



# Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

**Council Chambers**

**July 18, 2023**

**07:00 PM**

## 1. Call to Order

Mayor Barnett called to order the Village Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. and let those in the room in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He explained the protocol for the meeting and the guidelines to submit public comment.

## 2. Roll Call

**Council Attendance (Present):** Mayor Barnett, Commissioner José, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt, Commissioner Gilmartin, Commissioner Glover, Commissioner Tully, Commissioner Davenport

**Council Attendance (Not Present):** None

**Non-Voting:** Village Manager Dave Fieldman, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca, and Village Clerk Rosa Berardi

## 3. Minutes of Council Meeting

### MIN 2023-9905 — A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - July 11, 2023

**MOTION:** To adopt the meeting minutes of the June 11, 2023, Village Council Meeting, as presented.

**RESULT:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner José

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

**AYES:** Commissioners José, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett

**NAYES:** None

## 4. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

## 5. Consent Agenda

**BIL 2022-9790** — A. Bills Payable: No. 6742 - July 18, 2023

**COR 2022-9791** — B. Claims Ordinance: No. 6513, Payroll - June 30, 2023

**RES 2023-9985** — C. Resolution: Adopt the 2023 DuPage County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

**Summary:** This resolution adopts the 2023 DuPage County Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**RESOLUTION 2023-47****COMMUNITY RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2023 DUPAGE COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

**MOTION:** *To adopt the consent agenda, as presented*

**RESULT:** *Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** *Commissioner Hosé*

**SECONDED BY:** *Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

**AYES:** *Commissioners Hosé, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett*

**NAYES:** *None*

**6. Active Agenda**

**ORD 2023-9992** — A. Ordinance: Amending Chapter 14 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code Concerning Motor Vehicles and Traffic

Summary: This ordinance amends certain sections within Chapter 14 of the Municipal Code concerning motor vehicles and traffic.

**ORDINANCE 5987****AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14 OF THE DOWNERS GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE**

**MOTION:** *To adopt AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 14 OF THE DOWNERS GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE, as presented.*

**RESULT:** *Motion carried unanimously by roll call.*

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** *Commissioner Hosé*

**SECONDED BY:** *Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

**AYES:** *Commissioners Hosé, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett*

**NAYES:** *None*

**MOT 2023-9986** — B. Motion: Direct Staff to Employ Traffic Calming Measures on Fairmount Avenue

Summary: This motion directs staff to employee traffic calming measures on Fairmount Avenue.

**MOTION:** *To adopt A Motion to Authorize Staff to Pursue Traffic Calming Measures on Fairmount Avenue as follows:*

- *Installation of additional enhanced speed limit signs.*
- *Use of speed feedback signs on a rotating basis.*
- *Increased enforcement efforts to deter violations of the posted limits.*
- *Review snow and ice control procedures related to the south leg of the intersection of 55<sup>th</sup> St. at Fairmount Ave.*
- *Review recommendations from Neighborhood Traffic Study #9 once completed, which includes Fairmount Ave. from 55<sup>th</sup> St. to 59<sup>th</sup> St. and will be considering potential signage or other countermeasures to address the occurrence of crashes on the downslope during winter conditions.*

**RESULT:** *Motion carried unanimously by roll call.*

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** *Commissioner Hosé*

**SECONDED BY:** *Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

**AYES:** *Commissioners Hosé, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett*

**NAYES:** *None*

Mayor Barnett stated that all the traffic calming measures that were listed in the packet were approved except for pavement striping.

**ORD 2023-9984** — C. Ordinance: Authorizing the Second Extension of Special Use Ordinance 5817 To Permit an Accessory Parking Lot Use Before the Principal Use is Established at 3131 Finley Road to July 19, 2024

**Summary:** This ordinance authorizes the second extension of Special Use Ordinance 5817 to permit an accessory parking lot use before the principal use is established at 3131 Finley Road to July 19, 2024.

