

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP
MARCH 10, 2009 AGENDA

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
Amendments to Village Council Policy: Appointments to Boards and Commissions	✓ Resolution Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	Dave Fieldman Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

A resolution has been prepared amending the Village Council Policy entitled “Appointments to Boards and Commissions.”

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The Five Year Plan and Goals for 2008-2013 identified *Exceptional Municipal Government*. A supporting objective of this goal is *Village Government Trusted and Respected by Residents*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the March 17, 2009 consent agenda.

BACKGROUND

In response to discussions by the Village Council at the December 16, 2008 meeting, staff has drafted amendments to the Village Council Policy entitled “Appointments to Boards and Commissions.” The proposed amendments would update the current Village Council Policy, which was approved in September, 2004. These proposed amendments specifically address the process and timeline for appointing board and commission members.

The proposed amendments contain language that would discourage the appointment of board and commission members from December 1 to May 15 during a municipal election season. The overarching purpose of this proposed language is to address a concern voiced by members of the Village Council that an individual could be appointed by a Mayor who may be leaving office shortly pending the results of a municipal election or that an appointment could be confirmed by a Village Council whose membership may be changing shortly pending the results of a municipal election. The proposed language would discourage this appointment practice.

Additionally, the Village Council directed staff to develop a timeline for appointing board and commission members when positions become vacant. The current policy details the board and commission appointment process but does not include specific timelines or schedules for the process. Staff has drafted a proposed commission member appointment schedule to be incorporated into the Village Council Policy. The proposed schedule addresses both appointments to vacancies due to term expirations and appointments due to unplanned vacancies. The timeline is summarized on the following page:

Appointments to Vacancies due To Term Expiration

Date	Task
By April 1	The Village Manager mails "Letters of Interest" to Commission Members whose terms are expiring in the current year.
By May 1	Board and Commission Member responses to the "Letter of Interest" are due
By June 1	The Village Manager initiates the candidate screening process
By July 15	Mayor / Council Liaison forwards preferred candidate name to Village Manager. The Village Manager Circulates this name to the Village Council as soon as possible
By August 15	Village Manager places candidate on a Village Council meeting agenda no later than second Village Council meeting in August

Appointments due to Unscheduled Vacancies

Schedule	Task
	Village Manager receives notice of vacancy
Within 30 days of vacancy notice	The Village Manager initiates candidate screening process
Within 45 days of initiating the candidate screening process	The Mayor / Council Liaison forwards preferred candidate to the Village Manager. The Village Manager circulates the candidate name as soon as possible
Within 30 days of candidate name circulation	Village Manager places candidate on Village Council meeting agenda.

This item was referred to the Finance and Administrative Standing Committee at the December 16, 2008 meeting of the Village Council. The Finance and Administrative Standing Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed amendments at their February 2, 2009 meeting. The Committee voted to accept the amendments proposed by staff as presented and forward the item to the Village Council for consideration at a future meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Amended Policy



Village of Downers Grove

Official Village Policy Approved by Village Council

Description:	Appointments to Boards and Commissions	
Res. or Ord. #:	Res.	Effective Date: Sept. 21, 2004
Category:	Legislative and General Management	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Council Policy
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amends Previous Policy Dated: 9/21/04; 8/1/94; 02/23/98
	Description of Previous Policy (if different from above): _____	

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN AMENDED VILLAGE COUNCIL POLICY REGARDING APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, the Village of Downers Grove has numerous boards and commissions which assist and advise the Village Council in addressing a number of matters of concern and importance to the residents and community of Downers Grove; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council has previously adopted Resolution 94-28, ~~and~~ Resolution 98-6 ~~and~~ Resolution 2004-57 providing procedures for the screening and selection of candidates to these various boards and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council has determined that it would now be appropriate to replace Resolution 94-28, ~~and~~ Resolution 98-6 ~~and~~ Resolution 2004-57 with revised procedures for the screening and selection of candidates for appointment to various Village boards and commissions and the timing thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove as follows:

1. - Policy Established:

- a. There is hereby established a procedure to be used in the screening and selection of applicants for certain Village Boards and Commissions and the timing thereof.
- b. This policy applies to those Village Boards and Commissions which are:
 - i. Appointed by the Village Council; or,
 - ii. Appointed by the Mayor but subject to confirmation by the Village Council; or,
 - iii. Appointed by the Mayor.
- c. This policy does not apply to those Village Boards and Commissions:
 - i. For which particular municipal officers are designated by law; or,

ii. Which are appointed by the Village Manager. Provided, the Village Manager shall provide written notice of any such appointment(s) at least forty-eight hours prior to a regularly scheduled Council meeting. The Village Manager shall publicly announce the appointment(s) at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Council.

