

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 28, 2014, 7:30 P.M.
CHILDREN'S ROOM WEST END**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** President Kathleen DiCola called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Present: Trustee Susan Eblen, Trustee Wendee Greene, Trustee David Humphreys, Trustee Daniel Loftus, President Kathleen DiCola. Absent: Trustee Thomas Read.

Also Present: Director Rick Ashton, Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien, Assistant Director for Public Services Bonnie Reid, Children's Services Manager Sara Pemberton, Downers Grove Public Library Foundation Board Member John Mochel, Downers Grove Friends of the Library President Joanne Hansen, Chicago Tribune TribLocal Reporter Dawn Rhodes.
3. **Special Presentation by members of the Children's Services staff.** Staff members Sharon Hrycewicz and Kelly Pocci performed the promotional skit for the 2014 Summer Reading Club, "Once Upon a Tail" to great acclaim. They reported that they have now performed the skit in all Downers Grove K-6 classrooms, and they expect active club participation throughout the summer.
4. **Welcome to Visitors.** President DiCola welcomed the staff and visitors and thanked them for their interest in the work of the Library Board.
5. **Approval of Minutes.**
 - a. April 23, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting. It was moved by Loftus and seconded by Eblen THAT the Minutes of the April 23, 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting be approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, DiCola. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.
6. **Approval of Payment of Invoices and Other Financial Reports.** It was moved by Greene and seconded by Loftus THAT May invoices totaling \$132,783.60 from the Operating Fund, \$681,271.92 from the Construction Fund, credit memos totaling \$303.12 be approved, and that April payrolls totaling \$190,098.99

be recognized. Roll Call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, DiCola. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

7. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Agenda Items.** President DiCola invited comment. There was none.
8. **Opportunity for Public Comment on Other Library Business.** President DiCola invited comment. Joni Hansen, Friends of the Library President, reported that the Friends had recently presented a successful travel program at the Lisle Public Library and were exploring the possibility of a program at the Westmont Public Library, while program facilities are unavailable at the Downers Grove Public Library. She indicated that Friends of the Library groups with whom they have collaborated are all facing similar challenges in attracting members and supporters.
9. **Unfinished Business.**
 - a. Building Renovation Project. Report. Ashton reported that progress continues to be rapid, with the large May payments, exceeding \$680,000, indicating the level of activity. Library staff members and members of the public continue to deal effectively with the disruption involved in the construction. This effort is greatly assisted by the careful and considerate efforts of the contractors and their workers, who have made many adjustments for the challenges of working in an occupied, operating public building.
 - b. Policy on Donor Recognition. Ashton presented the proposed policy, discussed by the Board at a previous meeting. He indicated one substantive change, reducing the minimum amount for Memorial and Tribute Books to \$25.00 as is the present practice. It was moved by Eblen and seconded by Humphreys THAT the proposed Policy be adopted. Roll Call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, DiCola. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.
 - c. Downers Grove Public Library Foundation Minutes, May 19, 2014. The Board received the Minutes as a report.
10. **New Business.**
 - a. Resolution of Appreciated for Martha Krause (attached).
 - b. Resolution of Appreciation for Pamela Strom (attached). The Board acted upon the two resolutions with a single motion. It was moved by Humphreys and seconded by Eblen THAT the Resolutions be approved. Roll Call: Eblen: Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, DiCola. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

- c. State of Illinois Non-Resident Library Card Program participation and fee. It was moved by Greene and seconded by Loftus that the Library continue its participation in the program, with a mathematically computed fee of \$270.00 per household, effective August 1, 2014. Roll Call: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, DiCola. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.
 - d. Policy on Library Meeting Room Use. Ashton and Assistant Director for Public Services Bonnie Reid presented the revised policy proposal. The Board discussed the proposed changes at length, with particular emphasis on the status of the Meeting Room as a limited public forum. The Board also expressed interest in the operational issues associated with potential private uses of the room. Ashton and Reid agreed to undertake further research and consider possible further modifications, based on Board comments.
11. **Report of the Director.** Ashton summarized his written report (attached).
 - a. Board President DiCola on Fox News
 - b. April Circulation statistics
 - c. Rotary GroveFest plans. Ashton indicated that he had given the Rotary Club a preliminary commitment to allow the Library building to serve as one of several emergency weather shelters during the time of the festival, June 20-22. Board members expressed serious reservations about this, particularly during construction work, and directed Ashton to discuss the matter with the Library's insurance advisers and Rotary planners.
 - d. Response to Village of Downers Grove newspaper article.
 - e. Other recent media coverage.
12. **Board Member Comments and Requests for Information.** None.
13. **Adjournment.** President DiCola adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR MARTHA KRAUSE

Whereas, Martha Krause joined the staff of the Downers Grove Public Library as a Reference Librarian in June 1981, and

Whereas, Martha Krause has pursued steady growth in skill and knowledge of library collections and services, and

Whereas, Martha Krause has provided exemplary customer service to thousands of Downers Grove residents, helping them find the books and the information they need, and

Whereas, Martha Krause has selected thousands of books in many different subject areas for the Downers Grove Public Library collection, and

Whereas, Martha Krause has served capably from time to time as Shelving Supervisor and as Acting Head of Reference, and

Whereas, Martha Krause has actively engaged with the many technology-driven changes in the library field, and

Whereas, Martha Krause provided leadership in the adoption and use of electronic books and other resources, and

Whereas, Martha Krause will retire from the Downers Grove Public Library in June 2014 after thirty-three years of service,

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library gratefully acknowledges Ms. Krause’s service, congratulates her on the occasion of her retirement, and enthusiastically wishes her all the best.

Adopted Unanimously, May 28, 2014

Kathleen DiCola, President

Wendee Greene, Trustee

Thomas Read, Secretary

David Humphreys, Trustee

Susan Eblen, Trustee

Daniel Loftus, Trustee

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR PAMELA STROM

Whereas, Pamela Strom joined the staff of the Downers Grove Public Library as a Circulation Clerk in September 1993, and

Whereas, Pamela Strom provided welcoming service to thousands of Downers Grove Public Library patrons, and

Whereas, Pamela Strom reinforced the library’s friendly reputation by greeting many customers by name, and

Whereas, Pamela Strom undertook many complex, detailed tasks successfully, and

Whereas, Pamela Strom has adapted successfully to the many changes in library procedures and technology, and

Whereas, Pamela Strom for several years fulfilled a demanding library schedule while also serving as a substitute teacher, and

Whereas, Pamela Strom will retire from the Downers Grove Public Library in May 2014 after twenty years of service,

Therefore Be It Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the Downers Grove Public Library gratefully acknowledges Ms. Strom’s service, congratulates her on the occasion of her retirement, and enthusiastically wishes her all the best.

Adopted Unanimously, May 28, 2014

Kathleen DiCola, President

Wendee Greene, Trustee

Thomas Read, Secretary

David Humphreys, Trustee

Susan Eblen, Trustee

Daniel Loftus, Trustee

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MAY 28, 2014**

**AGENDA ITEM 11
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

- a. Board President DiCola on Fox News. President DiCola represented the Library very effectively in a live interview on Fox Chicago, May 22, 2014. See the interview at www.myfoxchicago.com/story/25587522/report-downers-grove-one-of-the-best-places-to-raise-a-family.
- b. April circulation statistics. Attached.
- c. Rotary Grove Fest plans. The Library will be in a new role as an officially designated shelter in the event of severe weather during Grove Fest, June 20-22. At least one staff person will be on site to unlock the building and provide supervision if there is any need for shelter. The Library will be listed as a \$500 sponsor of Grove Fest, without a cash outlay.
- d. Response to Village of Downers Grove newspaper article. The May 15-21 TribLocal carried a story entitled “Downers Grove outspends budget.” A reader of this story might form the mistaken impression that Library funds would be employed to fill a Village shortfall. In cooperation with Village staff, the Library published a clarification on the home page of its web site, www.dglibrary.org, with the caption, “Our Financial Friends at Village Hall.” This posting has now been replaced by more current items.
- e. Other recent media coverage attached.