**ORDINANCE 5987**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SECOND EXTENSION OF SPECIAL USE ORDINANCE 5817 TO PERMIT AN ACCESSORY PARKING LOT USE BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL USE IS ESTABLISHED AT 3131 FINLEY ROAD TO JULY 19, 2024**

***MOTION:** To adopt AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SECOND EXTENSION OF SPECIAL USE ORDINANCE 5817 TO PERMIT AN ACCESSORY PARKING LOT USE BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL USE IS ESTABLISHED AT 3131 FINLEY ROAD TO JULY 19, 2024, as presented.*

***RESULT:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call.*

***MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner José*

***SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

***AYES:** Commissioners José, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett*

***NAYES:** None*

## **7. First Reading**

There were no First Reading agenda items.

## **8. Mayor's Report**

There was no Mayor's Report.

## **9. Council Member Reports**

Commissioner Davenport stated there would be a sidewalk sale from Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Downtown area.

Commissioner Tully noted the long-time resident Doris Mae Hawk Mochel passed away at the age of 96. He explained that the Mochel family had a long and rich history in Downers Grove and that Mochel Drive, in Downers Grove, was named after the historic family. Doris was a big fan and contributor to the community and a big supporter of historic preservation. Commissioner Tully said that Village will benefit from her contributions for generations to come.

## **10. Manager's Report**

Deputy Village Manager Mike Baker gave an update on the Civic Center Project. He stated that work continues on the interior of the building on the mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems. On the exterior of the building, a significant amount of work has been done in the parking lot, with curbs being installed and the sub base for the permeable paver area to be installed in the weeks ahead. Mr. Baker said that masonry work is expected to begin in the coming weeks. He concluded by stating that work remains on schedule and under budget.

**Mayor Barnett called for a short recess at 7:09 pm., stating that the Village Council Meeting would reconvene in the Committee Room to continue discussions on the Village's Long Range Plan for 2023-2025. He welcomed the audience to join the meeting in the Committee Room.**

**REP 2023-9994 — A. Report: Long Range Planning: Priority Action Items**

Mayor Barnett explained that the purpose of this meeting was to create a list of high priority actions items, in order to begin to create a work plan for the Village Council for the next two(ish) years. He said the list that would be put together at this meeting would be reviewed during future LRP meetings to determine if the items on the list should be placed in the work plan.

Village Manager Dave Fieldman said it was great to see a lot of members of the public at the meeting. He called attention to the one-page addendum to LRP Report #3 Trends and Issues that was included with the meeting's agenda materials. Manager Fieldman explained that the Village is not going to receive a loan through the IEPA for water system improvements. The addendum, included with the meeting's agenda materials, shows the strategies to readdress that with the new rate study in the coming year. Manager Fieldman noted that as the Council continues to compile what they would like on the work plan list, the following 14 items had already been identified:

1. ***Facility Replacement and Sustainability Plan (FRSP) – Civic Center Project (In Progress)***  
Manager Fieldman explained this includes selecting a developer and the land use for Lot 2, the decommissioning and demolishing of the two buildings (Village Hall and Police Station), as well as move operations into the new building. He said the Village's portion of the work will be completed in 2024 and the redevelopment of Lot 2 is scheduled to be completed in 2026.
2. ***Implement the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System (In Progress)***  
Manager Fieldman said this multi-year project should finish up by the end of 2023, having just a few modules to complete.
3. ***Building Code Update (In Progress)***  
Manager Fieldman noted the Village staff has begun working on the update of building codes in order to maintain a safer environment and to keep in good standing with FEMA and the ISO group (in terms of insurance ratings); community engagement is expected to begin soon and Council will provide direction on changes and updates by the end of the year.
4. ***Lead Service Line Replacement Plan (In Progress)***  
Manager Fieldman said this is required by the State of Illinois by 2027. He explained that an inventory of lead service lines has already started and early next year the Council will see the preliminary plan. He concluded by stating that it is the next iteration of the Village Council that will put the finishing touches on the final plan.
5. ***Review Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Practice (In Progress)***  
Manager Fieldman said this has been on the list and in progress for a couple of years. The current project has focused on activities of the Village, as an employer and a place of employment. It has focused primarily on attraction, retention, and hiring practices, thus looking for a more diverse makeup of Village staff. Manager Fieldman said the Village has had huge successes in this area. He suggested anyone interested in learning more should review the statistics in the Village's 2022 Annual Report. Manager Fieldman said this practice has been baked into the way the Village operates and whether or not it is on the work plan, the Village will continue this practice.
6. ***Meadowbrook TIF Creation and Redevelopment (In Progress)***  
Manager Fieldman stated the Village Council previously provided direction on the execution of the Meadowbrook Tax Increment Financing District (TIF) and the Redevelopment Agreement. He said the Village will be assisting financially with the revitalization of the aging center; further stating that Council previously provided direction on the project in terms of the duration of the TIF District and that the execution of the Redevelopment Agreement should be wrapped up late 2023 or early 2024.
7. ***Public Safety Pension Smoothing Policy/Stabilization Fund***

