



Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Council Chambers

August 20, 2024

05:30 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Council Attendance (Present): Mayor Barnett, Commissioner Hosé, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Gilmartin, Commissioner Glover, Commissioner Tully, Commissioner Davenport

Council Attendance (Not Present): None

Non-Voting: Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, and Village Clerk Rosa Berardi

3. Executive Session

A. Convene into Executive Session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(3) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider the selection of a person to fill a public office which the Village Council is given power to appoint under law or ordinance.

MOTION: To convene into closed session pursuant to Section 2(C)(3) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, to consider the selection of a person to fill a public office as defined in the Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Hosé

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners Hosé, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett

NAYES: None

4. Call to Order (7:00 p.m. – Reconvene into Open Session)

The meeting reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

5. Minutes of Council Meetings

MIN 2024-10389 — A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2024

MOTION: To adopt The Meeting Minutes of the August 13, 2024, Village Council Meeting, as presented.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Hosé

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners Hosé, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett

NAYES: None

6. Public Comments

Warner Kiunte, resident, spoke of concerns with individuals that are in need of help within the community, and recommended the Library hire a social worker. He also recommended that the Village form a coalition with other communities, and noted his concern with the lack of affordable housing in the Village.

Eileen Briner, resident, expressed concern that discussions and votes, pertaining to Library Board appointments, are happening in private and not in open session.

Clorinda Greco, resident, clarified comments made by her, and other residents, at the last Council meeting about children participating in the Guiding DG pop-up events. She also spoke about her concerns with the Village spending unnecessary funds on permanent outdoor dining and requested the Council reconsider making any final decisions.

David Rose, resident, expressed his concerns with the Environmental Sustainability Existing Conditions Report and with the community engagement event.

Mayor Barnett clarified that the Village Council votes on items during public meetings at the dais and executive sessions are intended for discussions.

7. Consent Agenda

COR 2024-10240 — A. Claims Ordinance: No. 6565, Payroll - July 26, 2024

BIL 2024-10241 — B. Bills Payable: No. 6820 - August 20, 2024

RES 2024-10439 — C. Resolution: Approve an Amendment to the Current Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to Extend the Agreement to December 31, 2034

Summary: This resolution authorizes an amendment to the current agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. to extend the agreement to December 31, 2034, upgrade current hardware, software and services, and purchase additional services has been prepared. The total cost of this ten-year amendment and extension is \$4,199,989.36.

RESOLUTION 2024-59

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.

MOTION: To adopt The Consent Agenda of the August 20, 2024, as presented.

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner José

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners José, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett

NAYES: None

8. Active Agenda

RES 2024-10418 — A. Resolution: Grant Historic Landmark Designation for 4812 Northcott Avenue

Summary: A Historic Landmark Designation Resolution has been prepared to designate the house at 4812 Northcott Avenue a historic landmark.

MOTION: To adopt A RESOLUTION GRANTING HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR 4812 NORTHCOTT AVENUE as presented. **RESOLUTION 2024-60**

RESULT: Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner José

SECONDED BY: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

AYES: Commissioners José, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett

NAYES: None

After presenting the homeowners with a Historic Landmark Certificate, Mayor Barnett explained that anyone interested in a Historic Landmark status for their property could find out more information about the Historic Landmark Program by visiting the Village website.

ORD 2024-10437 — B. Ordinance: Amending the Municipal Code Concerning the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals

Summary: This ordinance amends various sections of the Municipal Code to merge the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals into a newly created Planning and Zoning Commission. The ordinance also updates the Special Use standards of approval found in Chapter 28.

MOTION: *To adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING THE PLAN COMMISSION AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS as presented.* **ORDINANCE 6058**

RESULT: *Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.*

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: *Commissioner José*

SECONDED BY: *Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

AYES: *Commissioners José, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett*

NAYES: *None*

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Barnett shared that the Council is in the process of reviewing candidate lists for Boards and Commissions appointments and some of that process was dependent on the passage of this ordinance. He said the list of Boards and Commissions appointments will be shared soon.

