CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
PLAN COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, May 18, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:
Valeriano Gomez, President
Lilia Ramos, Vice-President
Lydia Lopez, Secretary
Marino Solorio, Commissioner
Stacy Winfield, Commissioner
Jaylen Johnson, Commissioner
Grayling Gordon, Commissioner
Hashem Alhashem, Commissioner

STAFF:
Tracy Ailes
Eduardo Fontanez

Reported for Fissinger & Associates, Ltd.
By: Peggy S. LaLonde, court reporter

Call to Order: 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present in Chambers: Val Gomez, Lilia Ramos, Lydia Lopez, Grayling Gordon, Jaylen Johnson, Stacy Winfield, Hashem Alhashem, Mario Solorio

STAFF - Present in Chambers: Tracy Ailes

Staff present via Zoom: Eduardo Fontanez, Legal Counsel

MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon everyone. We do have a quorum. I would like to call to order the Plan Commission meeting for Monday, May 18th, 2026.

First on the agenda is approval of the minutes from May 4th, 2026. I'd like to make a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 4th, 2026, as written.

Do I have a second?

MR. GORDON: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

We'll move on to New Business.

For record, Commissioner Marino Solorio

is in attendance.

We'll move on to New Business. We have one item. We have the partial interior remodel for Ameristar Casino. Anybody here on that?

MS. AILES: We have the Facilities Director of the Ameristar Casino, East Chicago.

MR. GOMEZ: Can you give us a little description?

MS. RENSCH: Corinne Rensch. So it's fairly simple. We are changing our entryway from the garage, not the egress, we are just changing kind of the path of it. You will see in the renderings the configuration. So instead of going to the right, basically they will go to the left.

MR. GOMEZ: Okay. Any questions or concerns about any of this?

MS. WINFIELD: Your entrance in the garage is one-way. You are going to change that?

MS. RENSCH: So our guests come in and out of the garage. Instead of having to go to the right, we are basically just opening up an area, a wall. We are tearing down a wall and having them go to the left. So it saves us a little bit because we are going to merge some of our greetings for our guests, but it's not an egress. It's going to the garage.

MR. GOMEZ: Has this been before Tech Review?

MS. AILES: No, this didn't need Tech Review. It's before the Plan Commission for approval because of the dollar amount.

MR. GOMEZ: Any other questions or comments?

MR. ALHASEM: Is there ADA for people to pass there?

MS. RENSCH: I'm not sure whether ADA -- if there's any question about ADA. It doesn't affect it at all. We are not changing any of that.

So they come from the garage. They

would come -- we have elevators in the garage parking, if you have ever been there. And then you would come, as you come to those doors, that's where we are changing it. So as you come into our Casino, instead of going to the right, you'd been going to the left. That's kind of what we are doing.

MR. GOMEZ: It has no bearing on ADA requirements or anything like that.

MR. SOLORIO: So basically where your Sports betting is happening currently.

MS. RENSCH: You've been there.

MR. SOLORIO: I'm assuming this is for security reasons, so they can get to security without entering the Casino, they have to go through security first.

MS. RENSCH: Exactly.

MR. SOLORIO: Basically what is happening, now if you walk in from the garage, you walk in straight, you would already be in the Casino where you should have been run through Security first. Only way to get to Security, you have to walk in the Casino and you are already in, and then have to go back, kind of going back out to a certain degree.

MS. RENSCH: Two different securities.

MR. SOLORIO: So you are trying to consolidate the area.

MS. RENSCH: So the Sport betting has already been moved to another area and we are going to take down that wall.

MS. AILES: And Building and Fire have been out there for preliminary visits and everything is good.

MR. SOLORIO: What is the dollar amount again, for the record?

MS. RENSCH: I don't know the exact -- $80,000, around there.

MR. SOLORIO: Okay.

MR. GOMEZ: Any other comments or questions? (None)

There being no further questions or comments, I'd like to make a motion approving Ameristar's partial interior remodeling.

MR. SOLORIO: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Thank you.

MS. RENSCH: Thank you very much. Thank you to Tracy who helped me out a lot.

MR. GOMEZ: Thanks, Tracy.

Okay. Next we come to Commissioner comments? (None)

Public Comments: None

Any other comments: None

Our next meeting will be Monday, June 1st, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

That concludes all items on the agenda for tonight. I'd like to make a motion for adjournment.

MS. WINFIELD: Second.

MR. GOMEZ: All in favor?

(All signify aye.)

MR. GOMEZ: Motion carries.

Thank you everyone. Have a good evening. Meeting adjourned.

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Approval of the Meeting Minutes of Monday,
May 18, 2026

Approved and signed June 1, 2026

Valeriano Gomez, President

Lilia Ramos, Vice-President

Lydia Lopez, Secretary

Marino Solorio, Commissioner

Stacy Winfield, Commissioner

Jaylen Johnson, Commissioner

Grayling Gordon, Commissioner

Hashem Alhashem, Commissioner

Tracy Ailes, Recording Secretary

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Peggy S. LaLonde, 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 the said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Munster, Indiana, this 26th day of May 2026.



Peggy S. LaLonde
Peggy S. LaLonde