, public trees and tree preservation, ecological impacts, and tree inventories.

Additionally, Ms. Bethke, invasive pest specialist, led a discussion regarding the need for larger transition zones between agriculture and residential spaces and need for diversity in the age and type of trees. She stated that Oak trees are part of our natural heritage and the White Oak is our State tree. She stated that chemical spraying is negatively impacting oak trees, especially near agricultural fields.

All Planning Commission members were in agreement to continue to pursue Tree City USA certification. Russ Kula and Missi Lewis agreed to lead the effort.

° **Agenda item for discussion:** Welcome to Hinckley Signs

Joan Umano stated that the Board of Trustees is currently reviewing the Welcome to Hinckley sign proposal.

° **Agenda item for discussion:** DeKalb County Community Foundation (DCCF) Grant

Joan Umano stated that there had been a meeting with NIU Center for Governmental Studies to discuss the next steps and the residential survey questions. She stated that there would be a separate meeting in May to set up the survey for the business community. The goal is to take the survey results

and have a project identified by the end of September and then proceed to phase two of the process.

Trustee Constant provided a handout with the Harvesting Our Future logo, designed by Commission member Danielle Marion.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PLANNING COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, PROJECT UPDATES AND OTHER INFORMATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Missi Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. Joan Umano seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Russ Kula, Chairman

Elizabeth Losiniecki, Village Clerk