Circulation Statistics -- April

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|---|-------------------|-----|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | | APR 14 | % | APR 13 | APR 12 |
| 2 | Circulation | | | | |
| 3 | Checkouts | | | | |
| 4 | Selfchecks | 39,192 | 65% | | |
| 5 | Staff desk | 20,912 | 35% | | |
| 6 | Total checkouts | 60,104 | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | Renewals | | | | |
| 9 | Selfchecks | 383 | | | |
| 10 | Staff desk (incl. phone) | 3,808 | | | |
| 11 | Patron online renewals | 6,941 | | | |
| 12 | Total renewals | 11,132 | | | |
| 13 | | | | | |
| 14 | Total item checkout and renewals | 71,236 | | 73,260 | 72,658 |
| 15 | Ebooks - Overdrive | 3,174 | | 2,785 | 2,330 |
| 16 | Ebooks - 3M Cloud Library | 839 | | 78 | |
| 17 | Emagazines - Zinio | 935 | | 988 | |
| 18 | Total Circulation | 76,184 | | 77,111 | 74,988 |
| 19 | | | | | |
| 20 | Reserves Processed | | | | |
| 21 | Received from ILL | 6,053 | | | |
| 22 | ILL sent | 5,954 | | | |
| 23 | OCLC requests processed | 875 | | | |
| 24 | | | | | |
| 25 | Gate Count | | | | |
| 26 | North | 31,850 | | | |
| 27 | South | 15,345 | | | |
| 28 | Total | 47,195 | | | |
| 29 | | | | | |
| 30 | Registrations | | | | |
| 31 | New resident library cards | 142 | | | |
| 32 | New fee cards | 4 | | | |
| 33 | | | | | |
| 34 | Current borrowers | 29,137 | | | |
| 35 | Active fee cards | 143 | | | |
| 36 | | | | | |
| 37 | | | | | |
| 38 | | | | | |
| 39 | REVENUE: | | | | |
| 40 | Cash | | | | |
| 41 | Fines | \$3,546.16 | | | |
| 42 | Fees | \$629.35 | | | |
| 43 | Book Sales | \$47.50 | | | |
| 44 | Non-resident fee cards | \$807.00 | | | |
| 45 | Total | \$5,030.01 | | | |
| 46 | | | | | |

Circulation Statistics -- April

| | A | B | C | D | E |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|
| 47 | | | | | |
| 48 | Ecommerce | | | | |
| 49 | Fines | \$651.70 | | | |
| 50 | Fees | \$64.00 | | | |
| 51 | Total | \$715.70 | | | |
| 52 | | | | | |
| 53 | Credit cards at desk | | | | |
| 54 | Fines | \$1,184.30 | | | |
| 55 | Fees | \$557.00 | | | |
| 56 | Non-resident fee cards | \$538.00 | | | |
| 57 | Total | \$2,279.30 | | | |
| 58 | | | | | |
| 59 | Credit cards at selfchecks | | | | |
| 60 | Fines | \$933.39 | | | |
| 61 | Fees | \$72.00 | | | |
| 62 | Total | \$1,005.39 | | | |
| 63 | | | | | |
| 64 | Total revenue | \$9,030.40 | | | |

Library offers summer reading programs for all

Those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are not far away. And the learning, adventure and fun that come with reading always are close at hand at the Downers Grove Public Library.

When we put all the pieces together, out will come some exciting summer reading programs for kids of all ages, teens and adults. Summer readers will experience the delights of discovering new book favorites. They'll also earn rewards like special paperback books, ice cream, popcorn, movie tickets and more.

Here are a few of the particulars:

- The Read-to-Me Club is for young children not yet reading independently. They can listen and look at books read aloud by adults, and they can, of course, sign up for their own library cards.

- The Red Readers' Club welcomes readers from School District 58 and Downers Grove parochial school students in kindergarten through third grade, while the Orange Readers' Club is for students in grades four through eight.

- Teens in grades nine through 12 will have their own club, whose activities include reading, social media and online participation in the library's Minecraft game.

We don't want to neglect the adult readers who like a challenge. Club participants will be able to earn chances at a drawing for restaurant gift cards along with other goodies.

Each club will have its own set of goals, milestones and rewards, organized around the theme of "Once Upon a Tail" [Tale], identified by three tailed mascots: a cam-



COMMUNITY VOICE

Rick Ashton

Know more

For information on library programs and signups, see www.dglibrary.org/src.

ouflaging iguana, a wide-eyed lemur and a brightly-colored peacock.

Best of all, summer reading will be organized and supported by the Downers Grove Public Library's ace librarians. Staff members will visit the schools to provide information and encourage kids to sign up, beginning May 19.

While we'll be focusing on Downers Grove Public Library cardholders, our neighboring community libraries will be offering similar programs. Throughout the summer, those Downers Grove librarians will suggest great books, spearhead programs and activities and hand out the prizes. Maybe they'll even get a chance to read a few books themselves.

As the library's building is under renovation in the next few months, summer reading may include some special challenges. It will be especially useful for our patrons to talk with staff members. We'll help you navigate the construction site, find the books, music, video and technology you want, and make sure the summer of 2014 is a memorable one for all.

Rick Ashton is the director of the Downers Grove Public Library.

Downers Grove library officials review work details

By **DAWN RHODES**
Tribune reporter

Downers Grove Library board members are making some final renovation decisions as the \$2.6 million project churns along.

Library administrators recently asked the board to choose which last few features they want to add to the building's overhaul using part of the \$200,000 previously donated from the library foundation.

About \$150,000 of that amount already has been devoted to new furnishings and construction upgrades, including more extensive tiling in the bathrooms and nicer countertops throughout the building.

Library Director Rick Ashton said the improvements up for consideration are more maintenance-related. The suggested items include more window blinds, pavers for the north entry, new concrete near one of the entrances, lighting in the magazine area, ceiling tile replacement,

surveillance cameras and new windows. All of the upgrades total about \$87,000, Ashton said.

"At the time this list was constructed it wasn't about foundation money, specifically, but rather work that was needed," Ashton told the board at the April 23 meeting. "If you've ever come in the back door,

"I think it's just too early to recognize any additions to the budget."

— *Thomas Read, board member*

you'll see that the pavement is in bad condition."

Board members could not seem to agree on which specific upgrades to pursue, but Ashton and architect Daniel Pohrte said that at least the magazine lighting and the ceiling tiles needed

to be included in the ongoing work sooner rather than later.

"With the lighting, we'd want to open the ceiling. That's something that would be tough on the patrons or tough on the collection," Pohrte said.

Board Member Thomas Read eventually voted in favor of freeing up the \$50,000 but said he was concerned about discussing spending all of the extra money this early into the work.

"I think it's just too early to recognize any additions to the budget," Read said. "If we don't find some unpleasant surprises later on, it will be miraculous."

The board unanimously approved the spending and directed Ashton to go forward with the improvements that were most urgent. "Order the stuff you've got to order now, and we'll see how it goes," Board President Kathy Di-Cola said.

