

**MINUTES OF LONG RANGE PLANNING
VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

July 23, 2013

Mayor Martin Tully called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. in the Conference Room at Fire Station 2, 5420 Main Street, and welcomed everyone to the second long range planning meeting.

Council Members Present: Mayor Martin Tully; Commissioners Sean P. Durkin, Geoff Neustadt, Bob Barnett, Becky Rheintgen, David S. Olsen, Greg José

Staff Present: Dave Fieldman, Village Manager; Mike Baker, Deputy Village Manager; Enza Petrarca, Village Attorney; Judy Buttny, Finance Director; Nan Newlon, Public Works Director; Andy Sikich, Assistant Director, Public Works; Allison Deitch, Management Analyst; Doug Kozlowski, Communications Director; Nick Santoro, Management Fellow; Mary Pratt, Emergency Management Coordinator; Bob Porter, Police Chief; Jim Jackson, Fire Chief; Liangfu Wu, Information Technology Director; Dennis Burke, Human Resources Director; Chanay Mackay, Risk Manager; Tom Dabareiner, Community Development Director; Dan Kmiecik; Engineer; David Rauch, Intern; April Holden, Village Clerk

The Mayor said the long range plan will direct actions over the next 18 to 24 months and will be financially driven. At the last meeting, Council discussed three issues. Tonight they will discuss the potential action items and will categorize them into high, medium and low priorities for 2013-2015. He said the format for tonight's meeting is to allow each Council member ten minutes to speak to items of concern to them. The Mayor said the meeting setup and format has been used before and works well in terms of lending itself to conversation. He asked Commissioner Durkin to start the conversation.

Commissioner Durkin said he had two items:

1. Develop an employee compensation strategy
2. Consider licensing for mobile ice cream vendors. He noted that he thought this item could be completed very quickly.

Commission Neustadt noted that many items will continue to be ongoing. He highlighted the following ongoing items:

1. Facilities sustainability plan and implementation
2. Continue to improve resident engagement and communication
3. Explore and implement partnerships with other local governments
4. Negotiate collective bargaining agreements

He then highlighted five new items:

1. Construct gateway signs. He suggested this could be tied into a community art project. (Medium priority)
2. Consider amendments to the fowl regulations. He would like to see how the Village could accommodate fowl. (High priority)
3. Construct a green energy project. He said it would be great to have alternate energy sources and he would like to further explore wind turbines stretching down the train tracks. (High priority)
4. Explore options for methadone clinic relocation. He would like to work with them regarding options for moving the clinic. (Medium priority)
5. Develop an employee compensation strategy. He spoke of retaining and attracting a strong workforce. (High priority)

Commissioner Barnett highlighted the following new items:

1. Construct gateway signs combined with update right-of-way standards, develop a standard for right-of-way improvements and consider amendments to stormwater management regulations. He said the Village should do a better job of developing a plan. Individual parcels as well as developments should not add to the stormwater issues and hurt our investment dollars. The Village needs to look to make the best use of investments by maximizing effectiveness.
2. Develop an employee compensation strategy. A cohesive plan is needed. (High priority)

Commissioner Rheintgen highlighted the following ongoing items:

1. Negotiate collective bargaining agreements
2. Enforce the sign ordinance amortization compliance deadline

New high priority items include:

1. Facilities sustainability plan and implementation
2. Continue to improve resident engagement and communication
3. Explore and implement partnerships with other local governments
4. Consider amendments to the fowl regulations
5. Explore options for methadone clinic relocation

Commissioner Rheintgen then read a letter from Stacey Salman concerning the methadone clinic as it relates to its location, number and behavior of clients, and disruptions caused in the

neighborhood.

Commissioner Olsen said many of the ongoing items have a long history and he hopes we continue to make progress on these items. He said the sign ordinance compliance is a high priority as we approach the compliance deadline.

New items include:

1. Develop an employee compensation strategy. He spoke of the need to be competitive.
2. Update the new sidewalk construction and develop a standard for right-of-way improvements. He asked if some of the remaining sidewalk segments are worth the investment.
3. Consider amendments to stormwater management regulations. He agreed it is important to recognize the impact of redevelopment.
4. Lead improvements at DMMC. He suggested this relates to exploring and implementing partnerships with other local governments

Commissioner José addressed existing priorities:

1. Continue to improve resident engagement and communication. He said we have to continue this and find new ways to engage our citizens.
2. Facilities sustainability plan and implementation, and exploring and implementing partnerships with other local governments. He said these go together in terms of bringing together agencies to share fixed costs.
3. Lead improvements at DMMC. He noted that Mayor Tully and Mr. Fieldman will assume leadership roles in DMMC.

