

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, January 18, 2018
Elmhurst City Hall-Conference Rm #2
CITY OF ELMHURST AND ELMHURST COLLEGE COMMISSION

1. Call to Order

Chairman Griffin called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

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

Absent: Thomas D. Marcucci

Also in attendance: City Manager James Grabowski, Lee Daniels, and April Edwards

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept draft minutes from October 19, 2017 meeting was made by Vice-Chairman Sarah Diamond. Commissioner Chen-Menichini seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried.

4. Old Business

a. Continued Discussion on Role and Purpose of Commission

Chairman Griffin stated this agenda item will continue to stay on agenda and opened discussion of topic to the Commission. He encouraged others to independently look up ideas before next meeting.

Vice-Chairman Diamond suggested that the Commissioners look into what other "Town & Gown" communities do in order to help the Commission develop its own purpose.

Discussion ensued.

b. Sesquicentennial Celebrations (2019 & 2021)

The Commission discussed planning updates for Sesquicentennial celebrations. City Manager Grabowski gave overview of the City's involvement with the celebrations. He will see if City Council wants to develop plans for the celebration. Commissioner Chen-Menichini stated there was not a planning committee yet at the College for the celebrations; however, branding has begun.

Chairman Griffin encouraged Commissioners to bring ideas forward.

c. Update on Public Transportation Opportunities

Chairman Griffin gave overview of his discussion with the Dean of Students regarding shuttle buses from campus. There is a possibility that the College will experiment with using buses on the weekend to bring students to the downtown area.

Chairman Griffin discussed his conversation with Pace. They will be present at orientations to help connect with the college and to inform students.

Vice-Chairman Diamond discussed the need to draw people in to the City Centre area. The Commission should continue to look into student transportation options to the area.

The Commission discussed maps, interactive kiosks, and similar ideas for distributing information to students about local attractions, activities, and transportation. Information distribution means should be evaluated for future campus, Metra station, and downtown projects.

CM Grabowski announced that the City's restaurant guide was released last month and staff is currently preparing a visitor's guide to be included in Elmhurst hotel rooms. Commissioner Joseph suggested these guides be put in all student rooms on campus as well.

d. Student Housing in the Community

Commissioner Chen-Menichini stated, in the past, the College put together rental books with listings of vacancies in town; however, they stopped doing it because there were too many vacancies on campus and students were encouraged to stay on campus. This school year, approximately 95% of the 900 beds on campus are filled.

Discussion ensued regarding tenant rights and graduate housing.

e. Parents of EC Student Information

Commissioners discussed ways of providing more information to new students and parents.

5. New Business

a. Exploring Town & Gown Organizations Elsewhere

Chairman Griffin encouraged the Commissioners to continue looking into and absorbing ideas from other town and gown communities.

b. Jazz Festival and Area Restaurants and Services

Commissioners discussed ways to engage local restaurants in the Jazz Fest activities next month on February 22nd-25th.

c. Elmhurst College Strategic Plan Update (April Edwards, VP at EC)

April Edwards provided overview of the College's Strategic Plan Updates. The mission and value statement was revised and they are currently working on the six Pillars. A draft document is out for review by trustees, staff, and alumni. All comments are expected by mid-March.

The Commission continued discussion including how the Strategic Plan ties into other community plans such as a sports facility and performing arts center.

6. Other Business

Vice-Chairman Diamond suggested that at least one meeting a year should be held on the College campus. Additionally, the Commission should look into having 1-2 students attend the meetings as guests.

City Manager Grabowski informed the Commission on an upcoming special meeting of the City Council for the purpose of having a Strategic Planning Workshop. It will be a three year review of the original strategic plan.

City Manager Grabowski also informed the Commissioners of the upcoming Commissioner Appreciation Event on March 1st.

Information was presented on the President's Community Breakfast on March 10th.

7. Proposed Next Meeting – April 19, 2018, 4:00 p.m. – Location TBD.

Commissioner Diana Rieske moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Diamond seconded. Voice vote. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Submitted by City Manager James Grabowski.