10. Council Member Reports

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt spoke about the Grove Foundation golf outing on Saturday, September 7th. She said more information could be found at thegrovefoundation.org. She also mentioned that the Downers Grove Library Foundation would be hosting an event that includes a conversation with Dr. Dieter Gruen of the Manhattan Project (and past Library Board President).

Commissioner José also spoke of the Grove Foundations golf event, highlighting the raffle tickets

11. Manager's Report

REP 2024-10442 — A. Report: Guiding DG: Comprehensive Plan and Related Projects – Engagement Update and Bike and Ped Plan Community Assessment Discussion

Village Council Comments/Questions

Community Development Director, Stan Popovich, introduced Maritza Schultz with All Together and Aaron Tully with Baxter and Woodman. He shared that they would be presenting about the Community Engagement and the Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Popovich also reviewed the Guiding DG timeline/schedule.

Ms. Schultz presented an update on the Guiding DG Community Engagement process via PowerPoint. She explained the process included marketing via print and by digital means and explained that the digital survey results exceeded expectations. She shared that in-person engagement involved focus groups/stakeholder interviews, staff led community meetings, DIY kits, public meetings/presentations, open houses/workshops and community pop-up events. Ms. Schultz explained that the in-person engagement results exceeded expectations and provided some statistics about the participants. Next, she reviewed the themes and the top responses to each theme. The themes included: Housing for All, Keep it Local, More Ways to Move, Green Spaces and People Places, Welcome to DG.

Village Council Comments/Questions

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the website views were unique views or total views.

Ms. Schultz confirmed that these were unique views.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked how the input that was used in the analysis was weighed to drive the themes.

Ms. Schultz said it was a breakdown of survey results (some of which were included in the Existing Conditions Memo), and the data that came from engagement events (visioning workshops and pop-ups - some of which happened after the release of the Existing Conditions Memo). She said the written results were analyzed and themes that were repetitive were noted - this was quantitative. She explained the other part was qualitative and included the themes that the consultant and staff were hearing during their discussions. Ms. Schultz noted that her team tried to balance everything and look across the arc of engagement and decide what the major themes were that came to the top of the list.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the five themes were in any particular order.

Ms. Schultz said they were not in any particular order, and that this was a way to create an umbrella for each theme, capturing the data results under each theme.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she likes having this boiled down to five engagement themes. She asked how the themes are being used to balance interests with environmental sustainability, etc. and how it will be organized.

Ms. Schultz said the themes will be introduced and used as references, so that as teams start working on the different plans, they will use the themes to be sure the engagement has been represented.

Village Manager Dave Fieldman said when Houseal Lavigne presents visioning and goals, in a few weeks, the items presented at this meeting may not appear exactly as they were presented, but he explained there will be a high correlation. He said at that time, it will then be up to the Council to make sense of all the data and start making decisions.

Commissioner Tully said it is important to remember that these themes are at a very high level. He spoke of a time, 15 years ago, when residents wanted a more vibrant downtown (and now the downtown is vibrant). He said the themes have shifted a bit. The Commissioner referred to the airplane analogy, stating that what someone sees at a 70 thousand foot elevation is much different from what someone else may see at a much lower elevation.

Ms. Schultz explained that as this process gets more detailed, there will be more engagement and more specific conversations around how things will be implemented. She explained this serves as a frame of reference for the Council.

Mayor Barnett said this is thematic because it tells the Council what is on the mind of the community and what their priorities are. He shared that there is also a lot of conflict embedded in all of this, and that is going to be a part of the Council's challenges. He explained that the Council is trying to create long term planning documents, and right now they are at the 50,000 foot level of trying to create a planning document.

Commissioner Davenport said he has attended a lot of events because of the flexibility he has with his schedule. He noted that what he is seeing in the presentation reflects what he heard at the events. He shared that he was impressed by the residents and their seriousness about participating. The Commissioner said despite there being conflict about things like parking or trees, it did not prevent the discussions from moving forward. He said the Council is impressed with the amount of engagement there has been because it is more than they could have hoped for. Commissioner Davenport thanked the staff for their work on this project.