**8. *Ogden TIF Extension******Item #7 and #8:***

Manager Fieldman said that #7 Public Safety Pension Smoothing Policy/Stabilization Fund is aimed at smoothing the impact on taxpayers by creating a fund, a policy or both. Manager Fieldman said this was discussed at a previous LRP meeting. He also explained that the Public Safety Pension Smoothing Policy/Stabilization Fund was also tied to a discussion about extending the existing Ogden Avenue Tax Increment Financing District (#8 Ogden TIF Extension). This would allow the Village to spend the fund balance that will be in place at the time it expires. This is because any monies, in any increment, that were to come in after the original completion date would be declared surplus and would be distributed to other taxing bodies. He explained by extending the Ogden TIF, it gives the Village time to spend out the money that would be in the fund at the time that it expires

**9. *Convert Commuter Permit Parking at Belmont and Fairview to Daily Fee Spaces***

Manager Fieldman stated that a previous discussion with the Council has taken place regarding the idea of changes to the Village's Commuter Parking System. This would mean converting the Fairview Train Station and the Belmont Train Station from a quarterly permit system, to a daily fee system. The Main Street Parking Campus would continue to be monitored and a future determination would be made on that.

**10. *Fairview Focus Area Implementation Plan***

Manager Fieldman explained that this is a big one and involves the implementation of the 2017 Comprehensive Plan recommendations for this area. He further explained that the Comp Plan gave recommendations and direction on how to revitalize, rejuvenate and make changes to this area around the Fairview Train Station. There was a write up included in the meeting's agenda materials. He stated this project would take a couple of decades and compared it to that of the downtown area. The Downtown Revitalization Project ran from the late 1990's through approximately two years ago. Manager Fieldman stated that if this project is going to be worked on, it needed to be a part of the Village Council's work plan and would need to be started as soon as possible.

**11. *Community Grants Program***

Manager Fieldman said that the idea of creating a Community Grants Program, similar to a Village program that ended in 2010, was discussed during a previous LRP meeting. He said this project would provide Village funding to not-for-profit agencies for support of their operations and missions, consistent with some of the Village's policy outcomes.

**12. *Environmental Sustainability Plan***

Manager Fieldman said this would be based on the Greenest Region Compact Framework, as discussed during the last Long Range Planning meeting. He said the Council's direction was reflected in the written report included with the agenda material. Manager Fieldman continued by stating this project may include the engagement of the Environmental Concerns Commission, the hiring of a professional staff member with expertise in the environmental area, and the Village may also hire and engage a consultant as part of the team to help prepare and launch the plan.

**13. *Comprehensive Plan Update***

Manager Fieldman said that a comprehensive update was made to the Village's Comprehensive Plan in 2011 and additional updates were made in 2017. It is due for another update. He noted this is a planning document that addresses transportation, land use, public facilities, and open spaces, etc. Manager Fieldman stated that if direction is given by the Council to undertake this project, the Village may need to engage a consultant to help (as done in 2011 & 2017), depending on the scope of the update.