Meanwhile, the board also got its first look at some



DAWN RHODES/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Architects Tiffany Nash, left, and Daniel Pohrte, middle, show Downers Grove Library board members carpet and paint samples and furnishings for the interior renovation.

of the materials and furnishings that will be used throughout the interior renovation.

Architects selected a mélange of blues, greens, reds and grays that will color the walls of the adult sections. The revamped children's section will see more color, including a gray carpet with rainbow colors scattered throughout, creating a gra-

diënt effect on the floor.

Carpeting on the second floor also will include some splashes of patterns, accented with dark green. Most countertops throughout the building will be shades of gray or white. The much-maligned bathrooms are slated to have more tiling and stainless steel partitions for the stalls.

Large tarps hanging

throughout the building show the expanse of the work done thus far. Demolition is mostly complete in the circulation area, in the junior room and on the second floor. The first phase of work is scheduled to be complete in early June.

cdrhodes@tribune.com
Twitter @rhodes_dawn

\$9,500 sculpture stolen from library

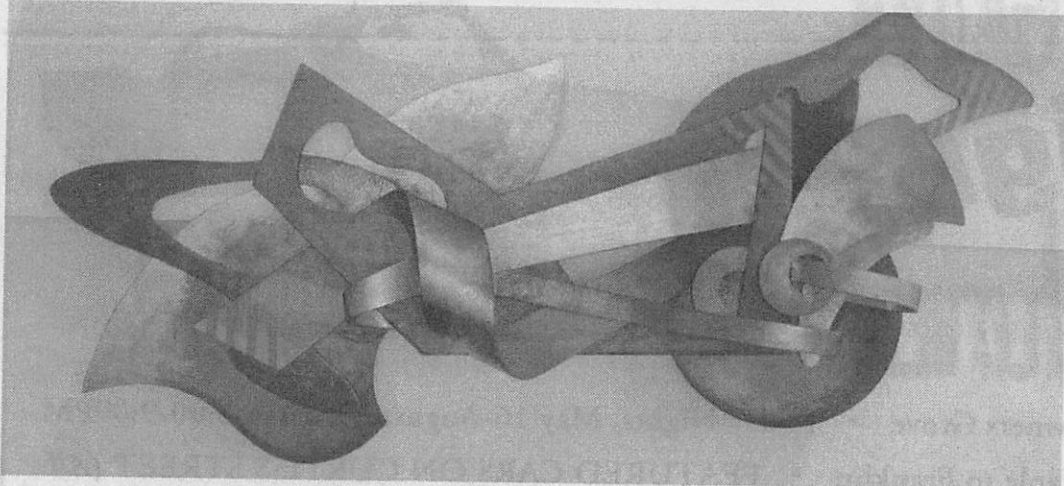


Photo provided

The Downers Grove Public Library is looking for a large abstract sculpture stolen during the ongoing interior renovation. The Jonas Gerard sculpture, named "Earth Dance," was bought by the Library Foundation for \$9,500 in 2002 and donated to the library.

By ED MCMENAMIN

emcmenamin@shawmedia.com

DOWNERS GROVE – The Downers Grove Public Library is looking for a large abstract sculpture stolen during the ongoing interior renovation.

Regular patrons might remember the Jonas Gerard sculpture named "Earth Dance," which greeted visitors at eye level when they walked in the north entrance. The piece was bought by the Library Foundation for \$9,500 in 2002 and donated to the library.

The 4-foot-by-7-foot, colorful wooden sculpture was placed in storage along with other pieces from the library's per-

manent art collection when the interior renovation began in early April.

Library staff noticed it was missing April 29.

"With all kinds of things being moved around, somebody may of seen something and not thought anything of it," library spokesperson Melissa Doornbos said.

She added despite its size, it's relatively light.

She encouraged the community to call police if they see the unique sculpture.

"Obviously, it was a shock," she said. "We notified the police as soon as possible."

She said after the theft was discovered, all the art was consolidated and moved into the same storage room.

"We had the locks changed on that area," she said. "That's where they will stay until the end of construction."

Currently, There are no security cameras in the library, she said. But as part of the renovation, the Library Foundation donated funds to add several items to the project, including cameras at the building's entrances.

The library is open during the \$2.4 million renovation, and departments and functions are shifting continuously as areas are updated. This means meeting and study rooms are not available for their normal uses, and there are fewer computers available for the public.

Residents can follow the progress by signing up for the library's renovation email newsletter at its website www.downersgrovelibrary.org. Regular updates will also be posted to its Facebook page.

Library officials said the renovation will modernize the library and attract younger patrons.

It will create several new small-group meeting and study spaces, a new teen center and a revamped café. The new interior also will have a new space for science, technology, engineering and math. A refreshed story-hour room will also improve the children's services area. Plans also call for renovated restrooms, new carpet, paint, lighting and furnishings in other areas, among other improvements.

Downers Grove outspends budget

By **DAWN RHODES**
Tribune reporter

Downers Grove spent millions more for stormwater, bonds and other expenses in 2013 than originally planned in the village's budget.

Final tallies for 2013 revealed the village spent more than \$13 million more than projected. The village also collected nearly \$2 million more in revenue from sales and state income taxes, license and permit fees and grants, according to Finance Director Judy Buttny.

In all, the village spent about \$137.9 million compared with the \$124.6 million planned in the budget.

Council members formally approved the adjustments May 6. Buttny said the unforeseen expenses would be covered by portions of the spending plan or other sources.

About \$11.2 million of the money needed will be generated by new borrowing, to be repaid by funds collected for a special taxing district and the library. The special taxing district will generate \$8.75 million of the money needed. The library's tax collections will kick in another \$2.4 million.

"We still have bonds but we're paying them back at a different interest rate," Buttny said.

About \$1.35 million was drained out of the stormwater fund to buy several homes that were severely damaged by flooding in April 2013. Buttny said funds left over in the stormwater coffer will cover the added expense.

"This was a timing issue," Buttny told the council in April. "The opportunity to purchase these properties came up mid-year and was unbudgeted.

But it was more cost-effective to purchase the properties and demolish the structures than to construct additional flood-prevention measures and protect the properties."

Another \$12,000 was spent from the transportation pot to pay for operating the Grove Commuter Shuttle. Buttny said costs spiked because of driver turnover and overtime payments but the expenses are expected to be covered by Pace.

About \$800,000 more came out of the risk fund, which covers worker's compensation and liability insurance. The village self-insures for this fund and directly pays claims, Buttny said, and the overage will be covered by money shifted from the village's general fund.

cdrhodes@tribune.com
Twitter @rhodes_dawn

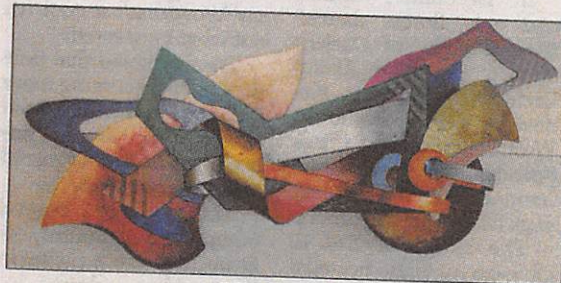
Downers Grove Library wall sculpture stolen during project

By **DAWN RHODES**
Tribune reporter

A multi-colored wall sculpture was stolen from the Downers Grove Public Library during the building's massive interior renovation project.

The 4-foot-by-7-foot wood abstract was reported stolen April 29, according to a police report. Officials said the piece, which normally hangs at the northern entrance of the library, was removed and put into storage for the construction.

