

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, July 21, 2016
Elmhurst City Hall – Conference Room #2
CITY OF ELMHURST AND ELMHURST COLLEGE COMMISSION

1. Call to Order

Chairman Reichert called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

Present: Richard W. Reichert, Peter Griffin, Andy Joseph, Diana Riekse, Sarah Diamond, Tom Marcucci, Desiree Chen-Menichini

Absent: Kathleen Gusloff

Also in attendance: Mayor Steven Morley, City Manager James Grabowski, Alderman Kevin York (Arrived at 4:30 p.m.), Jeff Budgell, City Centre Board Member and President at Architects Studio, LLC (Left at 5:15); Lee Daniels Distinguished Fellow and Senior Advisor to the President of Elmhurst College; Dr. Troy VanAken, Elmhurst College President

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept draft minutes from April 21, 2016 meeting was made by Tom Marcucci. Seconded by Sarah Diamond. Voice vote. Motion carried.

4. Introduction of Elmhurst College President Troy VanAken

The Commission welcomed Dr. Troy VanAken who has recently begun his tenure as the 14th President of Elmhurst College. Vice Chairman Griffin gave a brief bio of the newly appointed president. *“Dr. VanAken brings a great amount of experience to Elmhurst College having most recently served as the President of Thiel he served in various positions at Albion College in Michigan and The University of Evansville in Indiana. In addition to his presidential experience, Dr. VanAken has served as a senior administrator, mathematics professor, business entrepreneur and athletic director. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Troy VanAken to our College, Community and this Commission”.*

5. Old Business

a. Potential Bookstore Relocation to Downtown – Tabled for Now

Due to existing long-term contract, item is tabled for now. Discussion ensued if this item should be removed from the agenda. Unanimous decision made to leave item on agenda.

- b. College Involvement in Evaluation of Potential Recreation Center
City Manager Grabowski stated the City is working with the Park District on the lack of space and have discussed the idea and if this is what Elmhurst wants or needs. He stated the Park District funded a study to understand what the citizens want. There were 750 online responses to the survey which shows an interest in this type of collaboration. City Manager Grabowski will give a response to the timeline in a month or two.
- c. Web Calendar/Explore Elmhurst Update
City Manager Grabowski stated the Explore Elmhurst site has launched. He stated the Web Calendar is an attempt to gather all that happens in Elmhurst. Communications Manager Kassondra Schref and Desiree Chen-Menichini will maintain the calendar and City Manager Grabowski will work with Schref and Chen-Menichini to report how many hits are from EC students. The rollout has been positive with lots of hits. The Trolley is a part of it and positive.
- d. Potential EC Event on Top Floor of Addison Parking Deck
Vice Chairman Griffin discussed the tentative “Dancing Under the Stars” event to take place in 2017 late May or early June on the top floor of the Addison Parking Deck with the Elmhurst Jazz Band as entertainment. He stated the logistics are still to be determined and a proposal will need to be presented before Council. City Manager Grabowski stated that a committee should be created and a meeting planned with Chairman Reichert, Vice Chairman Griffin, Jeff Budgell (City Centre) and himself.
- e. Discussion of Off Campus Housing Options for Elmhurst College (EC) Students
Vice Chairman Griffin discussed checking the current living arrangement for EC students, if they are renting and what positive and negative impact it may have. The goal is to offer a better quality of living as an EC student.

Discussion ensued.
- f. Town & Gown Event – American Legion Military Ball
Chairman Reichert explained the details of the American Legion Military Ball including the ticket price of \$125 each and the attire is formal/informal. He stated that both he and Vice Chairman Griffin are on the committee and Elmhurst College is to sponsor the entertainment. Vice Chairman Griffin further explained.
- g. Elmhurst College and Elmhurst Public Library
Brief discussion ensued on creating a synergy between Elmhurst College and Elmhurst Public Library and the next Commission meeting to be held at the Elmhurst Public Library.

6. New Business

a. Elmhurst Center for the Performing Arts (ECPA) - Jeff Budgell

Jeff Budgell, Elmhurst City Centre Board Member and President of Architects Studio, LLC presented a PowerPoint presentation of the new concept facility, the 15k sq. ft., Elmhurst Center for Performing Arts (ECPA). Mr. Budgell elaborated on the details of the new concept ECPA and stated the survey response revealed groups that want to be in the City Centre. He stated the main theater will hold a total of 535 seats including 180 of those seats on the mezzanine level. He stated that a feasibility study should be in within the next 6 months.

Discussion ensued.

b. City Involvement with Elmhurst College (EC)Orientation Week

Vice Chairman Griffin discussed the logistics of the “across the tracks event”, EC Orientation week. He stated there were about 800 students involved last year and opens the door of opportunity for businesses to participate including the York Theater, which the College rents two theaters as a part of the festivities. Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday through Saturday, August 24th – August 27th for first year students and Friday, August 26th for transfer students.

c. City Involvement with College President Inauguration Week

Discussion ensued on the upcoming Elmhurst College Presidential Inauguration Week. Vice Chairman Griffin stated the event will take place October 17th through 22nd, which is the official ceremony day. He stated there may be a brief speech given by City of Elmhurst Mayor Steven M. Morley.

7. Other Business

City Manager Grabowski discussed the Neighborhood Notification sent to area residents on the upcoming three-day Public Safety Training Exercises by the City of Elmhurst in cooperation with Elmhurst College. This exercise will result in increased police and fire personnel presence.

City Manager Grabowski stated that the City is working with the College to evaluate the City of Elmhurst Citizen Survey.

Alderman Kevin York discussed the logistics of the Elmhurst Cycling Classic including Elmhurst College to house 40 to 50 participants from Uganda.

8. Proposed Next Meeting – September 15, 2016, 4:00 p.m. – Elmhurst Public Library

Chairman Reichert suggested the Commission move the next meeting up one month to September 15, 2016, from the regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on October 20, 2016. He stated the next meeting will be offsite at the Elmhurst Public Library at 4:00 p.m.

Vice Chairman Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting. Desiree Chen seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Submitted as a draft by City Manager James Grabowski