

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
PLAN COMMISSION

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
(Via Zoom Videoconference)  
Monday, April 5, 2021 @ 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,  
Chanthini Fowler, William Allen

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of Monday,  
March 15, 2021

Comments/Questions: None

Motion to approve March 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes made  
by William Allen. Second by Chanthini Fowler.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

CITY PLANNER'S REPORT:

1 MR. GOMEZ: Next on our agenda we have the City  
2 Planner's Report. We have no projects. What we do have is  
3 the Indiana Citizen Planner's Guide, Chapter 11, Economic  
4 Development.

5 MR. POWERS: So good afternoon, everyone. We're talking  
6 about Chapter 11, Economic Development.

7 I know a lot of us all know a good amount about  
8 Economic Development. But there are some presumptions that  
9 sometimes come into place as in what Economic Development is.  
10 A lot of times we're thinking about it as common activities  
11 pertaining to job creation and such.

12 So this chapter kind of sheds a little more light  
13 in regards to business, job recruitment, business retention  
14 and expansion, new business development, entrepreneurship,  
15 tax base expansion diversification, redevelopment, workforce  
16 development and community economic development.

17 So a lot of the work that you'll receive in regards  
18 to what has been approved by the Technical Committee may be  
19 related to either new business development or business  
20 retention and expansion because you can potentially see both  
21 since some of these developers are fairly substantial in size  
22 and expansion may require your approval as well.

23 So please keep that mind when you're going through  
24 this chapter.

25 So the sections related to like the new business  
development and entrepreneurship, a lot of that doesn't  
directly pertain to the Plan Commission's approval. That  
more goes through like the EEC and such. But it is something  
that is good to be apprised to since these are all valuable  
resources in trying to encourage economic development within  
the City of East Chicago.

Now, in regards to tax base a lot of that like your  
TIFs and CDBG, various things like that are predominantly  
handled through the Redevelopment Commission. So that's not  
so much directly pertaining to you.

Workforce training development, that's a little  
separate as well.

But in regards to the community economic  
development like it says the fields of economic development  
and community development, the practice of building community

1 through affordable housing, citizen involvement, social  
2 integration and political empowerment, have often been  
practiced separately.

3 Recently there have been efforts to more closely  
4 connect aspects of both fields due to the recognition that  
economic and social advancement of low income households is  
5 highly connected to their access to education and employment.

6 Thus the field of community economic development  
has risen to address economic development needs at a more  
7 localized level focusing on a holistic and inclusive approach  
to foster economic, social and cultural well-being.

8 So a lot of times when you're seeing like your  
9 community economic development, that's more referring to the  
various projects that are going at a scale as to where we  
10 would have community engagement, involvement similar to like  
the TDD that was discussed at the last meeting. That can be  
11 pertaining to any level of various projects.

12 On our end in regards to community economic  
development it more pertains to the City's level of  
13 involvement as to whether we would see that or that would be  
more done on the private sector end. This may just be  
14 something that's presented to this Commission or the Common  
Council depending on what that is.

15 So like I mentioned there's other things related to  
16 the tax. Tax abatements, credits, those don't really so much  
pertain to our role in this position here.

17 It does go on a little more to discuss the State  
18 involvement. A lot of that isn't really pertaining to us  
either. We're more looking at the local level in regards to  
19 what we can do to either encourage the expansion of  
businesses or allowing for new businesses to thrive.

20 Beyond that does anyone have any questions  
21 regarding anything that they would like me to discuss in a  
little greater detail in this chapter?

22 MR. GOMEZ: Any questions or comments? Thank you, Doug.

23 OLD BUSINESS: None.

24 MR. GOMEZ: Are there any other comments from the  
25 Commissioners on any other subject?

1 COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: None.

2 PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

3 MR. POWERS: Thank you. Today we actually have a new  
4 addition to the Planning staff.

5 MIMI: Hi, everyone. I'm Mimi. I'm the new intern for  
6 the Planning Department. And I look forward to working with  
7 you guys.

8 MR. GOMEZ: Did everybody hear that?

9 MR. SLOSS: No.

10 MR. POWERS: We're having a technical issue. Some of  
11 these microphones aren't working. That's why you may have a  
12 difficult time seeing me.

13 We have a new lady in the office. She goes by  
14 Mimi.

15 I don't know if you can get closer. Do you want to  
16 take this seat?

17 MIMI: Hi.

18 MR. GOMEZ: First name is Amy; am I correct?

19 MIMI: Mimi. I am the new intern for the Planning  
20 Department. Born and raised in East Chicago. I went to IU  
21 Bloomington. Majored in rural studies.

22 This is my first day. So it's very nice meeting  
23 you guys and joining, being a part of this team.

24 MR. SLOSS: Welcome aboard, Mimi.

25 MR. GOMEZ: Thank you, Mimi.

MS. RAMOS: Welcome.

MR. GOMEZ: Before I adjourn the meeting just for the  
record Commissioner Serna joined the meeting. So he is  
present.

\* Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, April 19,  
2021 @ 4:30 p.m.

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

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

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\* Meeting ended at 4:43 p.m.

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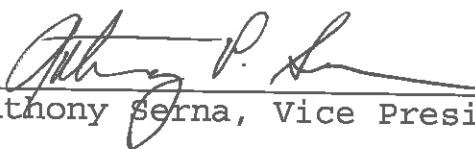
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Approval of Meeting Minutes of  
Monday, April 5, 2021  
Approved and Signed \_\_\_\_\_ April 19, 2021

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Val Gomez, President

  
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Anthony Serna, Vice President

Lilia Ramos/zoom  
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Lilia Ramos, Secretary


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Joanne Moricz, Commissioner

Stacy Winfield/zoom  
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Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

Douglass Sloss/zoom  
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Douglass Sloss, Commissioner

  
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William Allen, Commissioner

Lydia Lopez/zoom  
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Lydia Lopez, Commissioner

  
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Chanthini Fowler


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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 14th day of April, 2021.

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

