



# Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

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Council Chambers

July 09, 2024

07:00 PM

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## 1. Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

## 2. Roll Call

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

**Council Attendance (Not Present):** Mayor Barnett

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

## 3. Minutes of Council Meetings

**MIN 2024-10209** — A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2024

**MOTION:** To adopt *The Meeting Minutes of the June 18, 2024, Village Council Meeting*, as presented.

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

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Gilmartin,

**AYES:** Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro Tem Hosé

**NAYES:** None

## 4. Public Comments

Vivian Grella, resident, requested the Council consider applicant Bo Martin as a candidate, for the appointment to the Library Board of Trustee.

Clorinda Greco, business owner, expressed concerns about the possibility of eliminating parking to accommodate permanent outdoor dining. She suggested additional outdoor entertainment events/areas to draw in patrons to all of the downtown business establishments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hosé shared that the Council is still listening and has not made decisions. He said discussions will take place with consultants and there will be additional public input before the Council makes any final decisions.

Janet Whittingham, resident, spoke about concerns with Council comments made at the last meeting, she referenced the Council's Long Rang Planning process, and opined that the Guiding DG process is moving too quickly and without consideration. Ms. Whittingham also expressed concerns about eliminating parking to accommodate permanent outdoor dining cafes.

Mayor Pro-Tem José clarified that the Council's high priority action item process was created for large items, that take a large amount of Village staff and Council time. He explained that the items are put on the LRP because they are big items, not because a conclusion has already been made – if conclusions were made, then votes would have been taken.

Selma Moberg, resident, expressed concern with the Council limiting the amount of time for public comments. She also expressed concerns with a Council comment made at the last meeting about parking.

Mayor Pro-Tem José provided clarification about his comment, stating the comment he made was that the Council is not eliminating “all” of the parking in the downtown. He said if members of the public are stating that “all” of the downtown parking is being eliminated, it is mischaracterizing the truth, and he stood by his statement.

Ian Ogden, resident, said he is concerned about a lack of transparency and feedback regarding Guiding DG. He said the public should be able to hear what the progress is, so that they can get an idea of how things are going.

## 5. Consent Agenda

**BIL 2024-10234** — A. Bills Payable: No. 6810 - July 2, 2024 and No. 6812 - July 9, 2024

**COR 2024-10232** — B. Claims Ordinance: No. 6559, Payroll - June 14, 2024

**RES 2024-10393** — C. Resolution: Authorize the Disposal of Personal Property Owned by the Village of Downers Grove

**Summary:** This resolution authorizes the disposal of personal property owned by the Village of Downers Grove pursuant to Section 2.35 of the Municipal Code.

### **RESOLUTION 2024-52**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

**RES 2024-10416** — D. Resolution: Approve a Three-year Agreement with LexisNexis Risk Solutions for Subscriptions to Accurint Virtual Crime Center and Trax

**Summary:** This resolution approves a three-year agreement with LexisNexis Risk Solutions for subscriptions to Accurint Virtual Crime Center and Trax.

### **RESOLUTION 2024-53**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND LEXISNEXIS RISK SOLUTIONS FL, INC.**

**RES 2024-10411** — E. Resolution: Appoint Mary Kate Guy as Deputy Village Clerk for the Village of Downers Grove

**Summary:** This resolution appoints Mary Kate Guy as Deputy Village Clerk for the Village of Downers Grove

### **RESOLUTION 2024-54**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARY KATE GUY AS DEPUTY VILLAGE CLERK FOR THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

**MOT 2024-10412** — F. Motion: Approve a Contract with H. Linden and Sons Sewer and Water, Inc. of Plano, Illinois, for the Fairview Avenue and 6th Street Drainage Improvements

**Summary:** This motion awards a contract for the Fairview Avenue and 6th Street Drainage Improvements to H. Linden and Sons Sewer and Water, Inc. of Plano, Illinois, in an amount not to exceed \$422,417.73, which includes a 5% contingency.

**MOT 2024-10414** — G. Motion: Approve a Contract with Misfits Construction Company of Chicago, Illinois for the 2024 IDOT Bridge Improvements

**Summary:** This motion awards a contract for the 2024 IDOT Bridge Improvements to Misfits Construction Company of Chicago, Illinois in the amount of \$118,550.00.

