

**Planning & Development Committee Meeting
Minutes of July 26, 2010**

City Council Chambers – 7:00 p.m.

(or 15 minutes after the Administration & Public Works (A&PW) meeting adjourns)

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

ALDERMEN PRESENT: D. Holmes, L. Jean-Baptiste, A. Rainey, D. Wilson,
M. Wynne

STAFF PRESENT: B. Dunkley, G. Farrar, D. Marino, B. Newman, M. Lyons

PRESIDING OFFICIAL: Ald. Rainey

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Rainey called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE JULY 12, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Ald. Wynne moved approval, seconded by Ald. Holmes.

The minutes of the July 12, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously, 5-0.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(P1) Ordinance 56-O-10, Granting a Special Use for a Type 2 Restaurant at 816 Church Street in the D3 Downtown Core Development Zoning District (“Five Guys”)

The Zoning Board of Appeals and staff recommend the adoption of Ordinance 56-O-10 Granting a Special Use for a Type 2 Restaurant at 816 Church Street in the D3 Downtown Core Development Zoning District (“Five Guys”). The Site Plan and Appearance Review Committee (SPAARC) voted unanimously on June 20, 2010, to recommend the requested special use permit. On July 6, 2010 the ZBA voted 6-0 to recommend approval with conditions of the requested special use permit.

A representative of “Five Guys” restaurant was present to answer questions. The Committee members had no questions.

The Committee voted unanimously 5-0 to recommend approval of the Special Use permit for the Type 2 restaurant, “Five Guys.”

Ms. Betty Ester of 2031 Church Street asked that the City provide more information on changes in the times and dates of meetings, such as the Housing Commission meeting, and the employment status of City employees who staff meetings such as the Housing Commission. She asked how the CHDO’s will be affected by changes in staffing, such as in the absence of Donna Spicuzza, former Housing Planner.

Mr. Marino explained that notice of the last Housing Commission meeting change was posted within the required 48 hours of the meeting. He explained that the meeting date was changed in order to accommodate a tour of the NSP2 Program target area.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(PD1) Update on Evanston Foreclosure Activity

Mr. Marino stated that the foreclosure update followed the format that was changed at the request of the Committee to now include addresses of foreclosures and bank owned properties and lender information.

Chair Rainey commented that she is surprised that there are more foreclosures every month.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked Mr. Marino the status of the 5/21/10-6/22/10 filings, to which Mr. Marino replied that the first cluster of the report includes filings that occurred during that period; the second cluster (second page) includes completed foreclosures, in that the bank owns the property, and that these are the properties that the NSP2 Program is focusing on. He added that the information is provided by the Illinois Foreclosure Listing Service and other sources.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked how the City is reaching out to homeowners who are threatened by foreclosure, to which Mr. Marino replied that the City has sent out mailings and that Interfaith Housing provides counseling services. Ald. Jean-Baptiste asked whether the outreach that was done in the beginning is continuing, to which Mr. Marino replied that mailings are sent out periodically, including one within the past 30 days, to people listed as having foreclosures filed.

Mr. Marino suggested that he prepare a staff report of mailings that have been done and a procedure for mailings going forward, for the next meeting.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste said he would like to see an aggressive policy in place that informs people of their resources at the onset of the foreclosure process as many people lose their property early in the process because they do not know how to proceed and are not aware that they may have recourse. Chair Rainey said since we have their addresses, we should send a request for them to contact us if they want our help. She said we are paying for Interfaith Housing to provide this service.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie Newman