**14. *Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update***

Manager Fieldman referenced several conversations the Council has engaged in regarding the importance of providing a safe transportation network for all users, particularly bicyclists and pedestrians. The current Bike and Pedestrian Plan was put into place in 2013. Manager Fieldman said that based on Council direction and communication in the last couple of months, it is clear that the Bike and Pedestrian Plan, put into place in 2013, needs to be updated. He stated that a consultant may be hired to assist and noted that Sam Schwartz Consulting assisted in 2013.

**Village Council Comments/Questions**

The Mayor said the process at the meeting was to allow people to talk. He said all the items not marked with IP (In Progress) on the White Board must be pursued. He explained he wanted to allow all the Council members an opportunity to speak first.

Commissioner Glover stated that Village staff has done a good job on the initial 6 of the 14 items. He noted that he has a business in mind for the t Fairview Focus Area, but they could not locate there because of the zoning. Commissioner Glover said he thinks this project provides a good opportunity for the Fairview corridor to connect to the downtown. He stated that the revitalization needed to be done in order to save the train station, especially because of the possible conversion of the parking lot. Commissioner Glover noted that the current outdoor dining situation was a temporary solution for restaurants and it was marked as completed on the current priority action list. He said he wants to go further and help restaurants with permanent solutions that are more aesthetically pleasing and that make it easier for patrons to walk in the downtown, without having to walk around tables. Commissioner Glover stated this could be a huge attraction for people and he suggested using parking areas to expand the outdoor dining area. Commissioner Glover also suggested un-tabling the idea of video gaming and allowing it in restaurants that have a current liquor license; further stating that it could be a value to establishments that are outside of the downtown area like the Ogden Avenue corridor, 75<sup>th</sup> Street, and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street by attracting more business to those areas. He explained the financial benefits for the Village would include collecting fees and sharing in the earnings, which could potentially be used to fund the Community Grants Program. Commissioner Glover said he believes the stigma behind gambling is gone and everyone is looking to monetize from it. He concluded by stating that he does not want to be the last to jump on that revenue stream.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt echoed the statements by Commissioner Glover. She also said she would like for the Village to put a Private Tree Ordinance in place that would require plans set by a certified arborist to help minimize the loss of trees. She said she would also like to have a fund that would help with tree replacements and other environmental issues. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt also stated that she wants to take a look at possible inclusive housing practices. The Commissioner said she would like to take a comprehensive look at how the Village could lower the entry level cost to live in the Village; further referring a voluntary program run by the City of Naperville. She said the program could be optional to participate in and offer participates things like a reduced permit fee or fast track permit. She said she ultimately wants to lower the entry cost to live in the Village. Next, Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she wants to revisit the Village's Sign Ordinance and would like to incorporate digitization and public art murals. She expanded and stated that there is so much technology now a days that can assist with things like parking; she said she felt the Village had plenty of parking but people are not aware of when they can park in lots and where spots are available. Additionally, the Commissioner added that digital signage could assist with emergency type situations. When it comes to public murals, she wants to move forward to allow the businesses that have invested in Downers Grove some creative expression. She stated that she believes that most of the Village's small business owners live in town and she does not believe they would put images up that would turn people away from their business or from Downers Grove.

Commissioner José stated that he agreed with all 14 items on the list.

Commissioner Gilmartin expressed his belief that the Fairview Focus Area Implementation Plan is an important initiative and he wanted to start now with it. He stated that the Bike and Pedestrian Plan is important to him. It was last updated in 2013 needs to be more than just updated. He believes it should become a priority for the Village to really map out how the Village can be more focused on non-motorized traffic and be more of a pedestrian first type of community. Commissioner Gilmartin said he thinks this initiative touches all the Village's overall goals including safety, environmental friendliness, and it can provide an economic boost. He stated a vision needs to be created and then put into action. He said he appreciates Village staff's efforts over the years to implement many of the ideas in certain spots of town, but there is not a full comprehensive view of what could be done. He said he wants the Village to think big, as it was owed to future generations. Commissioner Gilmartin stated he wants to treat the plan as a living

document that can be implemented for years and decades to come. Next, Commissioner Gilmartin spoke of the importance of Community Grants, stating that he would like to take a look at how they have been handled in the past and that he has some ideas to share with the group in the future. The Commissioner said that he is interested in how the Comprehensive Plan and the Fairview Focus Area projects can be tied into things like the Outdoor Dining Plan and the Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Lastly, he thanked Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt for her comments about a Private Tree ordinance and thought that was also an important project.