**MOT 2024-10417** — H. Motion: Approve a Three-Year Contract to Vega Building Maintenance of Romeoville, Illinois, for Cleaning Services for Village-Maintained Assets

**Summary:** This motion approves a three-year contract for cleaning services for Village-maintained assets with Vega Building Maintenance, of Romeoville, IL in the amount of \$706,673.26, which includes a 10% contingency for emergency cleaning visits.

**MOTION:** To adopt **The Consent Agenda of the July 09, 2024 meeting**, as presented.

**RESULT:** Motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote.

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Gilmartin

**AYES:** Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro Tem José

**NAYES:** None

## 6. Active Agenda

**ORD 2024-10402** — A. Ordinance: Rezoning Certain Property Located at 2424 Ogden Avenue (2424 Ogden Planned Unit Development) **ORDINANCE 6055**

**Summary:** This ordinance rezones certain property located at 2424 Ogden Avenue (2424 Ogden A Planned Unit Development).

**MOTION:** To adopt **AN ORDINANCE REZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2424 OGDEN AVENUE (2424 OGDEN PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT)**, as presented. **ORDINANCE 6055**

**RESULT:** Motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote.

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Gilmartin

**AYES:** Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro Tem José

**NAYES:** None

**ORD 2024-10403** — B. Ordinance: Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Downers Grove to Designate the Property at 2424 Ogden Avenue as Planned Unit Development #69 **ORDINANCE 6056**

**Summary:** This ordinance amends the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Downers Grove to designate the property at 244 Ogden Avenue as Planned Unit Development #69.

**MOTION:** To adopt **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS TO DESIGNATE THE PROPERTY AT 2424 OGDEN AVENUE AS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT #69 (2424 OGDEN PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT)**, as presented.

**ORDINANCE 6056**

**RESULT:** Motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote.

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Gilmartin

**AYES:** Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro Tem José

**NAYES:** None

**ORD 2024-10404** — C. Ordinance: Authorizing a Special Use for 2424 Ogden Avenue to Permit a Vehicle Repair and Maintenance Business **ORDINANCE 6056**

**Summary:** An motion authorizes a special use to permit an personal vehicle repair and maintenance business.

**MOTION:** To adopt **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL USE FOR 2424 OGDEN AVENUE TO PERMIT A VEHICLE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE BUSINESS**, as presented. **ORDINANCE 6056**

**RESULT:** Motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote.

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE:** Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt

**SECONDED BY:** Commissioner Gilmartin

**AYES:** Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro Tem José

**NAYES:** None

## 7. First Reading

**MOT 2024-10413** — H. Motion: Approve a Contract to Swallow Construction Corp of West Chicago, Illinois, for the Washington Street Drainage Improvements

Public Works Director Scott Vasko presented via PowerPoint. He provided details about the contract, the schedule of work to be completed (July 2024 – November 2024), and he reviewed a map of the area.

### Village Council Questions/Comments

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt shared that she lives in the Fairmount area and questioned why curbs and gutters are not going to be installed.

Village Manager Dave Fieldman explained that about a 1/3 of the Village does not have curb and gutters, and that they are only installed if they are necessary to convey storm water. He said that Village staff has looked into this because they have received inquiries and he provided the reasons why curb and gutters are not always installed - i.e. rights-of-way and the grading of private properties. Manager Fieldman explained this has come up in past years during LRP, and that installing curb and gutters throughout town would have a significant impact on the Village Budget. He said that if the Council wants to go in that direction, a bigger discussion needed to happen.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked if the Washington Street drainage improvement process will clean up the roads – especially on the side of the street that cars park. Manager Fieldman confirmed.

Commissioner Davenport said he also lives on the south side and knows this is needed in the area. He said that adding curb and gutters in this area would set a precedent for future projects, so he agrees that a bigger conversation would need to happen. He shared that the benefits of leaving the streets as they are and opined that doing things this way makes the most sense. The Commissioner pointed out that he appreciates that lead line replacements in the area will be taken care of during this project, further mentioning that it is thoughtful on the Village's part. He shared that he plans to support this item.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if the finished project will match what the surrounding streets have.

Mr. Vasko confirmed and said they will be redefined.

