

MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING

DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS

JUNE 12, 2007

Mayor Sandack called the Workshop meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Village Hall.

Present: Mayor Ron Sandack; Commissioners Marilyn Schnell, Martin Tully, William Waldack, Sean P. Durkin; Geoff Neustadt; Bruce E. Beckman; Village Manager Cara Pavlicek; Village Attorney Enza Petrarca; Deputy Village Clerk Linda Brown

Absent: Village Clerk April Holden

Visitors: **Residents:** John Schofield, 1125 Jefferson; Tim Meaney, 420 Franklin; Andy Clark, 1226 62nd Street; Doug, Terri, Tom Adams, 4628 Highland; Greg Bedalov, Economic Development Corporation, 2001 Butterfield; Mark Thoman, 1109 61st Street; Scott Jacaway, 4828 Oakwood; Frank Falesch, 820 Prairie

Staff: Liangfu Wu, Director, Information Services; Bob Porter, Police Chief; Tom Dabareiner, Director, Community Development; Andy Matejcak, Director, Counseling & Social Services; Mary Scalzetti, Director, Community Events; Dave Fieldman, Deputy Village Manager; Mike Baker, Assistant Village Manager; Phil Ruscetti, Fire Chief; Mike Millette, Assistant Director, Public Works; Wes Morgan, Director, Human Resources; Brandon Dieter, Management Intern; Dorin Fera, Public Works

Mayor Sandack explained that Council Workshop meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. The meetings are video taped live and for later cable-cast over cable channel 6.

The Workshop meeting is intended to provide Council and the public with an appropriate forum for informal discussion of any items intended for future Council consideration or just for general information. No formal action is taken at Workshop meetings.

The public is invited to attend and encouraged to comment or ask questions in an informal manner on any of the items being discussed or on any other subject. The agenda is created to provide a guideline for discussion.

Mayor Sandack said that at the suggestion of Commissioner Sean Durkin, the Workshop meeting would begin with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Sandack noted that the order of the meeting would be a little different; the items on the active agenda would be discussed first and then the items on the consent agenda. In addition, the public comments on topics would come before Council comments. He asked for patience from all as these changes are implemented. He further asked that members of the audience limit themselves to five minutes when addressing the Council.

MANAGER

Manager Pavlicek reviewed the items on the Active Agenda for questions and comments.

a. **Ordinance to Enact Turn Restrictions on Westbound Ogden Avenue at Roslyn Road.**

The Manager said this action began as a neighborhood issue that was presented to the Parking and Traffic Commission to address speeding and safety concerns along Roslyn Road. This would restrict left turns between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Commissioner Beckman said his concern is that these restrictions on Roslyn Road would push the traffic to other side streets.

Mike Millette, Assistant Director, Public Works, said this ordinance should ease congestion on Ogden. The Village of Westmont has been notified of the change and they concur.

Commissioner Schnell said her concern is that the public be notified of the changes and that the signs be highlighted so that drivers are made aware of the new restrictions. It's hard to change habits. The new restrictions could be included in the Village Corner.

Police Chief Bob Porter said changes like this are monitored closely by the Traffic Division.

b. **Ordinance to Implement Park Speed Zones at Washington and Wallingford Parks.**

The Manager said this would reduce the speed limits around these parks to 20 mph from 25 mph when children are present. This was requested by the Park District based on recent State statute changes. The Parking and Traffic Commission recommended these changes.

Commissioner Neustadt said these changes need to be made known to the residents and the neighbors of these parks.

Commissioner Durkin referred to a Chicago Tribune article he distributed regarding similar issues in Park Ridge. The article defines "when children are present" to mean when children are within 50 feet. He said the green sheets used this same measure. At the National League of Cities, it was suggested that temporary speed bumps could be placed around the parks.

