

Planning and Zoning Committee
Village Board Room
October 28, 2025, 5:45 p.m.

Present: Alan Fink, (Chairman)
Member Avakian
Heather Valone, Community Development Director
Heidi Rudolph, Village President
Ellen Baer, Village Manager
Anne Skrodzki, Village Attorney

Electronic Attendance: None.

Call to Order: Chairman Fink called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Member Avakian and Chairman Fink were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Fink made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 30, 2025. Member Avakian seconded the motion to approve. A voice vote was conducted, and the minutes were approved with both Trustees voting aye.

Public Comment: Chairman Fink called anyone from the public up to the dais to speak.

Thomas Salvino, Western Springs resident, provided public comment in support of the proposed Western Springs Little League softball field and sponsorship signage.

Catherine Lopez, Western Springs resident, provided public comment in support of the proposed Western Springs Little League softball field and sponsorship signage. Ms. Lopez provided information on Little League's finances and need for sponsorship.

Walt Knake, Executive Director of the Western Springs Park District, provided public comment in support of the proposed Western Springs Little League softball field and sponsorship signage.

Ellen Baer, Village Manager discussed the procedure related to public comment.

Ryan Gough, Western Springs resident, spoke in support of the promotional signs for Western Springs Little League and believes the signs support sponsorships for a program for the future children of Western Springs.

Considerations: Western Springs Little League (WSLL) & Western Springs Park District (WSPD) – 4400 Central Avenue (Spring Rock Park)

Senior Planner Kelsey Fawell provided a summary of the application, background information on the property, summary of Plan Commission meeting and recommendation, and staff suggested conditions.

Community Development Director Valone commented on the restriction of offsite advertising according to Village Code and indicated that the only standards the Village has to compare their request to is commercial signage.

Walt Knacke, Executive Director of the Western Springs Park District commented that parking is not an issue at the Park District, and they are not committed to paving the lot and they have a great partnership with Western Springs Little League. Walt asked if the Plan Commission's recommendation to go from 4-2 signs be reserved. Village Attorney Anne Skrodzki said the final decision will be made by the Village Board.

Village Manager commented that as always the staff is to provide information about the code and other standards of the Village. The Board will then make decisions based on their own thoughts and decisions, however Village Code needs to be provided to the Board so there is a full complement of information.

Director Heather Valone provided a summary of the application process and the current step of the application within that process.

Jeff Theide provided information on the previous Little League sponsorship signage application from 2023 and the current application.

Questions from the Committee members were answered by Mr. Theide.

Chairman Fink commented that he likes the four signs on the rear of the Champion's Wall. Chairman Fink agreed with the Plan Commission's recommendation related to the Champion's Wall.

Member Avakian also agreed with Plan Commission's recommendation with conditions related to both the softball field and the sponsorship signage.

Chairman Fink made a motion to recommend the application as conditioned by the Plan Commission for to the Village Board. Member Avakian seconded the motion to approve. A voice vote was conducted, with both Trustees voting aye.

New Business: 2026 Fiscal Year: Community Development Budget Proposal & Comprehensive Plan Update

Village Manager Ellen Baer said typically at this time the budget is finalized and further that health insurance numbers were delayed so staff is continuing to work on a balanced budget.

Adjournment: Member Avakian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Fink seconded the motion. A voice vote was conducted with both Trustees voting aye.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:22 p.m.



Heather Valone, AICP, Director of Community Development