Commissioner Gilmartin requested that staff share a picture of a similar area where this type of project was completed - this way the Council can have an idea of what the finished project will look like.

Commissioner Tully said that doing projects like this is an example of the Village showing good financial stewardship, and doing things in this way is the most cost effective, and preventative way to control storm water. The Commissioner said he thinks if curb and gutters were installed, there would be residents that would not want them.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said his idea of a complete street includes curb and gutters, so he is interested in having a discussion about them as a part of Long Range Planning.

## 8. Council Member Reports

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt shared that the Grove Foundation Annual Golf Outing is on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Belmont Golf Club. She said flyers will be out soon with further details.

Commissioner Tully thanked all that came out for the Independence Day Parade and thanked the Village Police and Fire teams for keeping everyone safe. He also thanked Village staff for their work on the event.

Mayor Pro-Tem José echoed Commissioner Tully's comments about the parade. He also thanked Commissioner Tully for purchasing the candy handed out at the parade.

**A. New Business Item**

**REP 2024-10420** — 1. Consider Combining the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals into One Board or Commission

**MOTION: To direct staff to prepare an ordinance combining the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals into one board or commission.**

**RESULT: Motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote.**

**MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt**

**SECONDED BY: Commissioner Gilmartin**

**AYES: Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin, Davenport, Tully, Glover, Mayor Pro Tem José**

**NAYES: None**

**Village Council Comments**

Mayor Pro-Tem José explained this new business item is being put forth by Mayor Barnett, and the request involves combining the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Plan Commission into one board or commission. He shared that the Zoning Board of Appeals has seen a dramatic decrease in cases over the last few years, which is largely due to changes in the Zoning Code. He also said that there may also be some frustration with having residents on a board that does not function a lot. Mayor Pro Tem José expressed that this would provide more efficiency and effectiveness with regard to having a holistic view of the Village's Zoning Code and its application when considering either an item for rezoning or an appeal. He opened the conversation up to the rest of the Council.

Commissioner Tully shared that the Council needs to bring new concepts up as a New Business Item in order to ask Village staff to take the time necessary to fully vet the concept. He said a vote would be taken by the Council that would allow staff to invest the time needed to provide both information and background on the topic. He said that, along with public input, and input from the ZBA itself, will allow the Council to make an informed decision. Commissioner Tully then shared that similar to this, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Zoning Commission were combined back in 2002, because the Zoning Commission was not meeting much. He explained this has to do with changes in the things that come before the boards. Commissioner Tully further explained that the Plan Commission exists by statute and the ZBA is a local entity. He concluded by stating it is worth getting more information, to discuss it, and to hear what the boards have to say about if it continues to streamline processes and increase efficiency.

Manager Fieldman said process wise, if there is a yes vote on this item, it would simply authorize staff to take the next steps in the process - which would most likely include a public hearing, that may take place in August, before the Plan Commission. This would allow for public comment and for the Commission to weigh in and give a recommendation to the Council - which would be more developed in the form of a draft ordinance. The item would then come back to the Council, likely in September, allowing for additional public input. Then, at that time, the Council would ultimately make a decision on the ordinance.

Commissioner Tully said he is in favor of exploring this, sharing that it was important in 2002 for the applicants to see how the application process would change, and things would likely be the same when considering this.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt echoed Commissioner Tully and said she wants to understand what the changes in the process would be. She said it should be put forth to the Plan Commission to discuss and consider, because they will be absorbing the duties of the ZBA. She also asked if there would be an opportunity to hear from the ZBA, even if just at the staff level. The Commissioner further shared that she thinks it could be frustrating for residents that volunteer for boards/commissions to reserve their rights for board meetings that do not happen. She stressed that she would like to hear the opinions of both boards before deciding if this is the right direction to take. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt also shared that she did some introductory research on this, and there are a good amount of municipalities that have already combined the boards.

Commissioner Davenport said this idea is appealing to him. He explained why the Village has the ZBA and that the Plan Commission gives ideas for items that need to be presented to the ZBA. He said the ZBA does not have a workload right now, and he thinks the adjudication should go to the Plan Commission, because it would streamline the

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process, making things more effective and simpler. Commissioner Davenport said he would like this decision to be made before member appointments are made to the ZBA.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if Village staff would be providing the recommendation once the Plan Commission has had their public meeting and gives their input. He also asked what body would be making the decisions on the appeals, if this moves forward.