Commissioner Waldack said he supported Commissioner Durkin's ideas.

c. **Ordinance Enacting Parking Restrictions for Bus Loading Zone on Prairie Avenue for St. Mary's School.**

Manager Pavlicek said staff is attempting to improve the bus loading process at the school and alleviate some of the neighborhood concerns.

Commissioner Neustadt said he congratulated the Parking and Traffic Commission, the Park District, the school community and the neighbors who came together with Village staff to solve a common problem.

Commissioner Durkin said the buses had been blocking the fire hydrants, so this improves public safety.

Commissioner Schnell said she was happy to see that the buses will park in the school lot or the park until the children are ready to be dismissed. The buses previously idled on the streets for up to 30 minutes before the children boarded. The cooperation of all parties made this a good proposal.

Commissioner Beckman said he appreciated staff tackling a problem that seemed mundane, but has been an issue in the neighborhood for 25 years.

Consent Agenda Items

The Manager reviewed the items for questions and comments.

a. Brick Street Reconstruction Project (CIP Project ST-002).

Commissioner Schnell said she was concerned that the Village is on a very tight schedule to complete this project, and the job is being awarded to a concrete company, as opposed to a company specializing in brick streets. She understands a sub-contractor will be involved, but she wants staff to be sure that the sub-contractor selected is experienced in brick streets.

Mayor Sandack said that all the bidders on this project were concrete companies.

Manager Pavlicek said the project has a great variety of work, but the companies are qualified by the Illinois Department of Transportation. This will be on the Active Agenda next week so that staff can provide additional information.

b. Intergovernmental Agreement with Downers Grove Sanitary District (CIP Project ST-002). There were no questions.

c. Maple Avenue/55th Street Water Main Replacement (CIP Project WA-006).

Commissioner Beckman said he had provided the Manager with some questions regarding contingencies.

Manager Pavlicek responded that within 30 days she will provide to the Council more information on the Capital Budget relative to project deferrals based upon bid prices.

Commissioner Durkin is concerned with the cost of petroleum. He asked if the date of the bid was prior to the increase in fuel.

Mr. Millette responded that the date of the bids was May 25, after the price hike in petroleum products.

Manager Pavlicek noted that the engineer's estimates were prepared in August 2006, or earlier.

Commissioner Durkin then questioned the wording on the reference checks for the contractors. The words "satisfactory" and "favorable" are used and he asked whether there a substantive difference in those two ratings.

Mr. Millette said if our staff has worked with the contractors in the past, the wording can be more specific, but if other municipalities are contacted for references, the municipalities will only use the terms “satisfactory” or “not satisfactory.”

Commissioner Waldack also questioned staff regarding the difference between the budget document and the bidding document. The Manager said staff would check to see if we have the requested documents.

- d. **Leonard Avenue Storm Sewer (CIP Project SW-025).** The Manager said this is in the amount of \$99,999.99. There were no questions.
- e. **Fire Station 5 Locker Room Remodeling (CIP MB-045).** The Manager said this is in the amount of \$34,680.00. There were no questions.
- f. **Participation in the Illinois Safe Routes to School Programs.** The Manager said Council is being asked to authorize participation in the Illinois Safe Routes to School Program through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). This program will facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution within two miles of primary and middle schools in the Village.

Commissioner Schnell noted that sidewalks around schools could be part of this program. This project will benefit our residents and the sidewalk program.

Commissioner Neustadt said school, Park District and Village officials worked together on this plan. It is very comprehensive and has many educational as well as infrastructure aspects.

- g. **Grant Amendment to the PEERS Grant Agreement.** Manager Pavlicek said this is a Public Education and Enforcement Research Study (PEERS) grant. This would extend the time allowed to expend the grant funds due to a delay in the release of funds to the Village. Council will be asked to waive the one-week waiting period to authorize this agreement.