Commissioner José said he is not surprised with the community feedback (the themes) and is very impressed with the volume of participation. He said the real challenge will be understanding how all of the input drops into each of the theme buckets - it will become more about prioritizing. The Commissioner referred to the plane analogy, stating that when things drop down to the 15,000 -10,000 foot level, things start to get clearer and trickier.

Ms. Schultz said there is a lot of supporting data on each of the themes that she can share.

Commissioner Glover said he has seen a lot of people talking and posting about Guiding DG. He spoke about 60 percent of the participants being under 18. He asked Ms. Schultz to explain the importance of that data.

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Ms. Schultz said that based on Village Council comments, the engagement process targeted families and high schoolers. She explained that engaging youth brought parents into the mix too.

Commissioner José commented on how many people come back to Downers Grove after moving away for college or other reasons. He said there is a good reason why people come back, and that is the energy that the Council wants to capture. The Commissioner said that youth participation is a very good thing.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he found it interesting that the team was able to get so much youth and family involvement. He noted that he did not think that having so much involvement at the pop-ups translated to more surveys being taken.

Ms. Schultz explained that the surveys took 15 minutes but the pop-ups were quick hits and took two minutes. She said there was a boost in surveys after the pop-up events.

Commissioner Gilmartin said that the consultant responded to the Council's request for youth input. He said he wants to know that there is a cross section of the community being surveyed. The Commissioner said he appreciates the summaries being provided, but there are a lot of decisions to be made and the Council needs a lot of confidence moving forward.

Ms. Schultz said she is happy to share that. She explained that there is a lot of demographic information she can provide and noted that it would be more quantitative.

Commissioner Gilmartin said this part of the process may be at the 50,000 foot level, but that eventually the Council needed to set the compass and take the themes that they were hearing from the community and finalize things. He reflected on Commissioner Tully's comments about a more vibrant downtown being a theme years ago, and encouraged people to look at what it has fostered.

Mayor Barnett asked about next steps.

Mr. Popovich thanked Ms. Schultz for providing the overview on community engagement. He provided information on next steps, explaining that Houseal Laviegn would be using this information in the visioning statement. He also explained that there will be more opportunities for the public to speak at Boards and Commissions meetings and Village Council meetings. He said there had been a community workshop the week prior for the Bike and Ped Plan and there may be additional workshops and engagement opportunities that would be made public through social media and other platforms.

Manager Fieldman thanked Ms. Schultz and the All Together team for their work and the presentation.

Aaron Tully with Baxter and Woodman presented the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update. He explained that his last presentation to the Village Council was the Existing Conditions Memorandum and since then, the consultant has started taking the existing conditions information and layering it to start making some better informed decisions and assumptions on how to move forward. Mr. Tully shared that the main topic he would discuss would be the results of the policy directives workshop that occurred the week prior, and he would be looking for the Council's direction on how to proceed with that information. He explained that the team had produced several assessments so far, and the Demand Based Assessment would provide a comprehensive overview of all the public engagement related to the Bike and Ped Plan specifically. Other assessments that were developed included an Origin-Destination Assessment (largely informed by public engagement), Barriers to Connectivity Assessment, and a General Bicycle and Pedestrian Gap Analysis (with regard to bicycle and pedestrian facilities). Mr. Tully shared that an Equity Based Assessment was also prepared, but would be forthcoming, as the team wanted to be sure that all of the data in that assessment correlated exactly with the information that is in the Comprehensive Plan. He explained that lastly, the team is working on developing a What's Possible Assessment by scanning every thoroughfare, and thinking about every type of bicycle and pedestrian facility that is in the toolbox, and encompassing them in what the community is looking for.

