

PLANS COMMISSION

January 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the Plans Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Albany Village Hall by President Kim Blumer. Members present were: Blumer, Virginia Detra, Mark Riedel, and Michelle Monson. Absent: Eileen Althaus, Paul Rhyner, and Karl Hulbert. Also present were: Chris Lange, Sara Lange, Steve Mortaloni, Colleen Brewer, Ruth Beckman, Greg O'Bel, Jenny Bryant, Vernon Helmuth, Tim Porter Jr., Tim Porter Sr., Otis Riedel, Suzanne Bryant, Pam and Rick Wollin, Barb Brugger, Jim Graves.

Proof of posting was verified.

MINUTES: Motion by Detra, seconded by Monson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed. Carried.

DOWNTOWN PARKING: Blumer explained that the commission had invited all property owners/business owners in the downtown area to discuss possible ways to improve the parking in the downtown area. At times, this area is very full with people that are staying parked for several hours, making it difficult for people that would like to just stop in for a shorter visit to a local business. Jim Graves stated that he's not sure that there are many options – maybe one side of street with limited time parking, but this would also push the people who are tubing down the river further into residential areas. Tim Porter Sr. stated that he does not agree with the two hour parking. He feels that this 'picking on' the tubers. It was explained that this is NOT against the 'tubers' however in the summer months this issue is more intense. When questioned why there were two spots near the Overlook Park that were painted yellow for no parking, Gill explained that the semis that are trying to turn on to Oak Street cannot make the corner if vehicles are parked there. Gill also explained that purpose of the "Bump outs" on each corner. They are there for drainage according to DNR requirements, but by being there, they have taken several parking places away. Riedel explained that the Overlook Park was meant to be a central downtown plaza that can be used for events. Community 1st is working on fundraising to go toward this park, too. Chris suggested that people living in the upstairs apartments could maybe buy a permit so that it would be known which vehicles belonged to residents' vs the daily users. Also, motorcycles could have a special area for the bikes, as there are several of them that take up several spaces. Gill explained that he had measured the street across from the Village Hall to see how many parking spaces could be added if straight in parking was put in from Milwaukee Street to the village hall. His estimate was about 22 stalls could be built. This was strongly suggested to look into further, as it would help with some of the parking issues. Parking to get into Edgewater Café is very difficult, as it is for the Hair Salon. And there are several users of each of these places that are not able to walk long distances. Ruth Beckman also stated that she feels there would be more people that would attend the Historical Society meetings if there was better parking available. It was also noted that there are business owners that use the closer parking themselves, which also uses several spaces of parking. Lange stated that we all need to work together, and support each other's businesses. Plus, it would be great if the businesses all got together periodically and discussed the issues. Detra offered to help chair their meetings if they needed her. No actual decisions were made, but several ideas were discussed. Riedel also reported that at this time, it sounds like the Highway 59 project is scheduled for 2017.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES: Keepers reported what she found after speaking with our building inspector, Dave Wartenweiler. He has stated that the business owned by Mark Berlinski is now a commercial business, since the property was changed from a commercial use into a residential use. This property will need to be inspected by the state building inspector. The other two businesses that want to be an overnight stay facility, need to contact the village's building inspector at their earliest convenience and meet with him to see if they can pass the inspection and get an occupancy permit. The commission would also like to have the fire inspector meet at the same time as the building inspector and go through these properties. Phone numbers were given to the two property owners and they are now responsible to get this done. Berlinski's business is still in question. Wartenweiler suggested that we have our village attorney look into this process to make sure that we are doing everything as it should be. Motion by Blumer, seconded by Monson to contact the village attorney to investigate what needs to be done to bring these businesses into compliance or closed. Carried.

FUTURE BUSINESS: It was decided that the Street Committee also needs to look into the parking issue.

ADJOURN: Motion by Detra, seconded by Monson to adjourn. Carried.

7:42 p.m.

LAURIE K. KEEPERS, Clerk