The 50-pound sculpture was being kept in a store room, which was sometimes kept unlocked, according to the report. Offi-



DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTO

"Earth Dance" recently was stolen from the Downers Grove Public Library during renovations.

Officials said the piece is worth \$9,500.

"Since the theft, we've moved all pieces into one location, had the locks changed and have been monitoring the area," library spokeswoman Melissa Doornbos said.

The piece is called "Earth Dance" and was done by Jonas Gerard, according to library staff artist Melody Danley. The library acquired it in 2002.

cdrhodes@tribune.com
Twitter @rhodes_dawn

Why buy when you can borrow instead?

Many libraries let you read e-books, download music, access databases — all from your home



GREGORY KARP
Spending Smart

How would you like to download the latest hit single by Justin Timberlake to play on your iPhone for free, or a read a best-seller by David Baldacci on your Kindle for free, or browse the latest digital issue of *The Economist* or *Marie Claire* on your tablet computer for free, or access the LexisNexis database for free?

Oh yeah, and do all that without ever leaving your family-room sofa at 10 p.m. on a Sunday in your pajamas?

Those are just some of the new-fangled things you can probably do remotely through your local public library — and yet another reason that a library card is your ticket to savings.

For the frugal consumer, no price is more glorious than free — or in the case of public libraries, already paid for through taxes. But only 61 percent of Americans ages 16 and older even have a library card, though 91 percent know where their local public library is, according to the Pew Research Center.

Library offerings have moved way beyond lending paper books. If you haven't been to your local public library in years — or at least visited its website — you're likely to be blown away by its offerings.

Libraries are starting to buy 3-D printers, operate Internet cafes and install recording studios and vid-

eo-game rooms. Some lend everything from laptop and tablet computers to cameras and microphones to guitars and ukuleles to rakes and garden seeds. Some are experimenting with Redbox-like book-dispensing kiosks.

"Everybody remembers the library from when you were a kid and checked out a book, but when you go in today, it's just amazing. It's completely different," said David Lee King, an international speaker about library trends and digital services director at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library in Kansas.

His library, for example, lends out cake pans — there are only so many times you need a Barbie-shaped cake pan for your 8-year-old's birthday party, he said.

"Why not check it out at the library, rather than buy one?" he said.

And that's the savings mantra library patrons know well: "Why buy when you can borrow for free?"

Fortunately, some of the best and most useful library offerings are available remotely. Many libraries consider their websites a digital "branch."

"Almost anything you can imagine finding in a library now has a digital version — and if doesn't today, it probably will tomorrow," said Larra Clark, director of the American Library Association's America's Libraries for the 21st Century, a technology-trend monitor. "It's very exciting for librarians — I mean, to have your collection available to people 24 hours a day, seven days a week?"

Here's just a sampling of the content you might be able to access without

setting foot inside the door of your local public library — for free.

E-books. Using your home Internet connection, you can download electronic library books to your personal reading device, whether that's a Kindle-type e-reader or a reading app on your tablet or laptop computer. Exactly how you download books — and which titles are available and for which devices — depends on what e-book service your library uses, with such names as OverDrive, 3M Cloud Library and OneClickDigital. A login is usually based on your library card number.

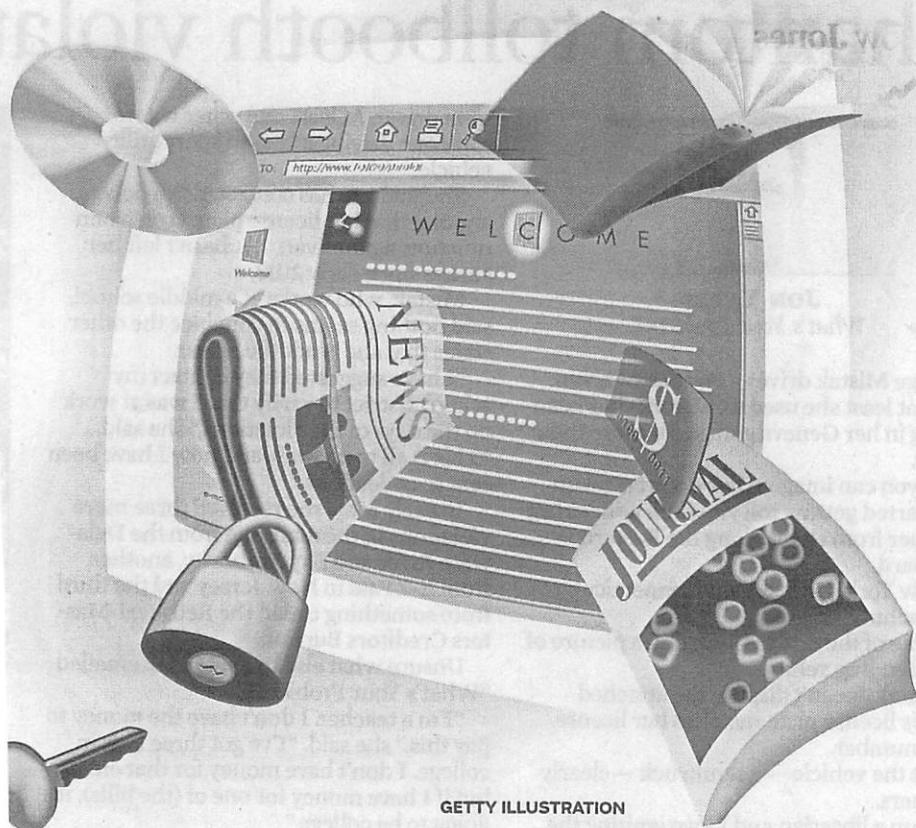
"It's really pretty easy to do now," said King, who also blogs about library technology trends at DavidLeeKing.com. "Usually, there's a three-week period or so you can have them checked out for, and they magically disappear off your device."

That means no overdue-book fines. And savvy borrowers know that if you're willing to leave your reading device disconnected from the Internet, you can keep books longer.

Of course, like in a physical library, the most popular books might already be "checked out," and you'll have to join a virtual waiting list.

Audiobooks. Buying audio versions of books tends to be quite expensive, but many are free through your library via some of the same vendors that offer e-books.

How you transfer books to your listening device will vary. But in the case of a smartphone or tablet, it might be as simple as



GETTY ILLUSTRATION

downloading a free app and signing in with your library card number.

Digital magazines. You might be able to download copies of digital magazines, usually through an online newsstand service called Zinio.

Magazine pages look just like the ones on the newsstand, glossy cover and all. Perhaps ideal for a tablet computer, you can flip through the digital pages with a finger and delete it when you're done.

Unlike books, you might not have to wait for a magazine to be available, and they might not "expire" off your device like books.

Again, your library's website is likely to have a guide on how to download magazines if it offers the service.

Digital music. As you can borrow music CDs from your physical library, some offer access to music remotely. Freegal Music, for example, has an app that requires only your library card number to download — and keep — some of its 7 million digital songs by

Sony Music — limited to maybe three songs a week, depending on its arrangement with your library. It also offers music videos.

Movies. Streaming video, similar to Netflix, is becoming available too. A service called Hoopla Digital, for example, offers video, music and audiobooks to patrons of select libraries.

Databases. Access to article archives from newspapers and magazines can be pricey, but you might be able to access them from home for free via your library's account, along with auto repair manuals, test preparation guides, legal forms, stock research and encyclopedias.

Access to Consumer Reports online and all its product ratings is a popular offering. Want to learn a new language, or heading overseas on vacation? Your library might offer remote access to language-learning programs you can take with you on your smartphone, Clark said.

