

VILLAGE OF HINCKLEY
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 2018

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

Present: Chairman Russ Kula, members Joan Umano, Gerald Bahl, and Joe Edmeier. Quorum Established.

Absent: Missi Lewis, Jason DeBernardi and Danielle Marion.

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 – 04/02/18 Presentation and Vote

Joan Umano moved to approve the previous meeting minutes from April 2, 2018 and Russ Kula seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Umano-Aye, Bahl-Aye, Kula-Aye, Edmeier-Aye. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

° Agenda item for discussion: Tree City USA

Village Clerk Losiniecki provided an overview of the status of the Tree City USA certification process. She stated that the application had been started and reminded those present that Missi Lewis had volunteered to handle the application process. She also stated that Russ Kula had been appointed (by Village President Nelson) as Tree Board Chairman at the April 30, 2018 Regular Board Meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding people that might be interested in serving on the Tree Board as members. Village Clerk Losiniecki also reminded members that Pizzo Nursery had donated native plants for the Pollinator Garden that will be planted later in the month.

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

Joan Umano stated that approximately 188 surveys had been completed for the Harvesting Our Future initiative with NIU Center for Governmental Studies. She stated that there would be another survey for business owners available soon. She stated that there had been 26 team members selected from the community to participate in the initiative. The first meeting of the larger team will be on May 24, 2018 at the high school. Russ Kula asked how the team members were selected and Joan Umano stated that she and Mike Constant and Danielle Marion had solicited the members based on certain criteria. Russ Kula asked if anyone could attend the meeting on the 26th and Ms. Umano indicated that it would be a closed meeting. Discussion followed regarding the decision to close the meeting to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

°Agenda item for discussion: Abandoned Alleys

Clerk Losiniecki gave an overview of a neighbor dispute regarding the alley behind 612 E. Lincoln Avenue. The resident at 612 E. Lincoln Ave. purchased the property with the understanding that the alley had been officially vacated by the Village. The property to the north, at 160 Donald, has historically used the alley as their driveway. There is no driveway for the 160 Donald property. A

“shared driveway” arrangement had been implemented and in use previous to the current owner of 612 E. Lincoln Ave. The Village has not officially vacated the alley. Josh Viland, manager of the apartments on Rees Street, which is adjacent to the alley on the east end, provided pictures of the alley and buildings and the plat of survey for the apartment. Discussion followed regarding the responsibility of the property owners to settle the driveway dispute. The Planning Commission members were all in agreement that the Village should not vacate any alleys at this point in time.

PLANNING COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, PROJECT UPDATES AND OTHER INFORMATION

There was a brief discussion regarding the property at 125 S. May Street, commonly known as the “escape room” house. Gerald Bahl mentioned the ordinance regarding parking and landscaping for businesses and all members were in agreement that the Village should work with the owner and not “push him away.”

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Joe Edmeier moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. Joan Umano seconded the motion. Voice Vote: All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Russ Kula, Chairman

Elizabeth Losiniecki, Village Clerk