Commissioner Davenport said he is 100% on board with all that had been discussed. He noted the Fairview Focus Area is a great place to implement new ideas and hopes that what comes out of it can be applied elsewhere in town. Commissioner Davenport said he has a list that includes some of his own ideas that he discussed with people during his campaign; further stating that many of them are interconnected. As an example, he spoke of the importance of having a bike and pedestrian connection between Fairview Avenue and the downtown – one that has nice landscaping, lighting and other visually inviting features. Commissioner Davenport discussed that these places are geographically close and having a physical connection seems easy to do. He said that since the Village owns a lot of property along the tracks and parking at the train station, the Village could afford to give up some space on the north side of Burlington. Commissioner Davenport explained that he runs along the paths and he thinks connections can be made to paths at the Village limits intersecting with neighboring communities. Next, Commissioner Davenport said he agrees with the idea of a pedestrian first community and the need for permanent, attractive, and safe outdoor dining; this includes the possibility of giving up some parking for it. The Commissioner then stated that he agrees with the idea of video gaming, outside of the downtown area. He said though he is not interested in doing it himself, he recognizes many people enjoy it. He spoke of adjacent towns already having it and that there is a need for regulation to fit within Downers Grove. Commissioner Davenport said video gaming is a fundamental right for Illinoisans and that the Village is currently missing out on that revenue stream. The Commissioner then moved on and said that he is happy about the update to the building codes because the Village is currently working off of the 2015 IRC. He added there are also some stormwater regulations that have been in place for several years. He then spoke about the challenges he faces as an architect with underground water detention. Commissioner Davenport also suggested the possibility of offering people the opportunity to save trees and not cut them down, in lieu of putting in underground water detention. He noted it was a good first start with regulations, but there are a lot of nuances that could be tweaked with regard to zoning. Next, Commissioner Davenport said he would like to include facade improvement grant incentives, similar to past years, encouraging businesses to improve their look and enhance existing buildings. He said when he was the chair of the Architectural Design Review Board (now called the Historic Preservation and Design Review Board) they explored the idea of Neighborhood Conservation Districts and he would like to bring back this discussion. Commissioner Davenport explained this would mean looking at different areas of town and identifying what it is about the neighborhood/community that defines its character and then preserving the element that ties everything together. He moved on and stated that he sees affordable housing at all price points. He said there was concern for those that make the least amount of money and that bringing back the Community Grants Program could help that demographic as well. The Commissioner continued by noting that there are many \$1 million plus homes in the Village and the housing stock is out of reach for the everyday working person. He said he thinks the power of zoning is so big and encourages exploring single family zoning districts that complement the neighborhood, possibly including some nice duplex type of units. Commissioner Davenport also suggested having a discussion regarding accessory dwelling units (an apartment attached to the garage) which current zoning does not allow. Lastly, he stated that he agreed with considering digital signs, with the Village having the power to regulate them. He gave an example of a digital Village gateway sign that announces upcoming Village events. Commissioner Davenport concluded by noting that a complete relaunch of the Comprehensive Plan was a must, as it has been in place since 2017 and does not reflect today's reality where people work from home and the changes that have happened within the retail environment.

Commissioner Tully thanked all the residents that attended the meeting, forsaking the Music in the Park. He expressed his excitement for the topics discussed, many of which have been spoken about on and off for 20 years. Commissioner Tully said there is nothing on the list he disagrees with and that he was struck by how much interconnection there is on the list - almost all of it relates to the Comprehensive Plan. He noted that the world has changed a lot and that the Bike and Pedestrian Plan (what used to be called the Transit Oriented Design) was a big part of the Comprehensive Plan,

