

APPROVED 04/23/2015

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
VILLAGE HALL - COMMITTEE ROOM
801 BURLINGTON AVENUE

FEBRUARY 26, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Pro tem Davenport called the February 26, 2015 meeting of the Architectural Design Review Board to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked for a roll call:

PRESENT: Chairman Pro tem Davenport, Mrs. Acks, Mr. Casey, Ms. Englander, Mr. Riemer

ABSENT: Chairman Matthies, Mr. Larson

STAFF: Village Planner Chrisse

VISITORS: Mr. Ken Lerner, 4933 Whiffen Place, Downers Grove; Mr. Scott Lazar,
808 Maple Ave., Downers Grove

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 22, 2015

THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2015 MEETING WERE APPROVED ON MOTION BY MR. CASEY, SECONDED BY MRS. ACKS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE OF 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Historic Preservation Ordinance

i. Lessons Learned-District Nomination – Planner Kelley Chrisse introduced Mr. Lerner who was going to give a presentation on his experience with creating a historic district.

Mr. Ken Lerner, 4933 Whiffen Place, Downers Grove, shared his presentation on the attempts to save the Edwards House located at 942 Maple Avenue that, unfortunately, was not successful due to not having the required 51% vote necessary. Mr. Lerner presented a timeline that he created that reflected the steps taken for that process. The timeline depicted the communication that occurred amongst the neighbors, the neighborhood meetings held, and the detailed process for nominating a historic district. He reported the village's 42-page historic preservation application was a bit confusing. A historical survey of the Maple Avenue area and a number of forms and flyers used during the process also followed.

Mr. Lerner elaborated on the issues that he ran into, including: getting property owners in the village to respond in a timely manner; organized resident opposition to the district; and the questions of property restrictions raised during the neighborhood meetings and to whom those restrictions would apply.

APPROVED 04/23/2015

Board members very much appreciated the presentation. Questions from the board members included how many of the 10 to 15 organizers lived within the proposed district, wherein Mr. Lerner estimated about half. Given that gathering ownership information can be a moving target, one member acknowledged that Mr. Lerner's group organized very quickly and did the best they could to obtain the necessary information. Asked how the park district and church group responded to the proposal, Mr. Lerner described how he worked with the park district board but could not recall their response. There was no input from the church groups and he did not know why. However, he believed some business owners along Maple Avenue were in support of the proposal.

Responding to another member question, Mr. Lerner explained that putting the historic district together initially was, partially, to stop further redevelopment of the property and to preserve the house. He elaborated that timing was an issue but at the same time it gave residents an opportunity to express their concern about development along Maple Avenue versus preservation. If the district were in place, he recalled there would have been an extra set of procedures under the ordinance to be able to demolish the home, e.g., proof of hardship. Asked if he thought single-family owners were a higher percentage of residents in favor of the district versus the owners of a nearby condominium development, Mr. Lerner believed consent came from the majority of the single-family owners.

Asked if two years would be enough time to educate the residents and form a district, Mr. Lerner could not say for sure but believed having more time for this process and having a streamlined ordinance, with only the necessary requirements to preserve the historic character of the area, would have made the process easier. Per additional questions, Mr. Lerner did not know the exact percentage of who supported the district but estimated about 25%, as identified in the survey. Asked if consensus east of Washington Street would have been more successful, Mr. Lerner could not respond confidently.

Chairman Pro tem Davenport pointed out that it took Mr. Lerner a two month process to get where he did and the process had to stop, which he believed gave the board a sense of what goes into the preservation process. He also appreciated Mr. Lerner's presentation and the fact that many facts were presented at the council meeting he attended which he believed benefited the council members. Ms. Chrissy agreed and stated the next steps the council will take will be reviewing the Certificate of Appropriateness process, and, of course, Mr. Lerner's input, if he decides to attend those meetings.

Dialog followed by the chairman pro tem that this board will probably have to look at how property owners are counted, for example, in a condo building – does one vote count or does 20; wherein, Ms. Chrissy explained that property ownership was determined by PIN in this instance, but other ways to determine what constitutes a property could be discussed.

The Chairman Pro tem invited the public to comment:

Mr. Scott Lazar, 808 Maple, Downers Grove, explained that the condos are individual residents that share a common area but he did not know whether they would be treated as "less than any other individual residence." He believed that could be an issue.

Member comments followed that this matter could be discussed more in depth. Ms. Chrissy added that there could be a point of distinction/specific terminology between a

APPROVED 04/23/2015

parcel and a principle structure. Continuing, the chairman pro tem believed the process for the Maple Avenue home was heated and a bit skewed and he asked members to keep that in mind for the future. Normally, he said the process and turnout would probably have been different. He agreed it was probably beneficial to review some of the restrictions within the ordinance, i.e., landscaping, painting, etc., and review what the board wanted to accomplish – to keep the process simple as well as to discuss the restrictions between contributing and non-contributing properties.