2. - Profile Sheets:

a. The Village Manager shall prepare, maintain, and update as necessary, forms to be known as profile sheets, which will be used to provide information regarding persons currently serving, or interested in serving, on a Village Board or Commission. These profile sheets will include general background information to be supplied by such persons.

b. Profile sheets shall be maintained in the office of the Village Manager for a period of two years. Provided, the profile sheet of any person appointed to a Village Board or Commission shall be maintained, and updated on a biannual basis, throughout such person's tenure.

c. Any person desiring to participate on a Village Board or Commission shall complete a profile sheet and submit this to the Office of the Village Manager. If desired, the applicant may indicate a preference as to on or morea particular Boards or Commissions.

d. Persons serving on a Board or Commission shall, as desired by such person or as requested by the Village Manager as part of his biannual update, provide update information regarding their profile sheet.

3. - Solicitation of Applicants:

The Village Manager shall, from time to time, cause public advertisements and notices to be circulated regarding the desire and need of the Village to include citizen participation in the Village Boards and Commissions. Specifically, no later than April 1st of each year the Village Manager shall cause a letter to be issued to each board and commission member whose term will expire that year inquiring as to whether or not he/she seeks to be reappointed. The Village Manager shall request that each board and commission member respond to the letter by no later than May 1st. The Village Manager's office shall serve as clearing house for information related to applications and participation on a Village Board or Commission. This will include providing blank copies of profile sheets on request; answering questions related to the application, appointment or reappointment process; and providing information regarding participation on any specific Board or Commission.

4. - Screening of Candidates to the Village Boards and Commissions:

a. ~~Upon~~Within thirty (30) days of notice of a vacancy for whatever reason, or by no later than June 1st annually~~within sixty days prior to the expiration of the term of an existing appointment~~, the office of the Village Manager shall initiate the screening of candidates for appointment or reappointment as follows:

~~i.~~For those Village Boards or Commissions which~~that~~ are appointed by the Mayor, but subject to confirmation by the Village Council and for those that are appointed by the Village Council, the Manager shall forward copies of the current profile sheets on file for those individuals interested in being appointed or reappointed to the particular Village Board or Commission for which an appointment is to be made to the Mayor and/or the designated Council liaison as the case may be~~for those individuals interested in the particular Village Board or Commission for which an appointed is to be made.~~ This shall include the profile sheet and attendance record of the incumbent if that individual has previously advised the Village Manager of ~~their~~his or her desire to be reappointed~~continue participation~~.

~~ii.~~The Mayor or his/her designee shall screen, or cause to be screened, the~~se~~ profile sheets as provided in section 4(c) below and shall treat the information contained in the profile sheets as confidential. The Mayor may delegate part or all of this activity as the Mayor determines appropriate.

~~ii. For those Village Board or Commission which are appointed by the Village Council, the Manager shall, as provided in section 4(c) below, screen the current profile sheets on file of those individuals interested in the particular Village Board or Commission for which an appointment is to be made. This shall include the profile sheet of the incumbent if that individual has advised the Village Manager of their desire to continue participation. The Manager may delegate part or all of this activity as the Manager determines appropriate.~~

~~b. By October 1st annually, the Village Manager shall circulate to the Village Commissioners copies of the profile sheets or an abstract of information concerning interest expressed by persons wishing to be appointed to a Board or Commission. The Village Commissioners shall treat the information contained on the profile sheets or abstract as confidential. No later than November 1st annually, the Village Commissioners may forward to the Village Manager information they feel relevant to the profile sheets or abstract. The Village Manager shall then forward this information to the Mayor and any person so designated by the Mayor to assist in the recommendation of persons to serve on Village Boards and Commissions.~~