Mr. Tully explained that the Bike and Ped Plan is not just a recreational facilities program, it also encompasses multimodal transportation, to make sure that people can get from where they live to work, school, parks, commercial centers, and stores safely - the key destinations that the team heard. He explained the team will look at that information to evaluate where the network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities need to be and where they need to be connected, etc. He spoke in detail about the Origin-Destination Analysis, shared Strava Data Maps of Downers

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Grove, and the 2023-2024 regional area maps of cycling routes and foot traffic routes. Next, he reviewed the Barriers to Connectivity Analysis Map, explaining that intersections, railroad crossings, and overpasses and underpasses were analyzed. He reviewed the Bicycle Gap Analysis Map and shared that of the 269 mi of sidewalks within the Village limits, there are approximately 65.9 mi of sidewalk gaps that should be addressed to improve connectivity.

Commissioner Davenport asked if anything other than Strava data was looked at.

Mr. Tully said no, the team wanted to use Placer AI, as well as another kind of database, to get a better understanding of how people move, but they were unable to get those licenses.

Commissioner Davenport said that Strava it is a good resource, he uses it and shared his suggestion to use it when this process began.

Mayor Barnett referred the Bicycle Gap Analysis slide and asked Mr. Tully to define the gaps between existing facilities.

Mr. Tully referred to the bike routes on the map and said it is unclear what constitutes a bike route at this point (they are not a regulatory kind of instrument), but shared that a bike route is a vehicle that could possibly be built off of. He referenced the route that the Downers Grove Bike Club uses on the map, and said that the team is trying to understand what the value of the whole bike route system is and how it might be played up further. Mr. Tully said it is important to find out where the gaps are between bike routes, or between on-street bike lanes, because they seem to be the more popular routes for cyclists. He said the goal is to create greater synergies between the facilities by connecting them.

Mayor Barnett clarified that Mr. Tully is referring to gaps between bike routes, bike lanes, or places where there would be sharrows on pavement.

Mr. Tully said yes, the team tried to incorporate all of the existing facilities infrastructure and is looking at how to utilize that to a greater degree - to get it to where it is more connected.

Mayor Barnett shared that he is mostly interested in the What's Possible Report and he does not want to make the purpose of this about professional bikers, because they are going to ride no matter what. He said the goal is to get people who might not otherwise take a different mode of transportation to the point that they may want to use it by addressing the gaps.

Mr. Tully said the team is focusing on multiple user groups and gave examples of them.

Commissioner Davenport said it might be better to refer to the gaps as potential places where stronger connections could be made.

Mayor Barnett noted that when looking at the maps, he is interested in the gaps near the grocery stores.

Mr. Tully said this is a means to improve connectivity by utilizing what the Village already has.

Commissioner Davenport said this map was bicycle specific and that there could also be broader pedestrian gaps.

Mr. Tully said yes it was bicycle specific and the pedestrian gaps would be addressed in a later slide.

Commissioner José asked when a gap became something bigger than a gap, and spoke of a gap on the map that ran the length of town.

Mr. Tully said maybe gap is not the right term for what the Commissioner pointed out, but he shared that the team is trying to identify at least two principal north-south corridors, as well as several east-west corridors.

Commissioner José said he understands that adding north-south and east-west paths would make sense, but also asked if it would make sense to put some connections on Belmont, - further asking if it is really a gap that needed to be filled.

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Commissioner Gilmartin clarified that the north-south line, that Commissioner Hosé referred to, shows some short areas that are designated bike routes and the line referred to is connecting areas that are already present but not connected.

Commissioner Hosé explained that when he read the report he interpreted the line as showing where the bike route should be. He went back to his question from earlier, about how he does not consider something a gap unless it is something that needs to be filled. He said otherwise it would just be considered a space where there is no bicycle infrastructure.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said that having connections to the Forest Preserve and the Morton Arboretum is something that residents are interested in, and then pointed out that there is no walkway connection on the map to the Arboretum - she took that as lacking any connection to that place of interest.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he liked hearing that this was multimodal. He asked if this is an enhanced Bike and Pedestrian Plan or a Multimodal Plan.