Closing the discussion, Ms. Chrise added that members should strive to strike a balance between changes to the ordinance which may lessen some restrictions and maintaining the village's Certificate Local Government ("CLG") status. The chairman pro tem concurred but at the same time pointed out the board would need to determine if the loss of CLG status is acceptable. At the same time, the chairman pro tem reiterated that the financial benefits that come with CLG status would be lost.

Mr. Lerner thanked the board and asked members to contact him with questions. The chairman pro tem asked staff if it could make Mr. Lerner's presentation available to the council members.

ii. Council Comments – Ms. Chrise reported that on February 3, 2015 Planning Manager Stan Popovich explain the nomination process for both landmark and historic district to the village council members. Council comments from that meeting included that the applicant should be from the district and a property owner themselves that can nominate the property, not someone else. Another comment was that people should be able to opt-out of certain districts (examples followed). There was concern/comments regarding financial hardships; what was meant by "significant number of structures" in the current ordinance; encouraging more landmarks versus districts; concern about lack of interest/lack of incentives; and a desire to have more public outreach. Further comments/concerns included the restrictions on non-conforming properties and requiring a threshold higher than the 51% owner consent.

Per a question, Ms. Chrise offered to contact the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency as to what large triggers, if any, the village could lose on its CLG status. She reminded members that the state preferred preservation, yet there were a number of communities, such as Downers Grove, that were in the middle and trying to strike a balance by having a more voluntary process versus forced. Members shared that the outreach communication had to be one of the benefits of historic preservation and not its restrictions. Dialog followed on how Highland Park's educational component was working well.

Given the circumstances of the Edwards house, the chairman pro tem reminded the board that it would be wise to resist being reactionary to the current preservation ordinance in light of the latest events and he hoped the board would take its time to get the ordinance right, reminding the board that minimum thresholds were being discussed even for a property/district to have consideration. Additionally, he reminded members that another review level took place at the council level. On that note, one member raised the question that the board may want to look at what discretion it has to not grant a historic district at 51% but a different percentage, wherein, it was pointed out by the chairman pro tem that this board was only advisory to the Village Council, who could vote in favor of or against an application.

APPROVED 04/23/2015

NEW BUSINESS

A. CLG Annual Report - Village Planner Chrise referenced the CLG Annual Report that would be forwarded to the IHPA, the information it contained, and the plans this board intends to pursue. She explained that the IHPA is using the report as a gauge to ensure that the village is pursuing preservation efforts in the community. Examples of those efforts followed. However, she stated one area the board was lacking was in the area of designation which could be part of the public outreach component. Regarding the report, the chairman pro tem asked staff to elaborate its activities and future activities so the village did not lose its CLG status.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Scott Lazar, 808 Maple Avenue, agreed with the members' comments about making the ordinance more attractive to its residents. Coming from the opposition of the Maple Avenue home, he voiced that there was not opposition to the idea of a historic district; instead, it was to the ordinance directly. He stated part of a historic district is pride but the process for the Edwards House was different. In doing the process over again, he recommended that members review the ordinance with the welfare of the residents in mind and not the physical homes, because rifts within the neighborhood currently existed, which was unfortunate. Also, he described that the effort was driven from people outside the neighborhood and it would have been better by someone who lived in the neighborhood. He stated the lead person should own the house, not just like historic homes. Mr. Lazar pointed out there was the perception of "the winner takes all" attitude instead of focusing on three or four contiguous houses, and that the trust was lost by the residents because the entire ordinance was not included in the packet provided by the organizers, which was not a good first impression. The sense of urgency created for 942 Maple was also overreaching. There were flaws in the survey and residents were scared -- noting that 51% of the residents could compel 49% of the residents.

Mr. Lazar also added that the chairman pro tem's prior comment that "this is a democracy" did not sit well with residents, pointing out that it was slightly more than half and the winner take all perception made residents anxious. As to Mr. Casey's point about starting with a broad district and contracting or expanding it to see what results occur, Mr. Lazar stated the statement was perceived as hurting the credibility of the process in such a short timeline. However, he stated that some of the issues raised by Mr. Lerner regarding the ordinance itself were on point.

Mr. Lazar asked the board to consider the following: that the districts do not have to be contiguous and to have council member Bob Barnett give his perspective on the topic since he lived in the neighborhood and witnessed the process. (Mr. Lazar distributed a table summarizing Council comments from the February 3, 2015 Village Council meeting regarding the historic preservation ordinance). Referring to those comments, he stated there appeared to be four themes from the discussion: 1) opting-out/exempting properties; 2) thresholds – he preferred making the threshold more attractive to residents; 3) incentives (but asking if a district is formed, is it a good use of taxpayers' money?); and 4) nominations being generated by someone who actually lives in the district or owns a landmarked property.