eb. The profile sheets shall be reviewed, a "short list" of likely appointees developed and, if appropriate, a recommendation for appointment specified. In the process of this review, current and former members of the Board or Commission involved, staff personnel, and community leaders may be consulted to obtain their advice and insight regarding the functioning of the body, its needs and potential, and the type of candidate which would best assist the body in performing its duties. The individual candidates may also be contacted and/or interviewed regarding service upon the relevant Board or Commission. No later than July 15th or within forty-five (45) days from the circulation of profile sheets, the Mayor or his/her designee shall prepare a written report which will include copies of the "short list" profile sheets and set forth any comments, suggestions or recommendations for appointment or reappointment, as the case may be as appropriate. The Village Manager shall cause a copy of this report to be circulated to all members of Village Council. . If the Mayor has delegated any of his or her duties to a designee and if the designee has not prepared said report by August 31st or within forty-five (45) days from circulation of the profile sheets, and a vacancy nonetheless still exists on a Board or Commission subject to this policy, the Mayor shall have the option to submit a recommendation for appointment.

ed. Upon receipt of the report described in sub-paragraph eb above, the Council members shall review the information contained therein and, within two weeks, provide any comments, questions or concerns regarding the report directly to the Village Manager. If no Council member has any questions, objections, expresses comments, questions or concerns regarding the report, or if the Village Manager is able to resolve the issues raised, the Village Manager shall advise the Mayor and Village Council that the name of the recommended individuals may be formally presented to the Village Council for approval at a regular Council meeting. The Mayor or Manager, as appropriate, shall thereafter present a report to the Village Council at the following regular Council meeting setting forth the recommendations for appointment or reappointment.

ed. If a Council member expresses comments, questions, objections or concerns regarding the report, and the Village Manager is unable to resolve the issues raised the proposed appointment or reappointment may be discussed at a public meeting. If the report includes more than one recommendation, any nomination for which no issues are raised will be formally presented to the Council as provided by law.

fe. The public meeting may be continued from time to time, in the manner provided by law, to obtain additional information. In the event that, following the public meeting, it appears that a proposed appointment does not have the unanimous support of the Village Council, the Manager shall contact the proposed appointee and determine whether such person desires that their name be formally submitted or withdrawn. The Manager shall prepare a report to the Mayor and Village Council.

gf. Following the public meeting, the original or an amended recommendation for appointment or reappointment may be presented for consideration at a subsequent regular Council meeting. In the alternative, the Mayor or Manager, as appropriate, may resume the process of reviewing profile sheets and transmit such

amended reports as appropriate. The amended reports shall be processed as provided for original reports set forth above.

g. The timing and sequence of appointments and reappointments dictated by this policy are intended to: (i) ensure the prompt and orderly filling of Board and Commission vacancies so as not to impede the functioning of those bodies; and (ii) avoid the appointment of members to Boards and Commissions between December 1st and May 15th during years of a municipal election. However, the Village Council may within its sole discretion choose to appoint a member to a particular Board or Commission during that time frame if extenuating circumstances exist (i.e. multiple vacancies; quorum issues, newly created board or commission, etc.)

5. - Appointment or Reappointment:

a. Persons shall be appointed to the Village Boards and Commissions in the manner provide by law. Where appointments are made by the Mayor alone, these shall be reported to the Council. Where appointments are made by the Mayor, but are subject to confirmation by the Council, the Mayor shall submit the nominations to be formally approved or rejected by the Council. Where appointments are to be made by the Village Council, any member, except the Mayor, may move for the appointment of a candidate, which shall be considered and acted upon by the full Council.

b. In the event the Council fails to approve any appointment to fill a vacancy on a Village Board or Commission, the matter shall be referred back to the Mayor of Manager, as appropriate, who shall resume a search for candidates using the procedures outlined above.

6. - Miscellaneous Provisions:

a. This policy is intended to be a non-binding general guideline for considering appointments to Village Boards and Commissions. The validity of any action otherwise taken by the Council in accordance with applicable law shall not be invalidated, impaired or otherwise affected by noncompliance with any part of procedures or policies set forth herein. The Village Council may, at its sole discretion and at any time, waive, modify or ignore any provision of this policy whenever the Council believes such action is in the best interest of the Village. Any action taken by the Council in derogation of this policy, whether expressly identified or not, shall constitute the Council's decision to waive, modify or ignore the provisions of this policy.

b. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of this resolution, and in particular, Resolution 94-28, ~~and~~ Resolution 98-6 and Resolution 2004-57, are hereby repealed.

c. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage in the manner provided by law.

Brian J. KrajewskiRonald L. Sandack, Mayor

Passed:

Attest:

April K. Holden, Village Clerk