Mr. Tully said the team has several titles that they are going to propose at a future time, but at this time the report is not titled.

Commissioner Gilmartin said a Bike and Pedestrian Plan has a connotation for recreational use and that seeing it more as multi-modal brings the idea of how to traverse the Village as a much larger thing. He asked if in the What's Possible Assessment, Mr. Tully foresees an overlap of shared use.

Mr. Tully said that is something the team was hoping to drill down on during the policy directives workshop. He said it comes down to when there is an opportunity for a two-way on-street protected bike lane - would people rather have that or a two-way shared use facility, that would be off the street altogether and still be within the right of way (and would be used by other user groups as well). He said it will be hard to find one north-south route where there is one type of facility.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he understands the Strava data better after reviewing it during this meeting. He reiterated that he is looking for information on the facilities as they are being used now versus providing facilities for people who are afraid to get on different streets. He said the Council wants to make sure this has the intended result of what is possible.

Commissioner Davenport said he mostly agrees with what Mayor Barnett said and he thinks that because there are so many different modes of transportation that opens up more distance traveled - people are going out 20-40 miles now and there are a fair amount of Strava users using e-bikes, so there are more people interested in going 30 miles out.

Mayor Barnett asked for insight about the usefulness of the various infrastructure elements. He further explained that there are opportunities for people to use different types of equipment now that did not exist 15 years ago and people may want to get out and use that equipment. The Mayor said he used to ride his bike a lot and when did, he never paid attention to signage - just worried about how to cross roads like Ogden Avenue. He said when talking about infrastructure he questioned what would be useful to the non-power bicycle user.

Mr. Tully said he does not have any anecdotal data to quantify that. He said the team shares a similar concern, and referred to one of the eight guiding principles that had to do with focusing on the design for the thoroughfare of the corridor - deciding what dictates speed, aside from signage, etc. He further spoke of quantifiable evidence coming from how a particular corridor is designed. Mr. Tully gave an example of a question asked at the policy directive workshop that went beyond thinking of signs and protective bike lanes, while creating an environment that might be more conducive for cycling.

Commissioner Davenport shared that there are times when he is out running, in other communities that have on-street bike routes that will connect, and those are the paths he will use. He said without signage he would get lost or have to stop to look at his Google Maps - he finds the signage important.

Mr. Tully said he cannot say how effective directional or wayfinding signage is, but he can find out who is using it.

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Mayor Barnett said finding out who those people are is most interesting to him.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he has a hard time believing people are selecting bike routes based on signage. He asked if avid/current bikers provided insight on the streets they traverse.

Mr. Tully said that is in the Existing Conditions Report.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if that will be looked at, weighted, and used as a marker.

Mr. Tully said yes, they will use it as a part of the formula.

Commissioner Gilmartin and Davenport said things like safe crossings, the volume of traffic, the width of the shoulder is all information they would like considered.

Mr. Tully said when first discussing how to move forward with the Bike and Pedestrian Plan, the Village Council said it has to include community driven policies. Mr. Tully explained there were 16 policy directives put together by staff at the 30 thousand foot level and 2 at street level. The Transportation and Parking (TAP) Commission and the public workshop participants were provided a survey of questions surrounding the policy directives – he explained the results were shown via a live polling meter with five categories from strongly disagree to strongly agree. He shared the TAP Commission survey results and the public survey results with the Council.

Commissioner Davenport said he thinks it is important to preface the results by indicating that at least half of the people that showed up at the workshop were afraid to lose parking on 59th Street. He explained that this made people less likely to provide constructive criticism and that the survey results do not represent the whole community.

Commissioner José said the workshop was never meant to get exact statistical feedback. He said it is typical to get NIMBY type feedback. He shared that many of the reactions the Council gets are from people that do not want any changes in their own neighborhood.

Commissioner Davenport said it weighed heavier here to these people because of where they lived.