Mr. Lazar said he was trying to understand that with so much passion, why wasn't there more interest in individual landmarking? He pointed out the problem was that if you could not get individuals to landmark, how could you expect a neighborhood to do the same?

APPROVED 04/23/2015

If the historic district had gone through, Mr. Lazar explained he would have preferred to see the following: exempt minor exterior modifications to a structure, such as anything that does not require a permit or is not permanent, from COA requirements and to provide incentives. He referenced that some of the language within the Certificate of Appropriateness was ambiguous and probably called for a review by this board.

However, one board member stated that those topics -- landscaping and paint color -- were heavily discussed and incorporated into the existing ordinance for a reason: so no one painted some outlandish color or razed their entire property lot of trees.

As to the incentives, Mr. Lazar explained that currently a resident can receive a tax freeze when he/she spends 25% or more of the structure's appraised value and then a four year pro-ration. However, he stated that anything less has no incentive. Mr. Lazar believed other creative incentives existed and needed to be explored by this board.

Mr. Ken Lerner returned to the podium and acknowledged staff's future activities planned. He stated a number of inexpensive examples existed for public outreach and were used by other communities which the board could copy. He also mentioned the board could partner with outside agencies, such as the Pierce Downer Heritage Alliance. He liked the idea of themed districts and shared examples from other communities.

Mr. Scott Lazar returned and also suggested setting up an informational booth at the various festivals and farmers markets to conduct outreach activities.

ADJOURNMENT

MS. ENGLANDER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MR. RIEMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:52 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE OF 5-0.

/s/ Celeste K. Weilandt
Celeste K. Weilandt
(As transcribed by MP-3 audio)

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2015, 7:30 P.M.
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**

MINUTES

1. **Call to order.** President Kathleen DiCola called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
2. **Roll call.** Members Present: Trustee Susan Eblen, Trustee Wendee Greene, Trustee David Humphreys, Trustee Daniel Loftus, Trustee Thomas Read, President Kathleen DiCola.

Also present: Director Rick Ashton, Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien, Assistant Director for Public Services Bonnie Reid, Friends of the Library President Joanne Hansen, Downers Grove resident Tammy Wichert.
3. **Welcome to visitors.** President DiCola welcomed staff and visitors and thanked them for their presence.
4. **Approval of Minutes.**
 - a. Regular Monthly Meeting, February 25, 2015. It was moved by Greene and seconded by Loftus THAT the Minutes of the February 25 meeting be approved as submitted. Roll call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, Read, DiCola. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.
5. **Approval of invoices and financial reports.** It was moved by Loftus and seconded by Greene THAT operating invoices totaling \$92,307.74, credit memos totaling \$2,794.93 be approved, and February 2015 payrolls totaling \$212,180.19 be recognized. Roll call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, Read, DiCola. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.
6. **Public comment on agenda items.** President DiCola invited comment. There was none.
7. **Public comment on other Library business.** President DiCola invited comment.

Ms. Tammy Wichert addressed the Board, voicing several concerns and requests for policy changes:

- a. Cell phone use on the second floor is disruptive and should be prohibited.
- b. Use of public computers should be limited to Downers Grove residents and persons holding library cards from other libraries. Guest cards should not be issued.

- c. Public computer use should be more closely monitored to prevent people from viewing inappropriate material.
- d. Staff members at the Computer Help Desk are not performing effectively. Older women act as if patron requests are bothering them. Younger staff members are doing their own on-line searching and are afraid to confront inappropriate behavior.
- e. The Library should have walk-up computers available so that patrons can place their own reserves, since staff do not want to do this.

President DiCola thanked Ms. Wichert for her comments. She directed Library staff to review Ms. Wichert's concerns and prepare a response for the Board.

8. Unfinished Business.

- a. Library Building Renovation Project, Proposed Strategy for Additional Work.
Requested Action: Approval.

Ashton presented the proposed strategy, directing Shales McNutt Construction and Product Architecture to proceed with public bidding of additional lighting and acoustical work. The Board declined to proceed. Board members stated that they needed additional information about the three lighting proposals. This included more details about the nature, appearance, and performance of the proposed fixtures, better assurance that the proposed designs will in fact light the areas in question effectively, and consideration of both initial and operating costs in selection of fixtures and designs. The Board was also concerned that the proposed solution for Conference Room A was excessively expensive.

Ashton agreed to confer with Product Architecture and Shales McNutt Construction to secure answers to these concerns for future Board consideration.

9. New Business.

- a. Integrated Library System software changeover. Requested Action: Receive Report.

Ashton and Assistant Director Reid discussed the planned changes and the Library's preparations for them. Board members expressed confidence that the disruption associated with this transition will be well-managed and that the changes will be worthwhile.

