

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of May 10, 2010
City Council Chambers – 7:20 pm
(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: A. Dean, B. Dunkley, G. Farrar, A. Logan, D. Marino, D. Spicuzza

PRESIDENT OFFICIAL: Ald. A. Rainey

I. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum being present, Chair Rainey called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 26, 2010 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Rainey moved approval, seconded by Ald. Wilson

The minutes were unanimously approved

III. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Chair Rainey allowed Joe Kramer of 1860 Sherman to speak on item P4 in the beginning because he could not stay for the meeting. Mr. Kramer did not support the application for the Sidewalk Café' at Las Palmas. He expressed that the SPAARC committee made an error regarding the sidewalk curb and that the checklist indicated that the café would not have any substantial impact on property values. Mr. Kramer spoke to eight real estate agents who all said the café would have a negative impact on Sherman Gardens.

(P1)* Approval of FY2010/2011 Emergency Shelter Grant Recommendation

Ald. Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Ald. Wilson, seconded

Staff recommended approval of seven homeless programs under the McKinney Emergency Shelter Grant for 2010/2011 with an allocation of \$ 81,443.50. One of the programs is a new program to the City of Evanston, Family Promise Chicago North Shore, Inc.

Ald. Holmes, and Chair Rainey said they were not aware of this proposal in advance and requested more background information.

Alisa Dean, Community Invention Coordinator stated that the program is designed to help families during the day with job preparation, housing searches and transportation. The funding uses three churches and one synagogue to provide overnight shelter and meals. She stated there are two families currently using the center.

Chair Rainey mentioned the zoning as being MXE and questioned if this is a drop-in center. She asked the zoning staff if there was a special use for this proposal. Bill Dunkley, Zoning Administrator said he was not aware.

Ms. Dean, stated that Connections for the Homeless is also working with the family, but that Connections does not handle emergency housing. Chair Rainey stated that Connections is the most highly funded organization in the City and suggest a more conservative approach to funding.

Ms. Dean stated that the McKinney grant needs to be approved right away. Proposals are sent out in March and the funding goes from March to February. The agencies are currently providing services and will need to be reimbursed.

Paul Selden, Executive Director of Connections for the Homeless spoke briefly about the space they have and that there is another application for a family who has a son that goes to ETHS and whose family lives in Chicago. He said the McKinney money must be used for emergency housing.

Ald. Wynne requested a bigger picture of the FIT Program and said she would like to know more about the outcomes from the last time there was an application.

Ald. Jean-Baptiste moved to hold this proposal in committee, Ald. Wynne seconded.

Committee voted unanimously in favor

(P2)* Approval of Families in Transition Funding Allocation

Connections for the Homeless is asking for an extension for a family of \$ 5730 and for a new family in the amount of \$ 5796.00

Ald. Jean-Baptiste moved approval, Ald. Wilson seconded

Ald. Rainey suggested that the funds be divided and to use the funds for the family already in the program and hold off on the new family, while the Planning department gets a report from staff.

Committee approved in favor of proposal, as amended by Chair Rainey

(P3)* Approval of Sidewalk Café for Donatella Mediterranean Bistro, 1512 Sherman

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

Committee voted unanimously in favor

Donnatella Majore said she spent a year in Florida after closing her restaurant previously located on Howard Street on the Chicago side and that she had a lot of Evanston customers. Her Evanston location at 1512 Sherman will open on May 21st. They will start with a bring your own bottle (BYOB) format before applying for a license to serve wine and beer. She will have three tables and will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

(P4)* Approval of Sidewalk Café for Las Palmas, 817 University Place

Three residents spoke in favor of the sidewalk café. They asked for the proposal to be passed and everyone commented that Las Palmas is a wonderful neighborhood restaurant and accommodations should be made to have outdoor seating for the restaurant.

Four residents spoke against the sidewalk café and complained about the noise. All members live next door at Sherman Gardens. One speaker, a real estate agent with MGM suggested the committee visit the site and protested that the proposal will affect property values at Sherman Gardens.

Ald. Fiske spoke about the city's alternative plan last year to put the café on the west side of the building and asked committee members to consider the concerns of the neighbors at Sherman Gardens.

Ald. Wilson moved approval, seconded by Ald. Jean-Baptiste

Ald. Wilson commented that he walked the site and didn't think it was particularly out of context for the area. Ald. Holmes suggested talking to First Bank & Trust since the bank is closed in the evenings, which was discussed last year.

Mr. Marino, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning explained that he and Walter Hallen, Project Supervisor met the owner who told them he did not want to lose parking spaces immediately next to the building. He also believed he could not raise capital to do any remodeling to the site.

Chair Rainey moved approval with recommendation to look at alternative locations for the sidewalk café and for the committee to receive a letter in October from First Bank & Trust regarding alternative locations and the cost involved. Ald. Wynne, seconded.

Committee voted unanimously in favor

(P5)* Ordinance 33-O-10 Granting a Special Use Permit for a Type 2 Restaurant at 1115 Emerson Street in the C2 Commercial District (“Wings Over Chicago”)

Ald. Jean-Baptiste moved approval, seconded by Ald. Wilson

Kurra Suresh, restaurant owner announced they will operate as Wings Over Evanston instead of Wings Over Chicago. Mr. Suresh asked if they could have longer hours, but Mr. Walker and Ald. Holmes replied that changing the restaurant hours at this meeting was not acceptable, but he could contact Ald. Holmes to discuss the possibility of changing the hours in the future.

Committee voted unanimously in favor

II. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No items were discussed.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Logan

Economic Development Planner