"The range of resources you would have gone to the library for in the past — the

highest-quality resources — a lot of that is available online 24/7 through your library website," Clark said.

Librarians. Perhaps the most valuable resource in any library is a librarian, who can help you find what you need. Nowadays, you might get that help electronically, via email, chat, text message and, increasingly, social media, such as Twitter and Facebook.

Some libraries offer remote and interactive homework help, perhaps for students whose complex assignments have surpassed their parents' ability to help, Clark said.

A drawback to accessing library content remotely is investing the time to learn how to use third-party websites and apps, some of which can be cumbersome.

But you're likely to decide that's a small price to pay for all the freebies.

To figure out how much your local library means to your wallet, use the online calculator at the American Library Association website: tinyurl.com/alacalc.

gkarp@tribune.com



Thumbs down to the theft of a \$9,500 sculpture from the Downers Grove Public Library. The “Earth Dance” sculpture was bought in 2002 by the Downers Grove Library Foundation and was donated to the library, but it was stolen April 29. Library staff has worked hard to remain open and offer a host of classes during its renovation, and it’s a shame that somebody took advantage of the innate chaos of the construction and the lack of security cameras.

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
MAY 28, 2014 MINUTES**

Call to Order

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Domijan, Ms. Earl, Ms. Majauskas, Mr. McCann, Ms. Souter, Mr. Zaba,
Ch. White

Absent: None

A quorum was established.

Chairman White welcomed Mr. Wesley Zaba as the new member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, bringing the Board to its full count of seven members.

Staff: Stanley Popovich, Acting Community Development Director
Kelley Chrise, Planner
Patrick Ainsworth, Planner
Stan Balicki, Assistant Director of Public Works

Also Present: George Huber, Industrial Kinetics
Graham Grady, Taft, Stettinius & Hollister, 111 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago

Minutes of April 23, 2014 meeting

Ms. Earl moved, seconded by Mr. Domijan, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2014 meeting.

AYE: Ms. Earl, Ms. Souter, Mr. McCann, Ch. White

NAY: None

Abstain: Mr. Domijan, Ms. Majauskas, Mr. Zaba

The Motion passed 4:0:3.

Chairman White explained that it was his understanding that Board members need not abstain on the vote for the minutes.

Chairman White announced that there would be a Staff presentation before the discussion of items on the Agenda and asked Mr. Popovich to make that presentation.

Sign Ordinance Review

Stanley Popovich, Acting Director of Community Development, provided a brief overview of the amended Sign Ordinance. He reviewed the square footage allowed for signs in various commercial areas in the Village, including the Ogden Avenue commercial district, the downtown business district, and the shopping centers in the Village. He explained that single tenant properties are allowed a specific number of square feet of monument signage, in addition to wall

1 signage, or they may combine that into one sign. He further explained how square footage is
2 determined and that it includes white space on the signs. Mr. Popovich, using an overhead
3 projection, showed where wall signs could be located on stores in commercial districts.
4

5 In response to Mr. Domijan's question on placement of signs, Mr. Popovich explained that
6 directional signs are also allowed but are not included in the total square footage. He displayed
7 photos of some nonconforming signs, e.g. wall signs on walls without frontage and roof signage.
8 He then showed an example of conforming signage.
9

10 With regard to monument signs, there is one monument sign allowed per tenant frontage, with
11 the maximum number of monument signs being two signs. He explained how the size of the
12 monument sign is determined by showing a variety of examples on the overhead for both
13 conforming and nonconforming monument signs. In addition, he noted that landscaping is
14 required around the monument signs.
15

16 Mr. Popovich then discussed shopping center monument signs, explaining that the tenant panels
17 do not count toward the overall amount of signage allowed for each tenant.
18

19 With regard to commercial Tollway signs, the maximum height allowed is 20 feet with a
20 maximum area of 225 square feet. These signs do not count toward the total square footage
21 allowed for signage.
22

23 Mr. Popovich then discussed the Downtown Business, Downtown Transition and Fairview
24 Concentrated Business Districts. Businesses are allowed one square foot of signage for every
25 one lineal foot of tenant frontage. The area of the sign is calculated the same as it is for general
26 commercial signs. Each business is allowed one wall sign. Illuminated box signs are prohibited
27 in these districts. Downtown businesses are allowed a monument or shingle sign. He reviewed
28 sizes of other types of signs in the Downtown Business District, and displayed photos of
29 businesses in that District. He said that illuminated monument signs are allowed in these three
30 districts.
31

32 As for awnings, they are only allowed to have business name, address and logo on them. The
33 Village does not regulate the patterns on or color of awnings, but the bottom of awnings must be
34 eight feet above the grade. Window signage coverage of 25% is allowed throughout the Village,
35 where up to 25% of each window can be covered in lettering or advertising for each business,
36 which is not counted in the total square footage.
37

38 Institutional signs have a different requirement (schools, churches, libraries, etc.). They are
39 allowed a 20 square foot monument sign, with the same setbacks as the general commercial area.
40 The difference is that they are allowed four lines of changeable copy instead of two lines of
41 changeable copy. They are also allowed one wall sign of 20 square feet and religious symbols
42 are allowed. Signage can be lit externally.
43

44 Restaurant menus can be displayed on the exterior of the building, provided that they are 4
45 square feet or less, which does not count toward the total amount of signage allowed. A-frame
46 boards are restricted to 6 square feet in the Downtown Business District and require a license
47 agreement with the Village. Directional signs are permitted and do not count toward total
48 square footage. Projecting signs do count toward total square footage. He reviewed all other

1 types of signage that might appear, such as second floor signage, door signs, window signage on
2 second floor businesses, etc.

3
4 Mr. Domijan asked about language added for illuminated signage such as neon lighting and
5 electronic message signs. Mr. Popovich said that the code has not changed with the passage of
6 the new Zoning Ordinance and enforcement issues continue as they relate to neon signs outlining
7 windows. Exposed neon cannot be used. Electronic message signs are prohibited in the Village.
8 The ordinance was written so that any sign more than two feet behind the window is not
9 considered signage, as this is defined as a display. Home occupations are allowed two square
10 feet of signage next to the door, where illumination is prohibited except by a porch light. The
11 end of the amortization period was May 5th of this year and Staff has begun enforcement. Staff
12 is working with everyone who has submitted for permit or applied for a variation, wherein
13 enforcement proceedings will be suspended. Mr. Popovich indicated that the compliance rate
14 now is about 91%.

15
16 Council approved the new Zoning Ordinance May 20, 2014, and Staff is making some minor
17 scrivener’s corrections and clarifications. The new Ordinance will be in effect at the time of the
18 next meeting. The new ordinance has created some additional options for granting minor relief,
19 such as zoning exceptions. Once all final changes are made, the entire Zoning Ordinance will be
20 on the Village website.

21
22 **Meeting Procedures**

23
24 Chairman White explained the function of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and reviewed the
25 procedures to be followed during the public hearing, verifying with Staff that all proper notices
26 have been published with regard to the cases on the Agenda. He called upon anyone intending to
27 speak before the Board on the Agenda items to rise and be sworn in, as the public information
28 portion of the meeting is an evidentiary hearing. Chairman White explained that members of
29 the Zoning Board of Appeals all have had the opportunity to review the documents for the
30 petition prior to the meeting. In order for a requested variation to be approved there must be a
31 majority of four votes in favor of approval. Chairman White added that the Zoning Board of
32 Appeals has authority to grant petitions without further recommendations being made to the
33 Village Council. He noted that Staff would make its presentation first, followed by comments
34 by the Petitioner. If anyone in the audience wishes to speak either in favor of or in opposition to
35 a petition, they will be able to do so following the Petitioner’s presentation. When the public
36 participation portion of the meeting is closed, the Board will deliberate on the information
37 provided and vote to either approve or deny the petition.