MANAGER’S AND DIRECTORS’ REPORT

No report.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT

Village Attorney Enza Petrarca said she was presenting six items to the Council: 1) An ordinance establishing restrictions on movements of vehicles from Ogden Avenue onto Roslyn Road; 2) An ordinance adding park zone speed limits; 3) An ordinance amending certain school bus loading zones; 4) A resolution authorizing execution of an intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Downers Grove and the Downers Grove Sanitary District to replace sanitary sewers in Oakwood and Middaugh Avenues from Warren to Prairie Avenue; 5) A resolution in support of participation in the safe routes to school program within the Village of Downers Grove; and 6) A motion to appoint Judy Buttny as Village Treasurer.

Attorney Petrarca asked the Council to consider waiving the traditional one-week waiting period to consider voting on an item discussed at this evening’s meeting.

Commissioner Tully moved to waive the one-week waiting period to consider new business.
Commissioner Durkin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES: Commissioners Tully, Durkin, Beckman, Neustadt, Waldack, Schnell; Mayor Sandack

NAYS: None

Mayor Sandack declared the Motion passed.

A resolution authorizing an amendment to a grant agreement between the Village of Downers Grove and the Illinois Commerce Commission. This will authorize execution of a grant agreement between the Village of Downers Grove and the Illinois Commerce Commission for a nine-month extension to the Federal Railroad Administration's Public Education and Enforcement Research Student (PEERS) to March 31, 2008.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO A GRANT AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND THE
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION 2007-66

Commissioner Tully moved to adopt a resolution authorizing an amendment to a grant agreement between the Village of Downers Grove and the Illinois Commerce Commission, as presented.
Commissioner Durkin seconded the Motion.

VOTE: AYES: Commissioners Tully, Durkin, Beckman, Schnell, Neustadt, Waldack, Mayor Sandack

NAYS: None

Mayor Sandack declared the Motion passed.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Commissioner Schnell thanked residents who came to the Friday night Car Show. She said the downtown area was packed with people of all ages. She noted that Mochel Drive looks very nice. She said she spoke with the Manager regarding a few enforcement issues.

Commissioner Waldack said the Commissioners and Mayor have a booth at Heritage Festival and Council members volunteer their time to man the booth. There are so much wonderful activities and good entertainment planned for the Heritage Festival he wants to see that it makes it difficult to staff the Council booth. He noted that information brochures are available throughout town.

Commissioner Neustadt reminded people that the Gin Blossoms will be performing on Thursday, June 21. Tickets are still available.

Commissioner Beckman said he received a letter from the Police Department regarding a crime alert. He noted it is up to the community to be vigilant. He thanked Chief Porter for making this information available.

Commissioner Durkin said he attended the annual dinner of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus at the Chicago History Museum. Over 400 people attended and DuPage County was well represented. He said it was a great event.

Commissioner Tully said there are ten days remaining until Heritage Festival. It is a very special Heritage Festival that kicks off in nine days with a benefit concert on ride preview night, Thursday, June 21, featuring the Gin Blossoms. The proceeds will go to save the Blodgett House, which is of historical and cultural significance to the community. This is an opportunity to invest in the community. He encouraged everyone to buy tickets. There is a link to the Blodgett House website from www.downers.us. He noted that there will be a Council booth all three days of Heritage Festival at the corner of Main and Curtiss. He encouraged people to come and talk to their elected officials.

Mayor Sandack said he was a guest at the Downers Grove South High School softball fourth place State finals game. The girls did a remarkable job. He predicted the team will be very good next year as well.

VISITORS

Tom Adams said he is a Boy Scout with Troup 95, working on his Eagle Scout rank. His project is to re-landscape the backyard of the ChildServe Teen Home, 4936 Highland Avenue. He described the project which includes planting a vegetable garden. He said his project will benefit many parties including the teens that live at the home, the organization, the community, the Scouts and himself. He asked the Council to contribute the transportation of 50 yards of free mulch to the site on a Friday or Saturday in July.

The Mayor commended Tom on his efforts. He asked staff to look into helping to move the mulch.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Workshop meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Linda J. Brown
Deputy Village Clerk