

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ROOM
DOWNERS GROVE VILLAGE HALL
August 29, 2008

PRESENT: Chairman Martin Tully, Ms. Kelsey Greysik, Mr. Dave Humphreys,
Ms. Patti Marino, Ms. Ellen Pendola, Ms. Becky Rheintgen
Staff: Ms. Mary Scalzetti, Ms. Susan Larson

ABSENT: Ms. Linda Kunze, ex-officio, Ms. Tessa McGuire, Mr. Rich Szydlo

GUEST: None

I. APPROVAL OF JULY 17, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

There being no changes to the minutes, the Commission approved the July 17, 2008 minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Heritage Festival Budget

Ms. Scalzetti prepared a draft of the 2008 Heritage Festival Financial Summary and held a discussion with the Commission. Ms. Scalzetti reported that the expenses exceeded the budget as a result of additional costs due to the downtown business enhancements such as positive signage, extra electrical costs and additional staffing costs. Ms. Scalzetti indicated that she is still currently working on the Heritage Festival budget and will present it to the Commission at the next meeting.

B. Fine Arts Festival

Ms. Scalzetti reported that the Fine Arts festival will be held on September 13 & 14 on Main Street between Burlington Avenue and Grove Street.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Bike Race

Ms. Larson reported that the bike race was held on August 16 & 17. An article appeared in the Downers Grove Reporter highlighting the event. Ms. Larson mentioned the Tribune has a new form of media that will hit all Thursday papers. The Trib Local will feature events happening in local neighborhoods such as Downers Grove, Darien, Westmont and Willowbrook. An article was submitted regarding the bike race along with photos and will hopefully be featured in the next edition.

Ms. Scalzetti discussed a food walk that took place on Bike Race weekend that she put together for some friends. The idea is to walk through Downtown Downers Grove and visit the restaurants sampling their foods and/or refreshments. The event was a success and maybe something to consider for the future. Ms. Scalzetti passed on this information to Economic Development.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Humphreys made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Pendola to express the Commissions appreciation for Student Representative Kelsey Greysik's dedication and commitment to serving her one year term on the Community Events Commission. Chairman Tully as well as the Commission extended their thanks for her service to the Community Events Commission.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2008.

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Human Service Commission
Minutes
September 10, 2008

Commission Members Present Chair: Jeff Rogers, Members: Lynn Bedalov, Theresa Carlquist, Andrew Cook, Kathryn Engel-Accettura (ex-officio), Scott Jacaway, Diane Johnson, Lisa Stach and Sue Walaszek
Members Absent: None
Staff Liaison: Andrew J. Matejcek, Director of Counseling and Social Services
Visitors: Eva McKendrick

II. Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 6:18pm. A quorum was obtained.

III. Approval of Minutes: July's meeting minutes were unanimously approved. (The HSC did not meet in August)

IV. Public Comment: No public comments were made.

V. Discussion:

Director Matejcek thanked the commission members for their flexibility with rescheduling the meeting to the second Wednesday of the month. With the appointment of two new commissioners on the evening of September 2, 2008, staff had postponed the September 3, 2008 meeting until September 10, 2008 to allow for the new commissioners to receive their information materials prior to their first meeting and to allow for the attendance of commissioner member(s) who were not able to meet on the September 3rd meeting. Welcoming the two newly appointed members, the commission members acquainted themselves through introductions and sharing their backgrounds.

Staff and the commission discussed the work of the commission, to date, on issues related to behaviors in the community. Commissioner Stach addressed the role of the commission in terms of making recommendations to the community as an outcome of this endeavor. Staff also discussed the fine line of balancing the role of the Human Service Commission to address matters of social concern and recognizing the autonomy of other entities in the community that have their own governing boards and their own rules of conduct within their organizations and facilities. Chairperson Rogers raised the question if HSC should be a resource for the community to voice concerns if they cannot get resolution from the staff of the specific entities after they've been voiced. Staff and commission members discussed the point and noted that residents should voice their concerns to the specific boards or commissions that govern that entity. They also suggested that the HSC could play a role in helping to underscore this message to the community and direct them to more actively discuss their concerns in a forum that can directly address them. This also addressed the concern of managing the expectations of the public who would otherwise assume the HSC could provide resolution to a matter that was outside the scope and authority of its role.

