

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
PLAN COMMISSION

BOARD MEMBERS

Val Gomez, President
Anthony Serna, Vice President
Lilia Ramos, Secretary
Joanne Moricz, Commissioner
Chanthini Fowler, Commissioner
Douglas Sloss, Commissioner
William Allen, Commissioner
Lydia Lopez, Commissioner
Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

Regular Meeting Minutes
(Via Zoom Videoconference)
Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.

Reported for Fissinger & Associates
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: Val Gomez, Anthony Serna,
William Allen

Present Via Zoom: Lilia Ramos, Joanne Moricz,
Lydia Lopez, Stacy Winfield

STAFF: Present in Chambers: Richard Morrisroe, Douglas
Powers, Ateria Allen

MR. GOMEZ: We do have a quorum.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of Monday,
December 20, 2021

Comments/Questions: None

Motion to approve December 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
made by Anthony Serna. Second by William Allen.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

(Stacy Winfield joined Meeting)

1 MS. WINFIELD: There's a signal problem going on if you
can hear me.

2 MR. GOMEZ: We can hear you.

3 MS. WINFIELD: Okay.

4 NEW BUSINESS:

5 Election of Officers

6 MR. GOMEZ: Next on our agenda under New Business. We
7 have Election of Officers. We have the position of
President, Vice-President and Secretary.

8 The floor is open for nominations for President.
9 Anyone wishing to be president?

10 MR. SERNA: I'd like to nominate Val Gomez for
President.

11 MS. WINFIELD: Second.

12 MR. GOMEZ: Any other nominations for President?

13 I am the only nomination. I accept the nomination.
14 Thank you.

15 Next we have nomination for Vice-President. Any
16 nominations for Vice-President?

17 I'd like to nominate Anthony Serna.

18 MR. ALLEN: Second.

19 MR. GOMEZ: Second by William Allen. Any other
20 nominations for Vice-President?

21 Mr. Serna, there are no other nominations. You are
Vice-President again.

22 MR. SERNA: Thank you.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Nomination for Secretary open. Any
24 nominations for secretary?

25 MR. SERNA: I'd like to nominate Lilia Ramos for
Secretary.

1 MS. WINFIELD: Second.

2 MR. GOMEZ: We have a second from Stacy. Any other
3 nominations for Secretary?

4 There are no further nominations. Lilia, you are
5 secretary again.

6 MS. RAMOS: Thank you.

7 City Planner's Report

8 MR. GOMEZ: That concludes our Election of Officers.
9 We'll move onto City Planner's Report. We have Indiana
10 Citizen Planner's Guide, Chapter 6, Ethics.

11 MR. POWERS: Thank you, Commissioners. As was mentioned
12 this chapter regards ethics.

13 Ethics is officially a formal field in
14 philosophical inquiry.

15 I believe we're all familiar with the difference
16 between ethics and morality.

17 Ethics suggests what people ought to do. While
18 morals define what people actually do.

19 So here is wherein lies the issue. Primarily
20 regarding the Planning Commission the areas of concern deal
21 with conflicts of interest.

22 One of the most relevant sections that could be an
23 issue, IC Code 36-7-4-223(c) says that a Planning Commission
24 Member may not participate in a hearing or decision
25 concerning a matter in which he or she has a conflict of
interest which includes the following:

The member is biased or prejudiced or otherwise
unable to be impartial or the member has a direct or indirect
financial interest in the outcome of the decision.

None of us other than yourselves as individual
Commissioners are going to know what potential bias there is.
There's only going to be the perception.

Financial matters, that can be a little bit more
difficult when people own various businesses that may be
benefited in some way.

1 As mentioned in the financial conflict ownership of
2 a property involved in a petition or employment by a party
3 involved in the petition would be a direct financial
4 interest.

5 Indirect financial interest would include
6 situations where a family member owns property involved in a
7 petition or is employed by someone involved in the request.

8 If there's ever questions, comments or concerns
9 pertaining to if there is a conflict of interest as
10 Commissioners, we generally receive by statute any of these
11 proposed plans that we will see ten days prior to being able
12 to be placed on the agenda and acted upon.

13 So if you ever do receive a packet that there are
14 concerns that you have regarding a potential conflict of
15 interest, you can always present those to me as well as the
16 legal counsel so we can see if there is a potential conflict
17 of interest or at least make sure that we're able to get
18 enough Commissioners here in case if there is a conflict and
19 you have to recuse yourself from any individual item so that
20 doesn't potentially delay a proposed project.

21 That being said there are other things that are
22 mentioned about substitution of alternate members.

23 Does anyone have any questions pertaining to ethics
24 at this time?

25 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments?

 MR. POWERS: Thank you.

 MR. GOMEZ: Thank you, Mr. Powers.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

* Next Regular Meeting Date: Thursday, February 7,
2022 @ 4:30 p.m.

1 Motion to adjourn was made by Anthony Serna. Second by
William Allen.

2 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None
3 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

4 * Meeting ended at 4:39 p.m.

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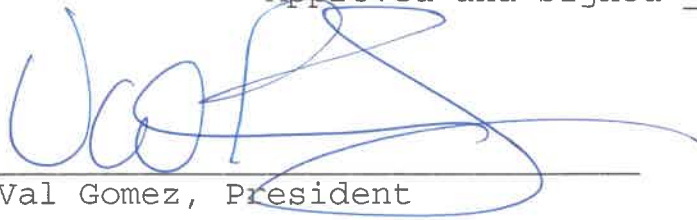
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Approval of Meeting Minutes of
Monday, January 13, 2022

Approved and Signed _____



Val Gomez, President

Anthony Serna, Vice President




Lilia Ramos, Secretary

Joanne Moricz, Commissioner

Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

Douglas Sloss, Commissioner



William Allen, Commissioner

Lydia Lopez, Commissioner

Chanthini Fowler, Commissioner


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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Lisa Pena, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 22nd day of January, 2022.



Lisa Pena
Notary Public Porter County
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License Number 084-003483

