

Gaming Development - Informational Public Meeting
Marie Irwin Community Center
7:30 p.m. on December 17, 2012
Minutes

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Village President Hofeld of Homewood and Mayor Tom Brown of East Hazel Crest called the Informational Public Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Three members of the press were counted.

- II. INTRODUCTIONS: Village President Hofeld and Mayor Tom Brown introduced their Board of Trustees and their administrative staffs. President Hofeld later introduced representatives from the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau. Village President Hofeld began by announcing the names of the Homewood Board members: Trustee Anne Colton, Trustee Barbara Dawkins, Trustee Jay Heiferman, Trustee Tom Kataras, Trustee Lisa Purcell, Trustee Ray Robertson, and Village Clerk Karen Washington. All were present. Next, the administrative staff was introduced: Village Manager Jim Marino, Village Attorney Christopher Cummings, Assistant Village Manager Michael Marzal, Director of Finance Dennis Bubenik, Police Chief Larry Burnson, Fire Chief Bob Grabowski, Director of Public Works John Schaefer, and Director of Community Development Paula Wallrich. After introducing the Board and administrative staff, Village President Hofeld introduced Jim Garrett, President and CEO of the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau, and State Representative William Davis.

After Village President Hofeld made the introductions, Mayor Tom Brown introduced his Board of Trustees: Trustee Zoe Ewan, Trustee Maureen Forte, Trustee Kevin Johnson, Trustee John Kearns, and Trustee Dan Smith. Village Administrator Pat Lazuka was also introduced.

- III. INFORMATION:
 - A. Proposed Gaming Development: President Hofeld began the information session by telling everyone about the process that was taken in an effort to prepare for the endeavor of establishing a casino. In addition, it was noted that the chosen site is 24 acres of prime property. Next, a PowerPoint presentation was given where the benefits of having a casino were shown: results in 1000 jobs and stimulates economic growth.

Mayor Tom Brown presented the next section of the PowerPoint. He gave details about the potential market population of the casino. As the two mayors alternated with the presentation, Village President Hofeld mentioned that questions to consider included the following: What site can generate the most revenue? What town is best for the casino? He then discussed why the casino would be sustainable in Homewood.

- B. Process to Solicit a Casino Partner: Attorneys from Barnes and Thornburg LLP presented information regarding the process of finding a casino partner. Attorney Craig Burkhardt began by giving his background and knowledge of Homewood. He noted that the casino would be placed where the former race track had been located. He indicated that the casino would be no more problematic or cause no more change to Homewood or East Hazel Crest than the race track changed Homewood. Instead, he felt that the casino would provide good paying jobs.

Attorney Burkhardt stated that he heard about a bill that would allow for a casino and informed the mayors. The bill passed the House and the Senate last Spring. He believes that the bill will become law. Currently, the legislative leaders are addressing what the governor wants and incorporating it into the proposed bill. They chose not to override the governor's veto. Instead, the leaders chose to re-draft. The attorney mentioned that Country Club Hills, Lynwood, and Calumet City were submitting applications. Yet, he is unsure of the number of applications that will be submitted. The Gaming Commission will review submitted applications. Attorney Burkhardt mentioned national publically traded companies such as Harrah's Casino as being the targeted companies with which to work in order to have a successful gaming venture.

Attorney Jaye Boyd, partner of Attorney Burkhardt, stated his experience with gaming facility oriented law and then added information about the gaming process. The audience was later informed that the attorneys would design the Request for Proposal (to be sent to gaming companies and developers) based upon the comments from the audience. After the legislation results in January 2013, another meeting will be given for additional input.

- IV. QUESTIONS and ANSWERS: The informational public meeting ended with the attorneys answering questions that had been written by those who are interested in the process that is taking place. The questions were drawn from a four page list that had been categorized in an effort to ensure that all questions were answered sufficiently.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Washington
Village Clerk