10. Report of the Director. Ashton summarized his written report (attached) as follows:

- a. Food for Fines, March 14-22. This program generated 782 pounds of food for the West Suburban Community Pantry, in lieu of \$584.25 in fines.

- b. Building Maps. Responding to customer suggestions, the Library has produced detailed interior floor plan maps for use in the building. These were included in the Board packet.
- c. Statements of Economic Interest. Board members are reminded to complete this required filing.
- d. Recent media coverage. Attached.
- e. Other. Ashton reported that the Library has responded to the complaint filed by a Library patron accompanied by a service dog, with the Illinois Attorney General's Disability Rights office. He distributed copies of the response.

Ashton commented on several active and ongoing service initiatives, with excellent public response. These included use of the Media Lab by a local business to develop a promotional YouTube video, a range of STEM-related activities, in and out of the Library, by Children's staff, and productive Library staff participation in Teen Tech Week at Downers Grove North High School.

Ashton distributed Library statistical reports for January and February 2015.

11. Board Member comments and requests for information.

Trustee Read inquired about the requirement for changes to patrons' Library Account PIN numbers. He also questioned the necessity of the extensive letter to the Attorney General regarding the service dog complaint. President DiCola commented that the entire letter had been in response to specific queries from the Attorney General.

Trustee Greene expressed her thanks to Dale Galiniak for his assistance with a video content problem. Greene also requested that staff provide further information regarding the degree to which Ms. Wichert's comments are representative of customer opinion. Ashton agreed to provide additional information at the next Board meeting.

President DiCola also requested additional information on the effectiveness of the cell phone policy and the effectiveness of monitoring of inappropriate computer use. She inquired about the issue of patrons' belongings being left unattended in the building. Ashton agreed to provide further information at the next Board meeting.

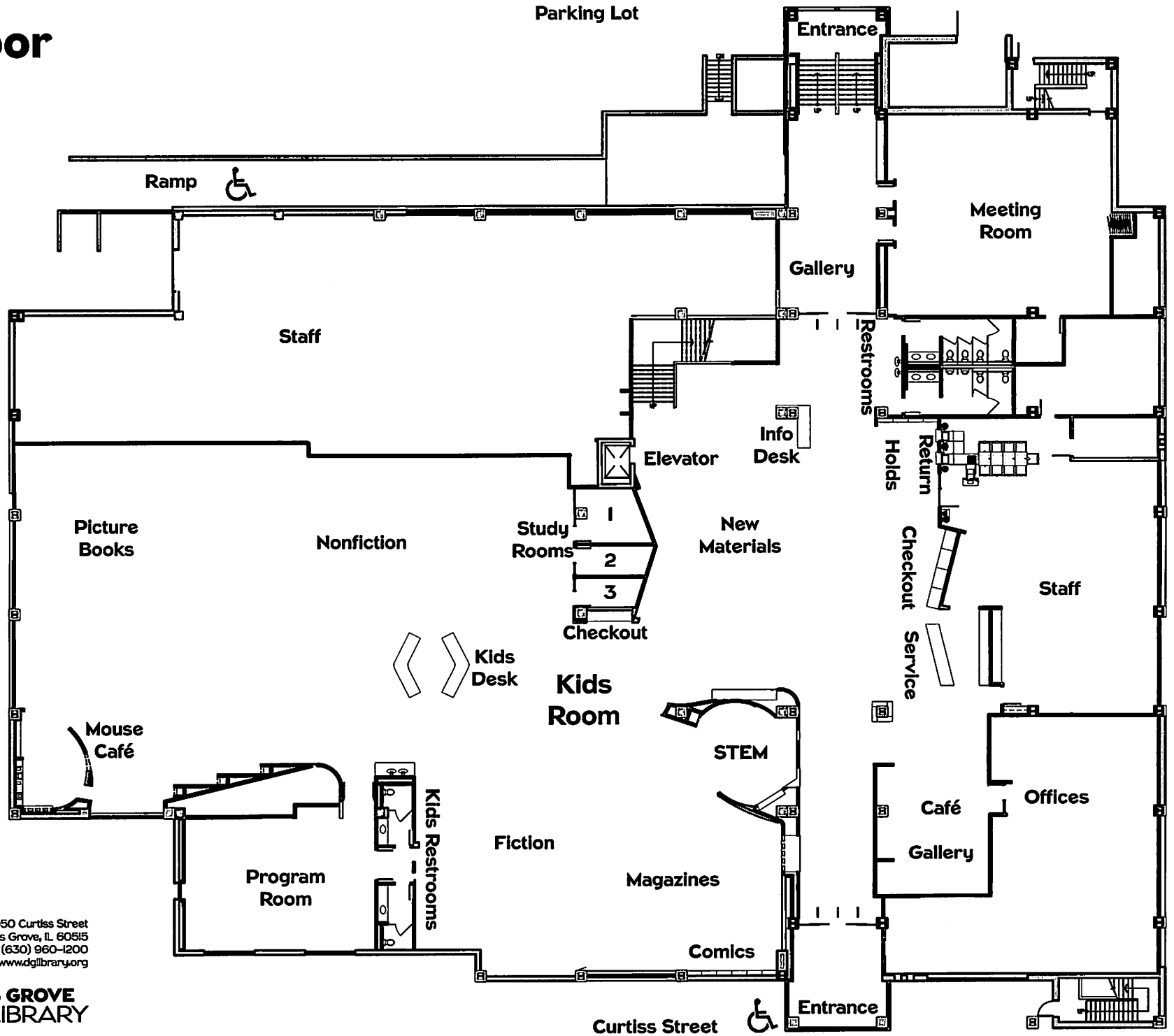
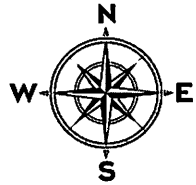
12. Adjournment. President DiCola adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MARCH 25, 2015**