Manager Fieldman said it would be both, it would be an explanation of the likely consequences of the action, combined with the recommendation from staff. It would also have the benefit of the public record and the recommendation from the Plan Commission itself.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked what body would be making the decisions on the appeals.

Manager Fieldman explained that a draft ordinance would say that all of the functions of the current ZBA, and of the current Plan Commission, would be under one advisory board or commission.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he had a concern with a body being its own appeal board, and asked for clarification.

Village Attorney Enza Petrarca explained that, currently, the appeals go to the ZBA, and with this they would go to the new board and ultimately would come back to the Village Council.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he understood and looks forward to discussing this further.

Commissioner Glover said for the reasons mentioned by his colleagues, he would like for staff to look further into this. He added that he has respect for the time and schedules of the volunteers, so this makes a lot of sense.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked for clarification that the appeal would be a staff appeal that the board would hear (and would not an appeal from the board itself).

Commissioner Tully said there is a higher body, even beyond the board (the Village Council) that would also hear it.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said he agreed with all the efficiency arguments, the ideas that have been put forward, and also agreed with getting additional information on this, having the Plan Commission and staff's input, and seeing the language of a proposed ordinance - it all makes sense. He shared that though this is not urgent, he too thinks it is timely because the appointment process for boards and commissions typically takes place in or around August, further stating that sometimes it may take a little longer than other times. He shared that in addition to that, there is a fair amount of work in terms of the Comprehensive Plan and the sub plans that is taking place. He said with the Plan Commissions work load possibly changing, it will be good to know that before the appointment process takes place - to be sure they have the appropriate number of board members.

Commissioner Tully spoke about the timing of this and even members are appointed for a short period of time, the Village can communicate this in many way – including via the current discussions, communication at the time of appointments, or creating shorter appointments. He further shared that there is of urgency to push this through, i.e. like changes in the State law. He said he was confident that this can be communicated to volunteers appropriately, so they fully understand upon appointment. Commissioner Tully also explained that with all of the other things the Council is working on in terms of land use, he feels hesitant to make this change before taking the time to really analyze it.

Commissioner Davenport asked if there were any current board member openings on the ZBA.

Manager Fieldman said he thought there were openings on both boards, but he would double check.

Commissioner Davenport expressed concerns with doing this after the appointments, but understands if it cannot be done that way.

**Public Comments**

Janet Whittingham, returned to the podium and asked if a combined board would create an increase in board members - to allow for more participation by Village residents. She opined that the opportunity should be spread as wide as possible.

Selma Moberg returned to the podium and suggested that a clock be placed behind the Council dais for the residents to keep track of their time during public comment.

Eileen Briner, resident, asked for clarification regarding the appeal process.

Commissioner Tully explained that staff makes the appeal and the Plan Commission would hear the appeal.

Mayor Pro Tem José called for a 5 minute break at 8:00pm. He invited all to join in the Committee Room for the Managers Report.

**9. Manager's Report****REP 2024-10425** — A. Guiding DG Discussion: Existing Conditions Report

The meeting reconvened at 8:05 pm in the Committee Room. Mayor Pro Tem José explained that this meeting was a continuation of the last Village Council meeting's discussion of the Existing Conditions Report. He said that the Council had a detailed discussion with regard to the Guiding DG Existing Conditions Report, but only received a quick overview of the Bike and Ped and Streetscape Plans during the discussion, so this meeting would provide those additional details.

Manager Fieldman started off by addressing a public comment about transparency. He shared the Project Status Update Calendar (from the Village website), and explained that the calendar provides a timeline of the project processes and events. He introduced Josh Koonce, Practice Lead with Houseal Lavigne.

Josh Koonce began his presentation by explaining that all big public facing Guiding DG events would be listed on the project calendar shared by Manager Fieldma. He reviewed the dates and locations for upcoming Visioning Workshop Events: July 22<sup>nd</sup> at Downers Grove South from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Downers Grove Village Hall from 2:00 pm – 4 pm, and July 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Downers Grove Recreation Center. He said he would share additional details about the events later in the meeting, and that Marissa with All Together, would provide details about outreach at a Village Council Meeting in August. Mr. Koonce then spoke about metrics, stating that overall, metrics for participation exceeded initial estimates set by the team, and All Together confirmed that the demographics of those in attendance were in line with the Village's demographics.