Mayor Barnett said both Commissioners José and Davenport were right. He said when asking more theoretical questions to an audience, you typically get a single focused advocacy, and a part of the Council's job is to take all of the data as pieces of the input. He suggested the team get more input, because the more input received, the more relevant it starts to become.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she also hopes for more input and said she has concerns about strongly disagreeing with safe, connected, and accessible pedestrian facilities for schools.

Mayor Barnett said there is real live evidence of that.

Commissioner Davenport said anyone looking at this survey is thinking this is what the community thinks - and he said that is not the case.

Manager Fieldman said that Village staff recognized that too, as well as Baxter and Woodman. He said anyone that wants to get the full scope of the survey should read the three page analysis that goes with it. It is available on the Village Website.

Mr. Tully said it was an important exercise that the team needs to continue to build off of. He explained how the survey was administered and reviewed the questions that were included in the survey.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she lives off of Fairview and said she is close to the neighborhood that came to the workshop. She said she sees the distinction between a 3 and 4 lane road and asked what the rationale is when considering a 2 versus 3 lane road?

Mr. Tully clarified that she was asking what was magical about 2 lanes over 3 lanes.

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Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said that because a lot of the community that attended the workshop was from the neighborhood that lives off Green Lane Road, Fairmount may be seen differently than 55th Street.

Mr. Tully explained that a lot of the more problematic thoroughfares that people need to cross are at least four lanes - so that is why they used two lanes instead. He said for residential streets, it should allow for parking on at least one side of the street, but not necessarily on both sides of the street. He said the team is looking to see if they can use some of the area that is typically used for on-street parking.

Commissioner Gilmartin referred to one of the questions "shared-use paths can be used in locations where it's not feasible to include protected, on-street bicycle facilities" and opined that the participants were in support of it because it likely meant there were not going to be bike lanes on their street.

After his review of the questions, Mr. Tully reviewed the results and said for community workshop participants, the top priority was on-street parking and the lowest priority was bike lanes. For the TAP Commission, the parkway trees were the highest priority with on-street parking as the lowest priority.

Mr. Popovich then reviewed the last question that referenced easements being used for sidewalks and trees - both the community and the TAP Commission said they would allow the use of easements for parkway trees, but only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the community would allow easements to be used for sidewalks (the TAP Commission said they would allow the use for the sidewalk).

Mr. Tully explained that he did not think that Fairmount was on the radar for any kind of dedicated facility, but he was not prepared to say that at the workshop (he thinks he could have quelled a lot of concern if he had said something though). He said this will be used as a means for the What's Happening analysis and that there will be another workshop, so that the team can show the public that they have listened and show them how they have applied what they heard - getting down to more of a 10,000 foot level.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt clarified that the Council actually did discuss putting bike lines on Fairmount and 59th. She said there is a lack of consistency with stop signs and crosswalk lines. She said she has had a conversation with Village staff herself about this. The Commissioner also asked if the safety impact of things, like bump outs, was discussed with the public, rather than just showing them pictures.

Mr. Tully said especially with the bump outs, the public was given at least three or four really strong reasons why they would be used for safety, one reason being shortening the crossing distance.

Commissioners Davenport said he thinks that additional data is needed before he can really offer comments about what he has heard.

Commissioner José said this goes back to the discussion about themes and conflict - there has been a lot of feedback and now it needs to be funneled into the right buckets. He said this is one data point and there is a lot more to look at.

Mayor Barnett said that there has been a discussion about the challenges with data, meetings, and public input, and the Council knows what to do with it is a part of the science.. He said as public leaders, the Council struggles with the idea of what public input means, or does not mean, and where it does, or does not, drive policy. The Mayor expressed that he would feel constrained from a planning prospective if the What's Possible Report had a tinted tone.

Mr. Tully explained that the What's Possible Analysis will be in a public engagement vacuum. He said the team wants to lay out a network that they consider to be practical, safe, efficient, accessible, and connected. He said then the Council can vet that analysis.