along with the topics of environmental sustainability, open space, and a Private Tree Ordinance. He spoke a Private Tree Ordinance and stated he would like to do something similar to what was done with the Historic Preservation. When first introduced, Historic Preservation was met with resistance, but now is very successful. Commissioner Tully said there are almost 30 voluntary landmarks in the Village and he thinks something creatively similar could happen with trees. Commissioner Tully also spoke of trying to change the sign ordinance for a long time and now is a good time to completely revamp it, and recognize it as part of the Comprehensive Plan. He said places like schools and the Tivoli have been requesting updated signage, as well as other businesses in town. Commissioner Tully said he would like to revisit video gaming as well, since it had never actually been voted on. He said video gaming could be allowed outside of the downtown area, similar to food trucks. He thinks it can be done on a pilot basis, as a way to collect data. Commissioner Tully recognized video gaming as a lost revenue opportunity, much like food and beverage taxes were before the Village started charging it. He also noted that other Villages that allow video gaming are taking the revenue that Downers Grove could be making; revenue that could be put toward other initiatives. Commissioner Tully noted the interconnectivity of the things mentioned and how he is in favor of them being a part of the Comprehensive Plan. The Commissioner then stated that two things are very important when considering all of the initiatives 1.) A broader community conversation; and 2) Collaboration with other public entities and private entities. He stressed the importance of a broader community conversation about initiatives concerning private treat ordinances, video gaming, inclusive housing, environmental sustainability, transit oriented development – the whole community should be encouraged to have a voice. He then concluded by stating that collaborating with other entities would make the impact of the initiatives much greater and could turn them into force multipliers.

The Mayor stated that beyond the Fairview conversation, the linkage to the downtown includes the entire Rogers area, and he wants to think of the area as broader than thought of right now. He also said on the public side of things, he thinks they should review the process for planting trees, budgeting for them and where to plant them; further stating that when driving down the streets there are areas where it seems trees could be planted. The Mayor spoke of standard street cross sections and that, historically, replacements have been done instead of improvements and he would like to address everything by including a broader scope. He explained this means when putting together the improvement plan for the next year, the design is driven by the Council's goals. The Mayor said he is calling this initiative the Downtown Greening, Landscape, and Hardscape Initiative. He stated that the world is changing (i.e., parking demands and habits of commuters, walkers, and bikers) and the Village should consider what can be done differently giving examples of where to bump the curbs out and where to the fill grass in or not. He said if the Village had a different set of goals, things may be done a little differently. On a related note, the Mayor stated that Village could have an impact immediately on Village owned spaces, like parkways, without any collaboration. He then further stated that parkway spaces are the window to the community and he believes the Village's standards and expectations could be improved. He continued by stating that would require planning because there are many interconnected things such as utilities, rights of way, etc. Next, the Mayor stated that he also believes that the gateway signs to the Village should be replaced.

Manager Fieldman said he wrote down the gateway sign replacement, however, it had already been logged as an actual project and not a priority action item.

Mayor Barnett continued and spoke about a possible Public Art Space Leasing Program, a program similar to that of outdoor dining. He said that arrangements could be made for people to lease space and the Village would remain in complete control. He continued by stating that he does not know what it would look like but stated that he pictures statues, and such, that are on pedestals. He said this would provide the opportunity to get art into the public's view and enhance the Village. The Mayor then stated that he wants to review regulations for parking, bike accessibility and green space for private commercial developments. He stated that the Village has a set of standards for this and he believes they can be adjusted in a way that would be more accessible and greater. Next, Mayor Barnett spoke about the current Comp Plan and commercial nodes. He spoke of areas such as 63<sup>rd</sup> and Main, along 75<sup>th</sup> Street, and also along Ogden Avenue, where he believes public nodes should be incorporated, as when there are long stretches of pavement, there needs to be areas where people can recharge.

Manager Fieldman said that he and the Village staff had been taking notes and captured what had been discussed.

Mayor Barnett explained that staff will find a way to put the Council's ideas into some kind of order with additional context. He explained that all of the Council members needed to mention their ideas at this meeting, as the next step would be to put qualifiers on all the items. He explained that he would give the Council another opportunity to speak before the meeting ended. The Mayor then gave the residents an opportunity to give their input.