Mr. Koonce explained that representatives of Baxter and Woodman and the Hitchcock Design Group were not present at this meeting, but that he would be reviewing the ECMs and the Issues and Opportunities of their plans with the Council and would then be opening both to discussions. He shared that the team evaluated all the feedback from the last meeting, across all the documents, and made the changes that were requested. He then shared that after this meeting, the team should have good direction to finalize the documents and move into the visioning phase – which is expected to happen in a couple of weeks. Mr. Koonce then reviewed the detail in the Bike and Pedestrian Plan Report and opened the discussion to the Council.

**Council Questions/Comments**

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said the Village lacks policy standards and definitions for the regulations of the Bike and Ped Plan. She said there has not been a huge push or need for this from the community in the past, but the Village is starting to see more about this. She mentioned that many people need to be educated about the hand signals used by bicyclists. She expressed that she is not a fan of sharrows and prefers the use of protected bike lanes. She also shared her concerns with ADA compliance, but said that that work is ongoing to correct this throughout the Village. The Commissioner spoke of unprotected intersections, some of which the Village does not have control over, and suggested a plan be put together to include the placement of islands (on wider roads) to make them less intimidating to pedestrians and bicyclists. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt suggested having protected bike

paths, not necessarily located on streets, with connectivity - further stating that she understands a plan like that would take over 5 years.

Commissioner Davenport referenced many pages in the report, suggesting additions, corrections and/or omissions from the report. His comments/concern included: the regulatory environment and how the use of golf carts fits in; the Pedestrian First Policy – that it should be expanded from what is stated; the statement that the Village is a bike friendly community – this should be removed; Complete Streets - the statement that the Village has not passed a Complete Streets Ordinance should be struck out; the Trail Count Program - he questioned this since DuPage County has not placed any trail counters within Downers Grove; a graphic that has the statement that the residents of Downers Grove and of the Chicagoland region can bike to the Mississippi River and to Rockford on the Illinois and Michigan Canal Trails, and on the Prairie Path Trail - he questioned how this could happen since the Village is not connected, further commenting that it is a goal the Village is working on; the DuPage County Regional Bikeway, Mobility, and Trails Plans - he questioned if the plans of the DuPage County Forest Preserve are missing, and if so, they should be listed; the 2013 Bike and Ped Plan – the statement that public engagement at that time found that residents were most interested in dedicated bicycle facilities, along with safer intersections and crossings, which the Commissioner said is being echoed this time around as well. With regard to Key Takeaways, Commissioner Davenport's review included: the sentence indicating that Downers Grove currently has multiple neighborhood level and Village wide Mobility Plans - he said these are not complete and the Village has more work to do, so the statement should reflect that; the 2013 Bike and Ped Plan - he opined that much of the plan remains unrealized, because that is what is in the Existing Conditions Report; the statement that the Village does not have a Complete Streets Ordinance, Vision Zero Policy, or Smart Growth Policy - he shared that he did not see this listed in the Existing Conditions Report thus far; funding – funding should be mentioned because references were made regarding federal grants and federal funding possibly being available through IDOT and CMAP initiatives (this was mentioned prominently in the Existing Conditions Report); boundary agreements - he questioned the statement that Downers Grove has agreements with neighboring municipalities that dictate where Downers Grove has the legal right to plan thoroughfares, utility infrastructure, sidewalks and trails in unincorporated areas.

Manager Fieldman shared that under Illinois law, the Village can make plans within 1 ½ miles of it's boundaries. He explained the Village can enter into Boundary Agreements with surrounding municipalities to do this in the unincorporated areas.

Commissioner Davenport said he was intrigued that all this work could lead to Boundary Agreements. He continued with his review and said with regard to average daily traffic (ADT) counts, it was unclear how to read the thoroughfares with the highest ADT.

Mr. Koonce explained the graphic shows the places that are most heavily traveled.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said he interpreted it as places that people are trying to travel to.

Commissioner Davenport explained he wants it to be clearer, to prevent it from being interpreted in so many different ways.

Mr. Koonce gave the example of how this method was used in the past, but said that he would take the Council's feedback back to Baxter and Woodman.

