Planning & Development Committee Meeting  
Minutes of December 8, 2014  
7:15 p.m.  
Council Chambers - Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center

D. Wilson, M. Wynne  

STAFF PRESENT:  M. Jones, M. Masoncup, M. Muenzer, B. Newman, L. Pearson

PRESIDING OFFICIAL:  Ald. Fiske

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM  
A quorum being present, Chair Fiske called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2014

Ald. Wynne moved to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2014 meeting, seconded by Ald. Tendam.

Ald. Grover moved to amend the minutes regarding P3) Ordinance 147-0-14 as follows: “The Committee voted 6-1, with Chair Fiske opposed, to suspending the rules.”

The Committee voted unanimously 7-0 to approve the November 24, 2014 minutes as amended.

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

(P1) Resolution 93-R-14 Designating the Portion of Garrett Place, East of Sheridan Road to the Cul De Sac, with the Honorary Street Name Sign, “Shakespeare Garden Founder’s Way”  
The Citizens’ Advisory Committee on Public Place Names recommends approval of Resolution 93-R-14.  
For Action

Ald. Grover moved to recommend approval of Ordinance 93-O-14, seconded by Ald. Tendam.

Wally Bobkiewicz, City Manager, said there had also been a request for way-finding signs.  Ald. Grover said she believed The Evanston Garden Club desired to have both the honorary sign and the way-finding signs.

Chair Fiske said the rules, which only allow temporary honorary signs and they must only be named after individuals, need to be discussed further.

Ald. Tendam, Rainey and Holmes agreed that both types of signs should be posted.  Ald. Holmes said honorary signs are often not removed after the 10 year period.

At Ald. Rainey’s request, Trish Barr, President of the Garden Club of Evanston explained that it was founded 100 years ago and that they would love to have both signs.  She said the garden is difficult to find and the way-finding signs would be
helpful. She added that the garden is free to attend and there are many events planned for this anniversary year.

Ald. Rainey moved to recommend approval of the honorary sign with a reference to way-finding signs/historic markers, seconded by Ald. Tendam.

At Chair Fiske’s inquiry, Mr. Bobkiewicz said per past practice, these signs can be adopted as an exception to the rule.

The Committee voted unanimously 7-0 to recommend approval of Ordinance 93-O-14 and reference way-finding signs/historic markers.

Chair Fiske said the issue will be brought to the Human Services Committee and that she would like to recognize some other organizations, such as the 2nd Baptist Church and Bookman’s Alley.

(P2) Resolution 90-R-14 Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) for a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Parking Regulations Update

City staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution 90-R-14 authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a memorandum of understanding with the RTA (175 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1650, Chicago IL) to allow the RTA to provide staff and/or consultant services to examine the parking regulations in Metra and CTA transit-served areas. There will be no cost incurred by the City for these services.

For Action

Ald. Holmes moved to recommend approval of Resolution 90-R-14, seconded by Ald. Tendam.

Ald. Grover was away from the dais.

The Committee voted unanimously 6-0 to recommend approval of Resolution 90-R-14.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(PD1) Presentation on the Implementation of the West Evanston Plan

In May 2007, City Council adopted the West Evanston Master Plan, which covered an area of primarily vacant or underutilized industrial properties, the former Mayfair railroad right-of-way and embankment, and the adjacent Church/Dodge commercial district. Staff will provide a presentation on the steps taken, which include revising the zoning ordinance, making streetscape improvements, and encouraging new businesses and housing development.

For Discussion

Lorrie Pearson, Planning & Zoning Division Manager, and Meagan Jones, Economic Development Coordinator, explained the implementation steps that have occurred since adoption of the West Evanston Master Plan:

- TIF and sub areas created
- Consultants hired
• Goals of the West End Master Plan:
  o Create parks
  o Parkways
  o Life-cycle housing
  o Affordable housing
  o Re-connect the community

• Accomplishments in the TIF and vicinity:
  o Frio Gelato
  o Emerson Square
  o NSP2 Housing
  o Church St. Village
  o Widened sidewalk
  o Convenience store at 1901 Church
  o Bike paths
  o Strange Lofts improvements
  o Church and Dodge Streetscape
  o City acquisition of 2 blighted homes: 1708-10 Darrow
  o Starbucks at Dempster and Dodge
  o Erie Health Center
  o Sidewalk at Pitner and Dempster
  o Burger King upgraded

• Future goals:
  o Upgrade Walgreens on Green Bay
  o Continue Emerson Ridge reconfiguration
  o Re-activate 1823 Church St. building
  o More façade improvements

Ald. Grover commented that it is great to see the accomplishments, though they have taken patience.

Ald. Braithwaite thanked staff for the presentation, explaining that it was done in response to an inquiry and said staff should come up with a list of the priorities of the City, businesses and residents, rather than return to the Plan Commission, and continue to improve the streets, landscaping, signs and facades.

Ald. Holmes thanked staff for the presentation, commenting that the progress has been slow and difficult – nothing had been done for 50 years - but she is excited about the future prospects. She noted that Y.O.U. will be built in the 1900 block of Church and more streetscape work will be done.

V. COMMUNICATIONS
There were no communications.

VI. ADJOURNMENT
Ald. Rainey moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Grover.
The Committee voted unanimously 7-0 to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie Newman