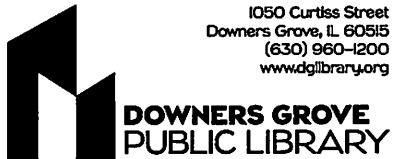
**AGENDA ITEM 10
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

- a. Food for Fines, March 14-22. As of this writing on March 20, collections were slightly less than in 2013, the previous Food for Fines experience. Public response has been very positive. Totals will be reported as soon as they are available.
- b. Building Maps. In response to several requests, the Library has developed the attached interior map. These have been produced in tear-off pad form for easy distribution at public desks.
- c. Statements of Economic Interest. If any Board members or staff members have not completed this required report, they are encouraged to proceed as quickly as possible.
- d. Recent media coverage. Attached.

First Floor

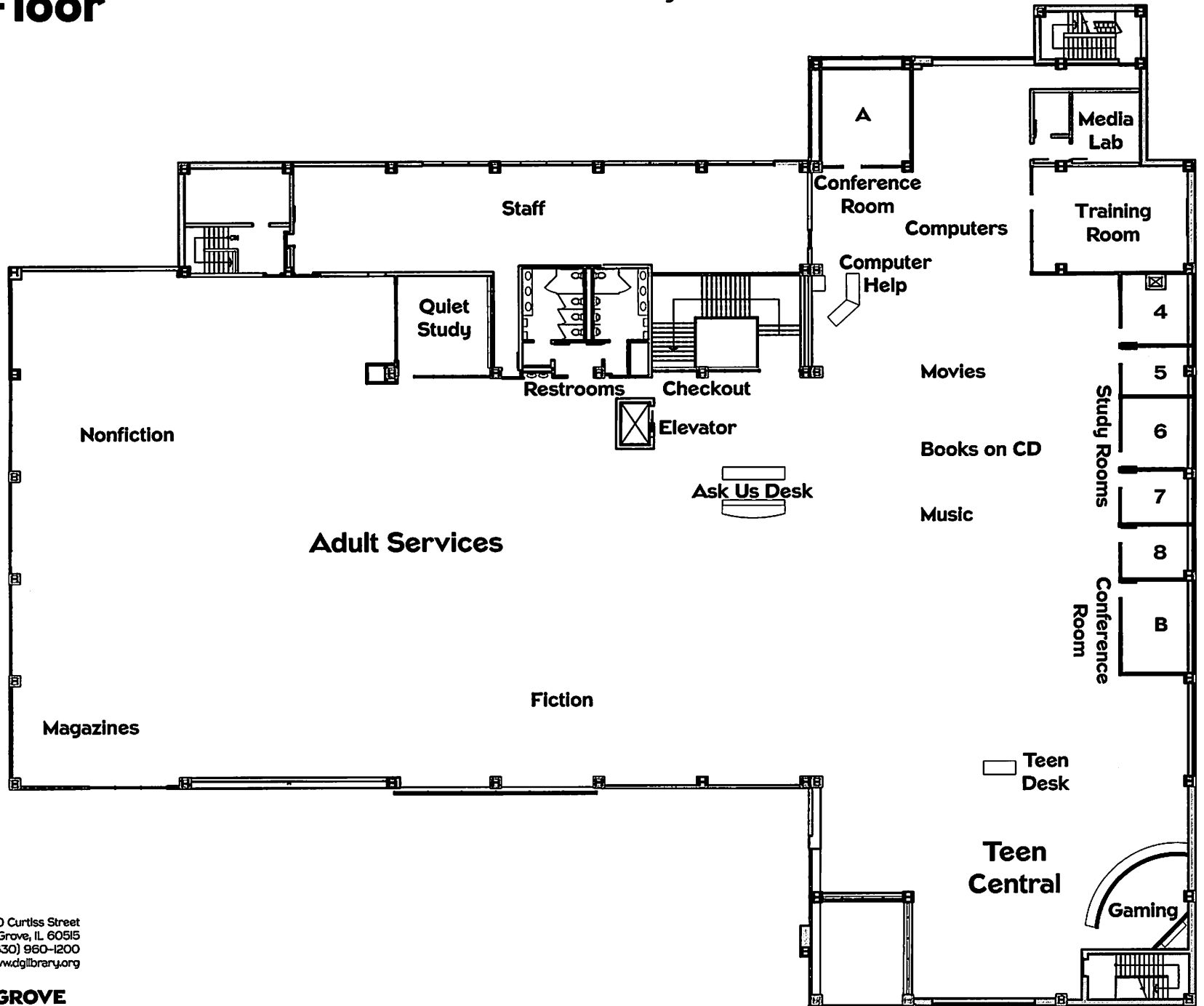
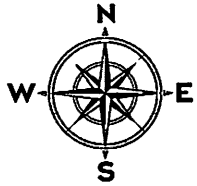