38
39
40

41 **ZBA 02-14 (Continued from April 23, 2014): A petition seeking a sign variation to**
42 **maintain an existing wall sign on the east elevation. The property is**
43 **currently zoned M-1, Light Manufacturing. The property is located 270 feet**
44 **east of Katrine Avenue and is located on the south side of Curtiss Street.**
45 **This property is commonly known as 2535 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, IL**
46 **(PIN 08-12-302-006); Scott Blaszak/Industrial Kinetics, Inc., Petitioner;**
47 **George H. Huber Jr./ MT&GII, LLC., Owner.**
48

1
2 **Staff's Report**
3

4 Village Planner Patrick Ainsworth said this is a sign location variation for the property located
5 on the south side of Curtiss Street, 270 feet east of Katrine Avenue in the Ellsworth Industrial
6 Park, which is zoned M-1, Light Manufacturing. The property houses two tenants, one on the
7 east half of the building and a separate tenant on the west half. Mr. Ainsworth explained that the
8 petitioner is requesting a sign variation to maintain the wall sign on the east façade of the
9 building. Per Section 28.1502.02(a) of the Sign Ordinance, wall signs are permitted only on
10 building facades that front a public right-of-way. As such, wall signs would only be permitted
11 on the north façade of this building.
12

13 He further explained that the building has approximately 200 feet of frontage along Curtiss
14 Street. The petitioner using the eastern 125 feet of the 200-foot frontage is allowed 187.5 square
15 feet of total signage based on tenant frontage. The existing wall sign measures 56 square feet
16 and there is an existing monument sign measuring 17 square feet. The tenant has an 8.5 square
17 foot tenant panel on the monument sign bringing the petitioner's total signage to 64.5 square
18 feet. Staff is working with the petitioner currently to bring the existing monument sign into
19 compliance with the Sign Ordinance. Although the petitioner occupies the majority of the tenant
20 frontage facing Curtiss Street, there is little physical area on the north elevation to locate a wall
21 sign that is a similar size to the existing wall sign that is currently mounted to the east elevation.
22 Therefore the petitioner is requesting a variance to allow the existing wall sign to remain in its
23 current location. He then showed photographs of the building in question, the existing signage
24 and the monument sign.
25

26 Mr. Ainsworth said that upon review, Staff concluded there are unique circumstances associated
27 with this property that warrant granting the requested variation for the following reasons: 1)
28 based on the design of the building, the north façade does not provide space for a wall sign; 2)
29 the only facades that have space for the maintenance of the existing wall sign are the east and
30 west elevations, neither of which have frontage; and 3) the variation would not be applicable to
31 other properties within the Ellsworth Industrial Park as all other properties have space for wall
32 signs on facades that have frontage. Based on the analysis of the Village's Standards for
33 Granting Variations, Mr. Ainsworth said that Staff finds there is a physical hardship associated
34 with this property and recommends approval of this request.
35

36 Mr. Ainsworth then summarized all nine Standards for Granting Variations as shown on Staff's
37 report ZBA-02-14, 2535 Curtiss Street dated May 28, 2014, pp. 2-4. He further stated that there
38 are unique circumstances associated with this property that present a physical hardship for the
39 petitioner to install a code-compliant wall sign, that all standards for granting the variation have
40 been met, and Staff recommends approval of the requested 56 square foot wall sign variation.
41

42 Chairman White asked if someone were to come in and build a new building with this same
43 configuration what would happen. Mr. Ainsworth replied that for new construction it must be in
44 full compliance and would have to meet the existing Sign Ordinance regulations.
45

46 Mr. Domijan asked why if the petitioner's wall sign would be compliant if installed on the west
47 elevation. Mr. Ainsworth replied that both tenants share the monument sign. The neighbor does
48 not have a wall sign; however, because of the two separate addresses for the building, the only

1 alternative is the east façade. Mr. Popovich said that the other tenant could possibly make the
2 same argument to install a wall sign on the west facade. He added that the sign was installed in
3 2007 as part of the building permit, but had to come into compliance by 2014.

4
5 There being no further questions, Chairman White called upon the Petitioner to make its
6 presentation.

7
8 **Petitioner's Presentation:**

9
10 Mr. George Huber, applicant and owner of the company and the building explained that the front
11 of the building is a glass product that cannot support a sign. The bulk of traffic arriving comes
12 from Belmont going west. He said that work on the monument sign should be done in the
13 foreseeable future. The front portion of the building was built in 1960.

14
15 Chairman White called upon anyone in the audience who wished to speak either in favor of or in
16 opposition to the Petition. There being none, he closed the public portion of the meeting, then
17 asked the Board if they had any further comments or questions.

18
19 **Board's Deliberation:**

20
21 Ms. Majauskas said this makes sense, as there is nowhere else on the building to put the sign.

22
23 Ms. Earl said she agreed with Staff's analysis that the Standards have been met, and she agrees
24 with granting the variation.

25
26 Mr. Domijan said he had an opposing position because there probably is a solution that doesn't
27 necessarily have to be on the building, and it also opens up the possibility of what would happen
28 to the western side of the building. Although he agrees that most of the Standards have been
29 met, he thinks they are in dangerous water here. He thinks other businesses will reply to this
30 variation with similar requests of their own.

31
32 Ms. Majauskas said she drives there every day and trucks come from the west. They will not see
33 the sign, and she agrees that this is the location for the sign. She does not think this request is
34 applicable to other properties.

35
36 Chairman White said it seems clear with this building that the sign request is appropriate.

37
38 Ms. Souter asked what would happen if the sign were to come down and have to be replaced.

39 Mr. Popovich said that the variation stays with the land. If they demolish the building and
40 completely rebuild, then the building and signage will have to comply with the existing
41 ordinances.

42
43 **Ms. Majauskas made a motion for case ZBA-02-14 to grant the requested variation. Ms.**
44 **Souter seconded the Motion.**

45 **AYES: Ms. Majauskas, Ms. Souter, Ms. Earl, Mr. McCann, Mr. Zaba, Ch. White**

46 **NAY: Mr. Domijan**

47 The Motion to grant the variation passed 6:1.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48

.....

ZBA-05-14 A petition seeking multiple monument sign variations. The property is currently zoned B-3, General Services and Highway Business. The property is located on the south side of Butterfield Road, approximately 500 feet east of Downers Drive, commonly known as 1201-1213 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove, Illinois (PIN 06-30-401-012); FL Cedar 2, LLC, Petitioner/Owner.

Chairman White said that Staff has recommended continuing the variation petition until the June 25, 2014 meeting with the concurrence of the petitioner.

Ms. Earl moved, seconded by Ms. Majauskas, to continue Case ZBA-05-14 to the June 25, 2014 meeting. All in favor.

The Motion passed unanimously.

.....

ZBA-06-14 A petition seeking a height variation for the construction of a salt dome. The property is currently zoned M-1, Light Manufacturing. The property is located at the northeast corner of Walnut Avenue and Curtiss Street, commonly known as 5101 Walnut Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois (PINs 08-12-300-001, -002, -003, and -008 and 08-12-112-003 and -004); Village of Downers Grove, Petitioner; Village of Downers Grove and Downers Grove Sanitary District, Owners.