Mayor Barnett said he would like to make sure that the vetting happens during Village Council meetings.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he thinks the product needs to be visionary and the Council can figure out what is practical and pass muster. He said he is concerned about only using the data that was collected - he said this plan goes beyond a block or two.

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Commissioner José opined that the input given should not be discounted. He said when it comes to dedicated bike lanes, this Council has said no. He said the reality is that the Council has said multiple times they do not want to give up on-street parking or trees for bike lanes. The Commissioner said he wants options given to the Council and there are certain practical realities that have to go into the decisions they make with regard to the bicycle network they come up with.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he and Commissioner José need to agree to disagree on this. He said he thinks the Council needs a visionary document (which is something he has been saying for nearly four years).

Commissioner José said he agrees the Council needs a visionary document, and that he and Commissioner Gilmartin may just see the definition of a visionary document as something different. He said his biggest concern is creating a document that the residents are forced to use.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he is not suggesting that - and there is no way to provide the public with any guidance, plan, or vision without seeing the plan first.

Mayor Barnett said during the public exercise the public kept asking what things would cost - he said the Council has given Mr. Tully enough to give them a plan that is not overly constrained.

Commissioner Tully said the Council just wants a visionary plan to use as a tool to be able to shift and work with.

Commissioner Gilmartin said it is not a plan that the Council is getting, rather it will be a document that provides options of what is possible.

Manager Fieldman said when it came to the 2013 Plan, there was not the same creativity and community input as there is this time around, so that is a big win. He said the evening's discussion would be helpful to staff - it was a more robust dialogue than in 2013. Manager Fieldman said the first workshop may not have been perfect, but it will be helpful.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if there will be more workshops

Manager Fieldman said he heard there will be more.

Commissioner Davenport said since he has been on the Council, he has never seen things being shoved down anyone's throat. He said this will be tough and not everyone will be happy, but the Council needs to look at the greater good while being totally transparent. He opined that with this process there is a better chance for success.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the survey helped fill in any of the gaps in terms of shoring up the data.

Mr. Tully said the survey was more to understand where people were trying to get to and also how willing people were to use a pedestrian facility.

Mr. Tully asked if there was value in reducing the questions to approximately 10, at the 30 thousand foot level, rather than street specific.

Manager Fieldman said that staff could work on tweaking the questions by using everything heard at this meeting and putting it into chunks that could be understood easily.

Commissioner Davenport suggested adding more on the safety aspect of this because it is very important.

Manager Fieldman said that one of the key takeaways from the participates at the workshop was that safety is paramount. He said he assured the workshop participants that the Council agreed that safety is one aspect that is driving this plan.

Commissioner Tully spoke about a conversation that happened years ago about traffic calming - everyone wanted it, but no one wanted it on their street.

Public Comment

Clorinda Greco returned to the podium and shared that she is concerned with bump outs and with bike lanes, especially if they are not shoveled in the winter. She suggested that the questions in the survey be tweaked. She also asked about community engagement and the engagement with businesses.

Joe Galvin, resident, said he would like additional workshops and surveys for the community. He shared that he thinks the survey sample needs to be bigger with no multi-part questions included in the survey. He said he wants thought to be given to what things will be like years down the road. He stressed that the community does not want to lose trees.

Bruce Mebee, thanked the Council. He said getting the public engaged will pay off in the long run, if done correctly.

David Rose, resident, asked that consideration be given to the configuration of the room for the Village Council meetings, as some parts of the room are inaudible. He spoke of bicycling and asked that the Council take into consideration how fast and how far people are traveling, especially with the addition of e-bikes. He spoke about how the bump-outs can actually create somewhat of a problem for bicyclists in certain parts of traffic. He requested that Downers Grove work with surrounding communities on connectivity to make it easier to get to the general area.

12. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: *To adjourn the August 20, 2024, Village Council Meeting.*

RESULT: *Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

MOTIONED TO APPROVE: *Commissioner José*

SECONDED BY: *Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

AYES: *Commissioners José, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett*

NAYES: *None*

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:14 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Village Clerk