1050 Curtiss Street
 Downers Grove, IL 60515
 (630) 960-1200
 www.dglibrary.org



Second Floor

Parking Lot



Curtiss Street

View From the Director's Chair: It's a Wrap – Guest post by Lynette Pitrak

MARCH 13, 2015 BY HEATHER BOOTH

[LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

I previously submitted a post detailing the first few weeks of an [exciting documentary film making program](#) for teenagers that the Downers Grove Public Library was providing for the first time. Now that the program is finished, I would love to share how everything turned out!!



After learning camera, lighting, and audio techniques from our wonderful trainer [Laura Zinger, of 20K Films, Inc.](#), the students had a brainstorming session (complete with pizza and other snacks) to discuss ideas for final film topics. It was so much fun to take part in this discussion, and hear about the passions behind the teens' desires to create movies. Potential topics ranged from very personal to the more abstract and cerebral end of the spectrum. It is great to know that while not all topics were chosen for this particular project, the students had the opportunity to discuss them and develop ideas to revisit on their own later.

In the end, four final film topics were chosen: stress levels of high school students, the world of competitive online gaming, the challenges and opportunities faced by starting a band in high school, and the tactile, precious nature of artwork. The students each chose which film they would like to work on based on personal interest.

All of the students were able to check out the necessary equipment so that they could conduct the interviews in realistic settings. While some interviews did take place in the library's Digital Media Lab and Teen Central area, it was important for the students to record their chosen subjects in personal environments: bedrooms, afterschool work places, music recording studios, classrooms at College of DuPage, etc. Ms. Zinger felt it was especially important for students to experience the challenges involved in filming in new locations, including framing shots, adjusting to tricky lighting situations, and capturing quality audio footage amidst unwanted background noise.

One thing that film makers always say, and that definitely proved to be true, is that there is never enough time to edit. The final two classes of the program were devoted to teaching the students Final Cut Pro editing software, and then the students were given an additional month to work on editing their films on their own. During this time, Ms. Zinger and I also ran two six-hour open editing sessions, for students to drop in and work on editing with an instructor present for additional guidance. The majority of students attended both editing sessions, and also did a fantastic job editing on their own.



Their level of commitment to their projects was amazing, and during high school final exam weeks, most were camped out at the library alternating between studying for their tests and editing their films. To showcase all of the teens' incredible work, the Downers Grove Public Library partnered with the [Tivoli Theater](#) to hold a student film festival on February 7th that was free for anyone to attend.

We screened the four student-made films:

[Can't Touch This](#)

[Less Stress](#)

[Bands After Class](#)

and [Co-Op](#)

as well as a prequel film of two local teen musicians recording in the audio part of the library's Media Lab

[Live from the Digital Media Lab – Jack](#)

[Live from the Digital Media Lab – Jenna](#)

Over two hundred people attended to view the films, and after the screening stayed to participate in a Q & A session with the film makers. The Q & A was a great experience for everyone, with the audience asking perceptive, thoughtful questions and the teens responding with intelligence, passion, and humor. For those who were unable to attend the Tivoli screening, but still interested in viewing the films, our library posted all of the films on our YouTube channel. We also added two Blu-Ray copies of all of the films to the library's circulating collection.

This entire program was an amazing reminder of teens' capacity and commitment to imagining, inventing, creating, and it was completely inspiring and humbling for me to be part of this process. In addition, the students involved in this program are already demonstrating their desire to give back to the community by acting as trainers for other tech and maker related programs held at the Downers Grove Public Library. It has been a win-win situation for all involved!!!

Thank you for giving Downers Grove Public Library the opportunity to share this program with other librarians and educators, and please feel free to get in touch with questions at any time.