Mr. Patrick Ainsworth reviewed Case ZBA-06-14 seeking a height variation to construct a new 37.22 feet tall salt dome where a 35 foot tall building is allowed per Section 28.1105(p) of the Zoning Ordinance. It is located in the Ellsworth Industrial Park M-1 Light Manufacturing District. The Downers Grove Sanitary District owns the property adjacent to the Village's Public Works facility that is leased to the Village of Downers Grove, who is the applicant.

Mr. Ainsworth explained that the Village plans to demolish the existing salt dome and construct a larger salt dome in the exact same location. The proposed dome will accommodate 6,700 tons of rock salt to use to clear local roads and public properties during the winter months. He explained how the height is determined for commercial buildings in a non-residential district, and noted that the new salt dome would have a height of 37.22 feet. He said that the proposed salt dome will have to increase in height in order to get the capacity needed while honoring the terms of the original property lease agreement going back to 1996. In addition, salt delivery takes place twice a year, once in the summer and once in the winter. The winter delivery is the most difficult, such as this past year when river areas were frozen and delivery of the salt was delayed. He showed slides depicting the hardships to the property, one of which is the topography from the existing salt dome down to St. Joseph's Creek.

Mr. Ainsworth said that Staff supports this request. Staff finds that there are unique circumstances and physical hardships associated with this property that warrant the requested variation to be granted for the following reasons:

1 1) There is a physical hardship with regard to the topography of the subject property and to the
2 proximity of existing stormwater facilities. This forces the applicant to build a taller salt dome
3 rather than a shorter and wider dome in the location of the existing salt dome. The physical site
4 conditions also forces the applicant to design the proposed structure to a height that exceeds the
5 allowable building height in order to accommodate an adequate amount of rock salt for the
6 winter months.

7
8 2) If the variation were granted, it would not be applicable to other similar properties since this
9 property is directly associated with delivering a unique public service to the community and
10 there are physical hardships associated with the subject property. The proposed structure is
11 directly tied to the public health, safety and welfare of the entire community.

12
13 3) The Village's lease with the Sanitary District requires the Village to follow an approved site
14 plan. The site plan requires the salt dome to be located in its current location. As such the
15 Village cannot relocate the salt dome elsewhere on the site without renegotiating the lease.

16
17 Staff has also analyzed the Village's Standards for Granting Variations, as stated in its report
18 ZBA-06-14, 5101 Walnut Avenue, dated May 28, 2014, pp. 3-5, and finds that there are unique
19 circumstances and physical hardships associated with this property and Staff recommends
20 approval of this request.

21
22 Mr. McCann asked about the salt usage figure for last year, and how the 6,700-ton figure was
23 obtained.

24
25 Mr. Ainsworth referred to Mr. Stan Balicki, Assistant Director of Public Works, to answer the
26 question.

27
28 Assistant Director Balicki replied that last year the Village estimated salt usage in excess of
29 6,700 tons of salt--closer to 7,000 tons. The winter began with a full salt dome and by winter's
30 end they had exhausted all of that salt, plus whatever else they could purchase to address the
31 community's needs. They have purchase records going back 25 years and the average is about
32 4,900 tons of salt. Mr. Balicki said in that time period there have been 3-4 winters that the
33 Village purchased in excess of what this proposed structure would actually hold. So, in essence,
34 this would be the upper end of what the Village might need.

35
36 Mr. McCann inquired about the size of the present structure as compared with the proposed
37 dome and the construction materials of the proposed dome. Mr. Balicki replied it is about 75
38 feet in diameter, whereas the new one would be about 100 feet with a concrete foundation and
39 wood beams. In further response, he said that this is standard construction for these types of
40 domes. The plans for the existing dome show the same construction. The drawings presented to
41 the Board are preliminary drawings that were based on Staff input and site constraints. Mr.
42 McCann asked if the contractor accounted for the building code for Downers Grove to which Mr.
43 Balicki believed that they did.

44
45 Mr. Popovich reiterated that the Village requires petitioners to submit preliminary drawings to
46 the ZBA due to the expense of finished drawings. Mr. McCann said it appears as though this
47 variation could probably be avoided if the contractor can vary the angle of the roof slightly to
48 comply with the height maximum.

1
2 Chairman White stated that the Board has historically been strict in its interpretation of meeting
3 the standards for approval and granting variation requests. His preference is for the Village to
4 modify the proposed construction to comply with the code requirements, as opposed to granting
5 a variation. He asked for further explanation regarding the “hardship.”
6

7 Mr. Balicki responded that it is possible to revise the construction of the structure to comply with
8 code requirements, however, the capacity of the dome would be decreased and it would likely
9 increase the cost to customize the design of the dome. Chairman White questioned the need to
10 accommodate 150% of what the Village normally needs. He suggested modifying the size of the
11 dome to stay within code requirements and still accommodate more storage than is currently
12 available in the existing structure.
13

14 Mr. Popovich reiterated the need to keep the dome in the same location per the lease with the
15 Sanitary District and how this is a unique circumstance where the Village needs additional salt
16 storage to provide services for the public health and welfare of the community. The Village is
17 the only entity to provide that service to all local roads. The proposed salt dome is anticipated to
18 provide salt storage for the Village in 99% of the winters. Additionally, there are areas that have
19 not been annexed into the Village and the additional storage capacity proposed will
20 accommodate potential increases in service demand for the areas that could be annexed in the
21 future. The lease, topography change and capacity are important considerations in how the dome
22 is constructed.
23

24 Mr. McCann said he thinks this is unique but the drawing provided appears to be a standard
25 drawing. He suggested that minor changes could be made to the construction of the structure to
26 meet code requirements and eliminate the need for the variation without impacting capacity. Mr.
27 Popovich replied that the capacity of the building is likely to be reduced if the construction were
28 modified.
29

30 Chairman White concurred with staff that the existing structure is not sufficient. The Village
31 cannot move it and is stuck with the site requirements. His concern is that the Board does not
32 know the difference in the capacity of a 35-foot dome versus the 37.22-foot tall proposed
33 structure.
34

35 Mr. Domijan compared the overall physical height of the existing and proposed structures:
36 approximately 45 feet or a four-story building for the existing dome, whereas the proposed dome
37 will be approximately 60 feet or the equivalent to a six-story building. Mr. Domijan expressed
38 concern with the large size of the structure, although staff pointed out that the height of the
39 structure is not determined to the ridge of the roof, as the comparison implies. Mr. Domijan
40 questioned the ability to relocate the dome to accommodate code requirements. He understands
41 the need for the salt capacity, particularly given the extreme winter this year.
42

43 Ms. Souter asked why the current one is so rounded and the proposed one isn't. Mr. Balicki said
44 the current structure is a geodesic dome, but he has not seen a geodesic dome that would hold
45 that much salt. Mr. Balicki described the ways in which salt can be loaded: via conveyor into the
46 entrance door or loaded with loaders that operate within the dome. He wanted to point out that
47 when they discuss the capacities of the structure, they are maximum capacity. From a practical
48 standpoint that is not necessarily what they will be able to fill based on how the salt is loaded.