Commissioner Davenport continued with his review of the following: an unclear map - he requested that it include a legend; the statement "Location with Higher Parking Demand" - he questioned if this means that there is not enough parking and what the basis of the statement is.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said that studies have shown that parking is adequate in Downers Grove throughout the day.

Commissioner Davenport continued and commented on the "Challenges" paragraph, stating that it does not say much about parking, even with the paragraph prior to it speaking about right-of-way parking restrictions. He also said the paragraph mentions the historic street grid of Downers Grove - he said this may be true of the center ½ of Downers Grove, but when one travel's south of 59th Street or north of Ogden, the Village does not have a historic standard street grid. He then spoke of the following: land use considerations – he shared his opinion that the statement about 63<sup>rd</sup> Street having mostly apartments and townhouses, is a typo, and should actually read Maple Avenue instead;

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community nodes - he said the intersection of 75th and Lemont should also be listed. He pointed out that under the station statistics, 40% of people are walking to the Fairview Train Station - he thought this should be kept in mind when working on the Fairview Focus area. Then he spoke of the discontinued bus routes listed - he wondered what the relevance was and how far back it went.

Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt and Tully said that it may be pointing out that a lot of bus routes have been discontinued due to COVID, but agreed that including more information regarding the Pace Route would be a good idea.

Commissioner Davenport continued his review of: the graphics on pages 29-30 – he said it included trails that are not in Downers Grove; the bicycle facility observations on page 31 - he would add something that references the limited occurrences of general interconnectivity, dead end facilities, routes with missing segments, no connection to designated routes in neighboring communities; safety – he would add that most bike lanes are unprotected, with no physical barrier; state of lanes - bicycle lanes are unbuffered and unprotected, and he would say that there is not a lot of room for bikes to move; signage - he said there is only signage at the start and end of each segment of bicycle lanes and there needs to be signage in between the starts and ends. He went on to discuss the Issues and Opportunities listed on pages 43-44 - he said he hoped everything would be tweaked a little bit in response to what was heard from the Council at this meeting. The Commissioner also spoke of last paragraph in the packet, mentioning the Prairie Path, which does not come even close to Downers Grove. He said he would like to add things like Waterfall Glen in the paragraph, as it is a popular destination for Downers Grove residents. Lastly, he spoke of the statements regarding connections to neighboring communities being limited, particularly to Lisle, Westmont, Lombard - he said that Woodridge should also be listed, because it has an extensive trail system that connects to a lot of regional trails.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he agrees with almost all of what Commissioner Davenport mentioned. He said with regard to the discontinued bike route, he thinks it is an opportunity to demonstrate that there may be a need somewhere. Then he commented on the following: page 7 - he spoke of the numbers listed and that the community's interest in this is beyond a Bike Club and includes people that not only bike for exercise, but also for transportation; regulatory environment - he thought it was lacking and said that Downers Grove has some interesting rules that are different than DuPage County's, further indicating that he thinks there is a disconnect and he thinks a review of the Villages regulatory environment is needed - also suggesting that the Village act on things that the County is doing as a part of the Village plans; major thoroughfares - he asked what other ways cities have worked through those challenges; electric scooters - he wants to have conversation to elaborate on or re-evaluate this; existing programs and initiatives - he spoke of funding that might be available to help pay for some of the changes, and he wants to know what the shift is at the State and County levels since our last plan, asking how much more motivated they are and how does that help us pay for it; other land locked communities – he has been looking at other communities, like Oak Park, that are comparable to Downers Grove but more bike friendly; Complete Streets Policy - he thinks the problem is that DuPage County has one and Downers Grove does not, this is especially concerning because there are County roads running through the Village. Commissioner Gilmartin said he thinks the Bike Friendly Plan can also be a part of the Environmental Sustainability Plan. He also shared that because Downers Grove has a north and south orientation, he wants to know what can be done to connect the north and south areas. He also questioned the draft recommendations, asking if things like collector street width and tree placement will be analyzed.

Manager Fieldman said that the team discussed that when it is time for the visioning session, they will get more specific on these issues and the types of potential trade offs. He said this is so that the Council can understand quantitatively what they are and also qualitatively, for those participating in the visioning sessions, what do they want. He said Village staff would work with the consultants on this.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he drives around town and thinks he sees streets that are very wide, but then second guesses if they really are.