Lynette Pitrak is the Teen Services Coordinator at the Downers Grove Public Library. Reach her at [lpitrak \(at\) dglibrary.org](mailto:lpitrak@dglibrary.org)

DOWNERS GROVE

Suburban Life

YOUR NEW DOWNERS GROVE REPORTER



MAN DIES IN
TRAIN CRASH

PAGE 9

READY TO REDISCOVER

The Big Read takes on new name, other changes

PAGE 4

Vol. 93 No. 50 | SD | DGR



4

NEWS

Suburban Life • mysurbanlife.com • Wednesday, March 4, 2015 • SD

The Big Read starts a new chapter

By KELLI MURRAY

editorial@mysurbanlife.com

DOWNERS GROVE – For the past 10 years, the libraries of Downers Grove, Woodridge, Hinsdale, La Grange, La Grange Park, Clarendon Hills, Lisle, Indian Prairie and Thomas Ford have joined forces for an annual reading event.

Formerly The Big Read, it is now ReDiscover, and it offers a vast array of programming for patrons of all ages with a focus on one theme, instead of just one book, as was done in the past.

Choosing a single book for a large population with varied ages, genders and genre preferences could be challenging, said Melissa Doornbos, Downers Grove Public Library public relations manager.

“It is very hard to pick a book to have a wide appeal and offer a program for it,” she said. “We decided that with 10 years under our belt, it was time to do something different.”

The change to one theme was a calculated decision by the library directors to broaden the scope of programming, according to Patti Naisbitt, Woodridge Public Library public relations and pro-



Photo provided

Area library patrons are feeling French after reading “The Paris Wife” by Paula McLain and attending an author event during The Big Read in 2012.

gram coordinator.

“[Library directors] thought if we switched from a book to a theme it would give them more freedom in choosing good programming,” Naisbitt said. “The book discussions are always well attended, but now they are not locked to one book. So we can have more categories in programs, and [patrons] can go to book discussions at their own library or another library.”

This year, the focus is celebrating home. Musical performances, lectures, book discussions and cooking demos

will be available for children, teens and adults. Programs are free to patrons.

Event registration opened Monday at re-discover.org.

To find a listing of the eight books related to celebrating home, see the “Books” tab, which opens to a list of titles ranging from “The House of Sky” by Ivan Doig to “Howards End” by E.M. Forster. Book discussion guides are also available under the tab.

Additionally, there are “For Teens” and “For Kids” tabs that have their own age-appropriate books.

Know more

To register for ReDiscover programs or for information, go to re-discover.org.

Not interested in reading a book but still interested in celebrating home? The “Events by Topic” drop-down features 12 topics including cooking, movies, music, design and decor, gardening and pets.

“What is exciting for me is that celebrating home can be so wide and encompassing,” Hinsdale reference librarian Jo Ann Schusterich said. “We’ve also incorporated homelessness, so people can learn about that. It is a great opportunity to information share with the community.”

ReDiscover is offered just once per year to residents, but it is a year-round process for the libraries to plan.

“The staff will meet after this program to see what we need to do for next year,” Schusterich said. “We do a lot of planning behind the scenes, and we are lucky we have great staff as part of the planning group. They take on responsibility for programs at their own libraries, but also for ReDiscover.”

10

OPINIONS

DGR Suburban Life • mysuburbanlife.com • Wednesday, March 4, 2015 • SD

OPINIONS

■ LAST W

Library stimulates STEM explorers

What are Snap Circuits, Little Bits, Cubelets, 3Doodler, MakeyMakey and Beebots?

These interesting names belong to tools and materials that young STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) explorers can use for learning and fun at the Downers Grove Public Library. The new STEM

Room in our renovated Children's Services Department is where they live. Children's library staff members, middle school volunteers and the occasional husband of a librarian guide kids, parents

and teachers to the discoveries and delights contained in them. In addition to our traditional support for learning by reading, writing and listening, we are actively helping young people learn by doing, and we are learning a great deal too.

This is new territory for the library. Active hands-on learning, often involving collaboration, is different from the quiet, singular focus of reading that we know so well. While the library has not been a hush-hushed place for a long time, STEM work provides an atmosphere of discovery and delight that is definitely not silent. Like educators and leaders at all levels, we know that it is important for our future.

Sometimes the STEM resources leave the building. On Feb. 21, they received good use at Elementary School District 58's day-long Students in Technology conference. Well over 100 students in grades 3 through 8 used STEM tools and materials. They built robots, learned the basics of electric circuitry and invented all manner of unique objects. In each case, the students pursued their own ideas and observations, doing what scientists and engineers do. They tried a solution, failed, analyzed their failure and tried another solution. Library staff and volunteers guided, supported and advised. Helping people learn is, after all, what the Downers Grove Public Library does best.