Director Matejcek discussed with the commission the process by which staff will consolidate key elements of the commission's proceedings on the matter, formalize them for a vote and forward the information to Council. Toward that end, he requested members to contribute other aspects of the matter that they would like to include in the review. The members noted the issue of zoning and Commissioner Jacaway suggested the aspect of the Methadone Clinic and the Tivoli Hotel be also reviewed. The commission and staff discussed their role in providing services to the community. Specifically, in the case of the Tivoli Hotel, it's role in provide housing to people that might otherwise be homeless. Additionally, the commission members added the importance of helping to direct people with special

needs to appropriate resources in the community. Commissioner Kathryn Engel-Accettura and Commissioner Jacaway reviewed the Park District's referral to the DGPD for public safety and law enforcement.

Members also discussed the lack of information from other communities to see if behavioral problems are any more or any less prevalent in Downers Grove as compared to other communities. Commissioners Engel-Accettura and Carlquist discussed the challenges in obtaining such data since each community is different and hard to compare with one another.

Commissioner Bedalov also noted that some of the inappropriate behaviors, while not criminal, do have an affect on business and wondered if the Downtown Management and Chamber of Commerce perceived there to be a problem and if so, how to quantify it. As the commission discussed, anecdotal feedback either way, they also asked Commissioner Cook, as a youth member in school, about the perception of his peers and if they had concerns or felt uncomfortable at the library or downtown. Commissioner Cook noted that he could not be sure but didn't think there was a problem for his peers going there alone or in couples but indicated that some people might not be as comfortable. Commissioner Walaszek added that the role of education to help the community know what the police do and what the various entities do to address problems was important.

VI. New Business:

Commissioner Bedalov introduced several programs of the DuPage Citizens Corp including Operation Helping Hand (OHH). She explained these volunteer programs are active in other communities throughout the County. OHH utilizes a database to generate a call list for residents with special needs in times of a disaster. Having spoken with some of the volunteers of the program, Commissioner Bedalov noted they would be open to presenting the program to the HSC in future meetings. Staff and the commission discussed the potential for such a program in Downers Grove. Historically, the Downers Grove Citizen Corp Council had not taken off largely because of limited Village staffing for resident training and ongoing training for recertification of the program. Commissioner Bedalov noted that in some of the other communities they are coordinated by volunteer efforts. The commission discussed the usefulness of such programs with the proximity to Chicago and having a railroad run through town. Several community partners were identified that might provide support and networking in developing a local chapter. Commissioner Engel-Accettura noted the importance of people learning how to send text messages, that even when cell phone call services may be down, people can still communicate through text messaging on their cell phones in emergency situations. Commissioner Carlquist also noted that volunteer organizations that came out to assist during the recent flooding in Iowa. Staff report that unlike the OHH program for area wide disasters, the Village's Operations Center (911 Dispatch) does keep a record of special needs residents to facilitate public safety responses on an individual call out basis. Individuals can register to have their information included in the program. The registration material will be included in the next edition of the Senior Resource Guide under the Safety and Home Security section.

Commissioner Stach shared information about a the Women in Need, Legal Defense and Educational Fund which is located in Downers Grove and offered to forward the information to staff. The organization helps women in need with legal assistance.

Commissioner Walaszek earlier in the meeting shared an article entitled, "DuPage older, more diverse, census shows" which appeared in *The Sun* newspaper on August 21, 2008.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting closed at 8:07pm

Submitted by: Andrew J. Matejcek, Staff Liaison