

Special Planning Commission Meeting Notes

7/26/2018

Present: Blake Musser, Adam Holder, Troy Barr, James Berbert, Matt Moyer, Andrea Winter, Nicole Bauer, Andrea Winter

Absent: Stephenson Lafferty and Paulette Williams-Thomas

Others Present: Randy Bukas, Steve Cox, Jessica Modica

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Blake Musser, Acting Chairman.

There were no public comments.

Andrea Winter made a motion to approve the 6/14/18 Planning Commission Minutes. Motion second by James Berbert, motion was approved on voice vote.

The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing regarding a Special Use Permit application for the Freeport Art Center for property located at 11-15 E Douglas Street, Freeport, IL. to allow for a park in a B-1-1 zoned district.

Jessica Modica, represents the Freeport Art Center, passed out a site plan for the proposed park. There will be a stage for film, dance, theatre, and music. There will be paths and civil space for programs and day to day use between the north end of town at the downtown. Public art work will also be installed. Possible activities include a film fest, art fest and food festival. The Art Museum received a grant of \$500,000 plus donations to begin work this year.

Nicole Bauer asked if this would be a permanent park with no future buildings. Modica stated there is no interest to build a building downtown. A survey conducted in 2006 concluded there is no support for a building. There are some buildings in the downtown area that already exist if the museum decides to relocate.

Troy Barr inquired if there would be lighting and if the park would be open 24 hours. Modica stated that LED lights would be on at night. The lights would be on the perimeter of the park, on the pathways and on the art work.

James Berbert asked about parking. Modica stated there is a large city lot across the street. Berbert then asked about lawn maintenance. Modica stated she is working on it. She hopes to have a partnership. Right now, the City is mowing the grass. Berbert asked about snow removal. Modica stated she is working on it.

Steve Cox reviewed the staff report for the Planning Commission and itemized the special use. He also reviewed the proposed findings.

Berbert asked if Douglas Street, being a state highway, would have any input. Cox stated "no".

Barr moved to adopt the proposed findings, Berbert seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Yes Vote - Holder, Barr, Berbert, Moyer, Bauer and Musser

No Vote –

Abstained – Winter

Motion was approved 6 – yes 0 – No and 1 abstention

Holder moved and Moyer seconded a motion to recommend approval of the Special Use Permit to the City Council.

Roll Call: Yes: Holder, Barr, Berbert, Moyer, Bauer and Musser

No:

Abstained – Winter

Motion was approved 6 – yes 0 – No and 1 abstention

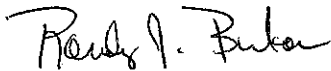
There was no other business.

There were no public comments.

Bauer made a motion to adjourn. Moyer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Bukas

Deputy City Manager

The Commission approved the July 26, 2018, minutes on 9/13/18.