More opportunities are on the way. During District 58's spring break, March 30 to April 4, the library will offer daily STEM activities. One featured event will be the Hopscotch App Challenge on March 31, beginning at 1 p.m. With their iPads and the Hopscotch App at the ready, students in grades 3 and up will see their creations on the STEM Room's big screen. Open-ended exploratory STEM opportunities also will be available each morning.

Like the community we serve, the library is in the midst of a rapidly changing world. Our commitment to STEM learning is just one sign that we are changing too.



COMMUNITY VOICE

Rick Ashton

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

APPROVED 4/22/15

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
FEBRUARY 25, 2015 MINUTES**

Call to Order

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Mr. Domijan, Mr. Mosey

A quorum was established.

Staff: Kelley Chrissie, Planner
Stan Popovich, AICP, Planning Division Manager

Also Present: Jodi Smelser and Maddie Oxendine from Hilton Displays, 125 Hillside Drive
Greenville, SC 29607

Minutes of December 17, 2014 meeting

Mr. McCann moved, seconded by Ms. Earl to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2014 meeting as presented.

AYE: Mr. McCann, Ms. Earl, Ms. Majauskas, Mr. Zaba, Ch. White

NAY: None

The Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Procedures

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

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15-ZBA-0001: A petition seeking a sign height variation for a monument sign along Butterfield Road. The property is currently zoned B-3, General Services and Highway

APPROVED 4/22/15

Business. The property is located at the northwest corner of Butterfield Road and Downers Drive and is commonly known as 1450 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove, IL (PIN 06-30-403-027); Hilton Displays, Inc., Petitioner Federal Realty investment Trust, Owner.

Staff's Presentation:

Ms. Kelley Chrise, Planner for the Village of Downers Grove, said that the petition is for a sign height variation to install a 14-foot, 5-inch tall monument sign where 10 feet is allowed per Section 9.050.B.1a of the Zoning Ordinance. The property in question is new construction and is part of the Finley Square Shopping Center, Planned Development #17. Ms. Chrise showed the corner lot on an overhead projection, noting that the site is allowed two monument signs because of its corner location.

Ms. Chrise noted that the topography of the site is sloped, resulting in the proposed sign location being five feet below the grade of Butterfield Road. She showed a site plan that depicted compliance with the setbacks for the existing shopping center monument sign, as well as the subject monument sign. She noted that the Starbuck's currently has compliant wall signs, and a sign permit application has been submitted to bring the existing shopping center monument sign into conformance. The requested 14-foot, 5-inch tall monument sign would appear to stand 9-feet, 5-inches tall as seen from the adjacent roadway.

Staff recommends approval of the sign height variation, since the topography prevents the petitioner from installing a code compliant sign that provides similar visibility as other commercial properties along Butterfield Road. She reviewed the Standards for Granting Variations. Staff finds that all standards have been met as noted in Staff's report, pages 3-4, dated February 25, 2015. Ms. Chrise noted that should the Board approve the requested variation, Staff requests that it be made contingent on the two conditions on page 4 of Staff's report.

In response to Mr. Zaba, Ms. Chrise said that the petitioner is an agent on behalf of Starbuck's, and the property owner has approved the request. The variation will run with the land, should a new tenant move into the location at some later date.

Responding to Chairman White, Ms. Chrise said that the petitioner has met all other requirements.

Petitioner's presentation:

Chairman White explained to the Petitioner that the Board members have received all documentation with regard to their petition and are familiar with the case.

Ms. Jodi Smelser of Hilton Displays, Inc., said she represents Federal Realty Investment Trust, owners of the property in question. She said that Staff provided all of the information necessary in its presentation to the Board. The petitioner is simply requesting the variation to allow signage that will be visible from the adjacent roadway, given the grade differential of the site from the roadway.

There being no comments from the public or additional discussion with the petitioner, Chairman White closed the opportunity for further public comment.

APPROVED 4/22/15

Board's Deliberation:

Mr. McCann said this is consistent with other petitions where there is a grade differential between the location of the sign and the grade of the adjacent roadway. He has no problem with approving this request.

Chairman White said that this application would not be applicable to the Village at large. This refers to one geographic location.

There being no contrary opinion from the Board, Chairman White called for a Motion.

Ms. Earl moved that in case 15-ZBA-0001, 1450 Butterfield Road, the Zoning Board of Appeals approve the petition subject to the conditions on page 4 of Staff's report dated February 25, 2015. Mr. McCann seconded the Motion.

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

NAYS: None

The Motion to approve carried unanimously.

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Mr. Popovich said there is no new business. He explained that the naming of cases before the Board has been changed to provide an easier method of case identification and archiving. There is no petition expected for the month of March.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Earl moved, seconded by Ms. Majauskas, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor. The Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman White adjourned the meeting at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonie Harrington
Recording Secretary