New items include:

1. Develop an employee compensation strategy. He spoke of the need to have proper incentives in place and to be innovative when it makes sense.
2. Update the new sidewalk construction plan. This is an opportunity to make Downers Grove friendlier for bikes.
3. Consider amendments to stormwater management regulations

The Mayor clarified that Council is prioritizing ideas they previously identified during individual meetings with staff. He clarified that this is not a budget meeting and not a discussion of “how” something will be done.

Mayor Tully said he would not remove any of the ongoing projects from the list. He would like to come to a resolution regarding facilities and it would be ideal to partner with those agencies that have shared constituents. Improved communication is always ongoing. Collective bargaining is required. With respect to the sign ordinance, the Mayor said he feels the Council anticipated revisions and has always been open to them.

With respect to new items:

1. Update the new sidewalk construction plan. The Mayor said we already do this.
2. Complete the construction of sidewalks on Ogden Avenue. The Mayor said he would leave this on the list in the event grant opportunities present themselves.
3. Consider amendments to stormwater management regulations. The Mayor suggested waiting until the staff has more experience with the new County regulations.
4. Construct gateway signs. The Mayor said this is important branding to maintain our place economically.
5. Consider amendments to the fowl regulations. The Mayor said this is a medium/low priority for him. He feels we are at the end of this process.
6. Construct a green energy project. He said he feels this is an on-going project, not a new project.
7. Explore options for methadone clinic relocation. (Medium priority)
8. Develop an employee compensation strategy. (High priority)
9. Lead improvements at DMMC. The Mayor said he would reword this to leveraging the benefit of our membership.

The Mayor suggested revisiting, assessing and reviewing the stormwater utility. He added recognizing rapid and sudden changes for dealing with issues that come out of Springfield. We need to continue to work at maintaining the Village's good financial shape.

During a short break, staff evaluated the Council comments and tentatively categorized the new action items into high, medium and low priority. Council members discussed the items in these categories and after discussion, agreed to the following:

High Priority

Facilities
Resident Engagement
Partnerships
Collective Bargaining Agreements
Sign Ordinance Enforcement
Employee Compensation

Medium Priority

Methadone Clinic
Fowl Regulations
Sidewalk Plan
R-O-W Standards
Stormwater Regulations
Gateway Signs
DMMC
Downtown Parking
Ogden Avenue Sidewalks

Low Priority

Emergency Response Corps
Leaf Pickup
Green Energy
Mobile Ice Cream Vendors

Three items were removed from the lists: Create a public art initiative; review the roles and responsibilities of the Transportation and Parking Commission; and consider amendments to the OASIS program.

Council discussed the priority of stormwater regulations as they relate to the stormwater utility,

the new County regulations, standards by which road projects are constructed, and small parcel waivers. Other discussion included mortgage and bond rates, public engagement, and replacing the OASIS program with redevelopment agreements. The Mayor said Council will need to have a conversation about the community grants program at some time. Ogden Avenue sidewalks were discussed in terms of cost, policy and installation of sidewalks. Council discussed reviewing the sidewalk plan in terms of modifying the goals of the matrix.

Public Comments

Tom LeCren, 545 Chicago, said this has been an interesting discussion. He noted that all of these items take a great deal of staff time and asked as to staffing. Mr. Fieldman said it is important to finalize the priorities before the budget is adopted.

Scott Richards, 1525 Ogden, spoke of car dealers abusing parkway regulations including inappropriate use of the parkway. He urged the Council not to look the other way with respect to these violations. He then spoke about 505 Ogden Avenue where green space is being used as a sales floor. He would like more enforcement. With respect to sidewalks on Ogden Avenue, although he likes the idea, he noted that businesses do not clean their sidewalks and use the area for parking. He asked that new businesses be made aware of signage rules.

Mr. Richards then spoke of public art and said he thought it was a wonderful idea. He referenced a sculpture park in St. Charles. Regarding the fowl ordinance, Mr. Richards reminded residents that they live in an urban area. He spoke of the standards for coops and fences. In response to a question about trees, Mr. Fieldman explained the parkway tree program.

Mr. LeCren commented that the stormwater regulations cannot be separated from the stormwater utility. They are tied together in terms of the fees.

Bill Waldack, 1409 Willard Place, commented that this has been a good meeting. He said he is always concerned about prioritization because it provides an excuse for not doing something. He suggested that the issues discussed this evening would be appropriate items for workshop discussion.

Tim Salman, 4945 Highland, spoke regarding the methadone clinic. He said his biggest concern is the safety of children. He has noticed more activity in the last few years. He said he knows there is a need for this clinic, but questions whether it should be in the downtown area. Regarding chickens, he said thought this was a joke; he would like to see it put to rest. Regarding stormwater, Mr. Salman said this is not just an issue for new homes. All lots should be looked at as storms are getting bigger and fiercer.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their comments. He noted that there were good comments and conversation, and good direction was given.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Tully adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.