

Lan-Oak Park District
Planning Committee
November 17, 2011

Chairperson Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Upon roll call the following were present: Committee Members- Kelly. Also present –Commissioners Long, Gaffney, Flores, Planning & Zoning Chairperson Russ Oberman, Mayor Abbott. Staff Liaison – Wilson.

Kelly suggested that the meeting agenda be revised to start with New Business – Bock Park Rezoning.

Kelly reviewed the project of leasing a portion of property at Bock Park for the erection of a highway billboard sign. Notably highlighting that 100% of the funds received from the lease will be applied towards the renovation of Bock Park. Plans for the park renovation include, but not limited to, the demolition of the outdoor swimming pool complex, construction of soccer fields, new playground and revisions to the parking lot. Also reviewed was the matter of our petition being changed from a rezoning request to a special use permit. The change was made by the Village. Wilson provided information that the petition will need to be reversed back to its original request for rezoning. Without the rezoning request to change the designated portion of property from R2 to M1, the sign company will not be able to get their permit from the IDOT.

Oberman discussed his issue of “spot zoning” relating to our petition with Kelly providing a narrative that in the opinion of the District our request for rezoning a portion of Bock Park is not an issue of spot zoning. Oberman indicated that billboards are not good for Lansing and does not present a good image of Lansing with approximately 17 billboards along the I80/94 highway. He further indicated that going for a billboard will not be good for the Park District within the community. Discussion continued.

Looking at the petition it was suggested to shrink the area of the requested rezoning. At the hearing it was also suggested that we modify the petition back to a rezoning request and to indicate the requested to shrink the area requesting the rezoning. Oberman also suggested that the sign company be contacted to discuss the issues of maintenance of the sign, security of the sign and inspection fees. He noted that our intentions for the revenue from the sign should be highlighted at the hearing.

Oberman also provided information on the required number of votes needed to pass the petition out of the P & Z meeting. Five (5) affirmative votes will be needed.

Oberman and Abbott left the meeting at 8:35pm

Discussion ensued about the meeting with Oberman and Abbott. Strategy was discussed for the hearing before the P & Z Board on 11/23/2011.

Long left the meeting at 8:45pm

Kelly discussed and reviewed the strategic plan documents from the referendum. Discussion ensued about future planning of the District. Members present talked about doing another community wide survey. Wilson will provide the new commissioners with a copy of the last two surveys.

Goals, objectives and mission statement were discussed.

Kelly will postpone the brainstorming session that was planned.

Wilson reviewed this meeting with individuals associated with the Lansing Veterans Memorial at the airport. Wilson indicated that he discussed moving the memorial to the Park Plaza should the memorial have to be moved from its current site.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Wilson, CPRP
Secretary to the Park Board