1 Ms. Souter asked if the salt is kept in the center, away from the walls. Mr. Balicki replied if it is
2 done with front-end loaders, they would load the back first, toward the front entrance, and then
3 work their way up. There is no roll-up door, due to the location of the entrance on the south.
4

5 Mr. McCann asked if there is a regulation to the slope of the roof. Mr. Popovich said that is a
6 Building Code issue as to how it is designed and supported. In terms of height, it is consistent
7 with measuring the slope of the roof and measuring height.
8

9 Ms. Majauskas asked if this were a standard dome, would the Village have to go to a custom
10 dome if they started changing heights and structure. Mr. Balicki indicated that the Village needs
11 covered storage that will hold as much salt as possible and is not familiar with the various
12 options on salt dome construction. He stated that there are few companies that build these and
13 for that reason a similar design is used.
14

15 Chairman White asked if the geometry of the dome could be changed to accommodate 6,700
16 tons of salt and comply with the height limitation. Or, if that cannot be done, he inquired about
17 what capacity below 6,700 tons would be acceptable. He questioned the need for a variation
18 when the Village Council could amend the height of salt domes in the zoning ordinance. To
19 which Mr. Popovich replied that a text amendment would be required which would only apply to
20 this particular property. Relief requests for unique circumstances are handled through the
21 variation process to this Board.
22

23 Ms. Earl believes this is a unique situation where she does not believe there are other private salt
24 domes in the Village and, therefore, the request for relief is not applicable to other properties.
25 Additionally, this backs up to the sewage treatment plant, where she does not think the increased
26 height will create a negative impact on surrounding views.
27

28 Mr. Domijan compared this structure to an accessory structure and expressed concern about the
29 height. Ms. Majauskas disagreed that the proposed salt dome is not similar to a pavilion or other
30 accessory structure, in that the purpose of the dome is to provide public safety services to nearly
31 50,000 residents in the winter months.
32

33 Ms. Earl asked if there is any requirement that the salt all be stored in the same spot. Mr. Balicki
34 said they would have to be building salt domes in either residential or commercial areas, which is
35 not desirable from an operational standpoint. During the winter months they are on 24-hour
36 status. Having more than one location would increase the cost of services.
37

38 Mr. Majauskas asked if there could be a condition on this area that it can only be used for a salt
39 dome. Mr. Popovich said they could place such a condition on this if they choose.
40

41 Mr. Domijan said that they are asking the public to follow these rules and guidelines, and he is
42 concerned that not enough evidence has been presented to show that other options have been
43 considered trying to comply with the code restrictions. Mr. Domijan does not believe that the
44 salt dome has to be in the same location. Mr. Balicki explained the site restrictions and that all
45 the seemingly available property is owned by the Sanitary District, which is governed by the
46 lease agreement between the Village and the Sanitary District. There was some discussion about
47 the complications of an intergovernmental agreement.
48

1 Ms. Souter asked if there is a timing issue for the next winter. Mr. Popovich said it is time
2 sensitive.

3
4 Ms. Majauskas expressed concern about additional costs that may be incurred with a custom
5 designed salt dome.

6
7 Chairman White said not knowing the storage capacity of a 35 tall dome, he is unable to vote on
8 this request. He also doesn't know whether the geometry can be modified slightly, and he is
9 open to continuing this. He agrees that facility with increased storage is needed; however, he
10 would like additional information before voting.

11
12 Mr. Ainsworth said that the number 6,700 was significant for a reason. There was an open bid
13 system to find companies who would provide the lowest estimate for the best design that would
14 meet the Village's needs.

15
16 Mr. Ainsworth said from the Staff's perspective, this is a very unique situation in terms of what
17 the Village is providing to the community, and the fact that Public Works has determined the
18 amount of salt necessary to best serve the community. They cannot make changes to the
19 location, as this has been part of a lease agreement that cannot be changed. This capacity will
20 allow them to service the land in the Village's planning jurisdiction that could be annexed. It is
21 also unique from the point of the topography of the site.

22
23 There being no further discussion and no one wishing to make any additional public comments,
24 Chairman White closed the public participation portion of the meeting.

25
26 **Board Deliberation;**

27
28 Ms. Majauskas said she is in favor of this. The Village has to be given some leeway as
29 taxpayers' money is being spent and this is a service to the entire Village. She doesn't see it
30 being analogous to anything else. The Village Staff has come in and made this request because
31 they thought it to be the most cost effective and most feasible. In all the years she has been on
32 the Board she's never seen the Village come in with another variance request.

33
34 Mr. McCann said this is a battle that they have with a lot of the applications. He hears a lot
35 about the uniqueness of this but not the hardship. It seems as though the existing foundation has
36 to be excavated anyway so they could go down a bit further. The plans submitted are boilerplate
37 plans. He doesn't see that anyone called the company and asked for plans with a 35 foot height
38 limit instead of 37.5 feet. He's not even sure there are plans yet, other than standard plans from
39 the company. He doesn't see why they can't go down further on the foundation and wall and
40 then be in compliance. He is concerned about the applicability of this variance to the average
41 homeowner. Ms. Majauskas replied that this does not set a precedent for residents to request
42 height variations because this request is specific to providing a public service.

43
44 Chairman White is convinced that the salt dome must be in this location but does not feel that the
45 hardship has not been fully established. Mr. McCann said he understands the questions raised,
46 but above everything, he agrees that there isn't enough information to make a decision. He
47 believes there is a way to bring it into compliance, but at this time there is not enough
48 information.

1
2 Ms. Majauskas said the Staff sees this as so unique, and asked whether that outweighs the
3 hardship. Chairman White said it does not. He said a unique need is not enough to justify
4 ignoring the question of hardship.

5
6 Mr. Popovich communicated that a delay in a decision tonight will create a timing issue for the
7 construction contract and, ultimately, the completion of the project in time to receive salt before
8 winter. Mr. Popovich replied that if additional information is required, they could continue the
9 public hearing to the June 25th meeting. Chairman White said he would prefer to continue it
10 instead of deny it, however, he does not have the power to make that Motion.

11
12 Mr. Domijan said they could put a Motion to Continue or a Motion to Approve.

13
14 Discussion ensued regarding how much salt a compliant dome would hold and cost to customize
15 the dome.

16
17 **Mr. McCann moved to deny the petition, seconded by Mr. Domijan.**

18
19 Ms. Majauskas expressed concern about how this Motion would affect the Village if denied
20 because a denied application cannot reapply for six months, which will affect the construction of
21 the proposed dome before the next winter.

22
23 Mr. McCann offered to withdraw his motion if the Board would rather continue the petition to
24 grant time to collect additional information. The Board agreed that a continuance would be
25 preferred. Mr. McCann withdrew his motion to deny the petition.

26
27 **Mr. Zaba moved to continue the case until the June meeting, seconded by Ms. Majauskas.**

28 **AYE: Mr. Zaba, Ms. Majauskas, Ms. Souter, Ch. White**

29 **NAY: Mr. Domijan, Ms. Earl, Mr. McCann**

30 **The Motion to continue passed 4:3.**

31
32 Mr. Popovich asked the Board for the additional information needed, which consisted of answers
33 to the following questions:

34 How much salt will a compliant dome hold?

35 What is the cost of compliant versus non-compliant dome?

36 Why is 6,700 tons such an important number?

37 Are there standard domes to house 6,700 tons of salt?

38 Do other communities have domes like this?

39 What efforts have been made to bring this structure into the confines of the Village?

40 What discussion has there been with the company to build within the Code?

41 What other hardship issues exist to justify the higher dome?

42 How will this effect the time to construct the dome?

43

44 Mr. Domijan pointed out that one big question is justification of hardship.

45

46 **Other Business:**

47

APPROVED 6/25/14

1 Mr. Popovich said the salt dome discussion would be discussed in June, with three or four sign
2 variations as well.

3

4 Chairman White reminded everyone that if any more than two of the members meet it's
5 considered a violation of the Illinois Meetings Act.

6

7 Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 9:32 PM.

8

9

10 Respectfully submitted,

11

12

13 Tonie Harrington

14 Recording Secretary

15

16