### **Public Comments**

Bill Chalberg, with the Downers Grove Bicycle Club, said Downers Grove is a nice place to ride and he thinks the Village Council understands the issues. He said he is very appreciative for the work that has been done and excited for the work to be completed.

Glenn Hoffman, 840 Maple Avenue, asked about the implementation process for school zones and expressed concerns about the high concentration area of Washington Ave. to Main Street, where speed limits are 30mph.

Manager Fieldman said that residents had already contacted staff regarding this issue and conversations had begun at the staff level and the topic will make its way to Council.

A member of the Downers Grove Bike Club noted that Downers Grove does not have safe enough areas to ride in comparison to other communities like Naperville. He spoke about the popularity of e-bikes, the environmental benefits of biking, and that he wants the Council to have a vision, start implementing it, and make biking safe.

Steve Ruffolo spoke about his wishes to see the Bike Plan in place. He spoke about the importance of environmental sustainability; further stating that he would like to see the ECC reinstated, a staff member with expertise, and a consultant, as mentioned by Manager Fieldman.

A new resident said it was her first meeting since moving to Downers Grove a year ago. She offered to contribute wherever possible.

Robin Tryloff, a resident, stated she put together an email to the Council and read a few points from it. She spoke of the importance of affordable housing and a possible Arts and Culture Sign Ordinance; further stating that regulations could be put into place, so that the Village maintained control.

Linda Schranz, a resident that works for Hope's Front Door, said affordable, inclusive housing is important to her and she believes it is a problem that there are people that work in town that cannot afford to live in it. She also spoke about the need to update the Village's Sign Ordinance, the proposed Bike and Pedestrian Plan, the Fairview Avenue Corridor, and the need to make outdoor dining safer.

Laura Temple, 1115 Prairie, said she has seen a six-person electric golf cart on Forest Avenue and is unsure if they are allowed on the streets. She suggested thinking about making rules regarding golf carts on the streets.

Mayor Barnett stated he has gotten comments about e-bikes being too fast for riding on the sidewalk. He noted that the LRP process addresses constantly changing needs, where the existing environment does not necessarily fit.

Hilary Denk, 433 Wilson Street, is interested in the Fairview Redevelopment Plan and believes that connectivity to the downtown is essential. She is in favor of public art and said she also wants the Council to continue to focus their attention on stormwater improvements.

Lisa, a resident, lives on 61<sup>st</sup> Street, encouraged the Council to have a triple bottom line: financial, social and environmental. She referenced how bike paths can boost the economy and get people out and together. She proposed a Climate Adaptation or Readiness Plan due to climate changes.

A resident said she is pleased with a couple things on the list, but spoke against the Bike and Pedestrian Plan, stating that she is a part of the community that cannot ride bikes or even walk well. The resident stressed the need for parking

in the downtown, so that people that are a part of her demographic can participate in events with the rest of the community.

Ken Lerner said was pleased with the discussion about trees and was excited when the Mayor recently spoke about the Chicago Tree Initiative. He suggested the Village look into the help of the experts at the Arboretum with regard to the aspects of the tree coverage within the Village.

A resident said she is proud to live in Downers Grove and spoke of the GRC, stating that there should be a Sustainability Plan (Option 3B) in place to do things like protect the Village, save the Village money, and bring tourism to the Village.

The Mayor asked if anyone from the Council wanted to add to the list.

Commissioner Gilmartin clarified that fine-tuning of the list will happen in the upcoming meetings.

The Mayor concurred and stated that staff may be reaching out directly to Council to clarify some of the items that were mentioned at the meeting.

## 12. Adjournment

Mayor Barnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION:** *To adjourn the July 18, 2023 Village Council Meeting.*

**RESULT:** *Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** *Commissioner José*

**SECONDED BY:** *Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt*

**AYES:** *Commissioners José, Sadowski-Fugitt, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Gilmartin, Mayor Barnett*

**NAYES:** *None*

Mayor Barnett declared the motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosa Berardi  
Village Clerk