Mr. Koonce said that the average width is a major consideration, and it goes back to right-of-way issues. To reasonably consider all streets for protected bike lanes, things may need to be removed (like parking). He said he will take this feedback back to Baxter and Woodman.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he is interested in seeing actual street widths.

Mr. Koonce said there is a technical manual called NACTO (the National Association of Transportation) that publishes standards for what types of facilities are appropriate for certain street widths .

Commissioner Gilmartin then spoke about areas that are obvious when it comes to the street widths, but then there are those that are not.

Manager Fieldman said he understands what Commissioner Gilmartin is asking and there will be follow-up with Baxter and Woodman on it.

Commissioner Davenport commented that there are rights-of-ways, in the north and south areas, that are much wider and have the potential to remove the current sidewalks and replace them with something wider. Commissioner Gilmartin concurred.

Commissioner Gilmartin noted that the application of some things in the Report are not complete, i.e. dead end facilities on some of the bike routes, signage, inconsistent rail connections. He asked if there are cases where stricter laws can be implemented with regard to penalties - on certain routes (i.e. - if a bicyclist is struck in one area versus another).

Commissioner Glover said he wanted to piggy back on things that had already been mentioned with regard to the regulatory environment. He said he thinks there is a need for education (especially with electric scooters/bikes), further mentioning that he does not know what bicyclist hand signals mean. He thinks, as this moves forward, there needs to be more of a focus on the connectivity from the north to the south side – because currently it is easy to travel from east and west. Commissioner Glover said he would like to find ways to work with other governing bodies on connectivity to surrounding towns.

Commissioner Tully said it is Important to have a plan with the neighboring communities and also with agencies that the Village has no jurisdiction over. This is so that when they start their plans, they are more likely to abide by them. He referred to pages 23 and 37 of the Report and said that the most important existing conditions to expand upon are 1) why the 2013 Plan had not been implemented more than it had been; and 2) what are the pragmatic barriers that are not discussed in a lot of detail.

Manager Fieldman asked if part of his question is about legislative history.

Commissioner Tully spoke about an item that was on the First Read agenda earlier in the meeting, involving the decision to not add curb and gutters to certain streets – he said this is similar to wanting to know why things were not done that were in the 2013 plan. The Commissioner said he is not suggesting that every issue needs to be digested, but he thinks the issues need to be included in the Existing Conditions Memorandum - i.e. challenges with rights-of-way. He said to do this right, it has to be feasible and implementable, because he does not want people looking at this plan in future years saying things did not get done. He wants to know why opportunities were not pursued, stating that it could have been cost, or could have been public objections, etc. Commissioner Tully said he wants to know why other landlocked communities have done things that Downers grove has not. He also said he wants to be sure it is not other jurisdictions that dictated things - i.e. the County or State; The Commissioner said that both the Council and the community need to understand this. He thinks history is important because he can use a refresher. He said if he can understand why, then maybe there can be a different approach this time around.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said that a lot of what he has to say has been said. He agrees with pretty much all that has been said and that this needs to be a plan that is implementable, further stating that he thinks there are reasons why the 2013 Plan was not implementable. Mayor Pro Tem José said he thinks cost is a key driver and that the report shows the pedestrian part of the Bike and Ped Plan has been done well. He opined that there is a lack of support from the community and the Council has acceded to that pressure. He expressed that if the Council is going to implement any part of the Bike and Ped Plan, then they need to make decisions about neighborhoods, regardless of the feedback received. Mayor Pro Tem José said there has to be connectivity to regional trails, and that there will need to be tradeoffs, i.e. trees or sidewalks. He said there will be push back, but the Council needs to be careful and intentional. He concluded by stating that the history of why it was not done is sprinkled through the report, but it is not all tied together.

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Commissioner Tully spoke of political will and the cost of sidewalks. He said 80% of the sidewalk matrix was done before there was pushback.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said the Village has not taken the opportunities in the areas that are the most inviting, because of pushback.

Commissioner Gilmartin said for him it is not so much political will, but more about a plan and vision that was not incorporated into policy. He said the Council looks to the Comp Plan and gives the direction that should be taken. He does not think this is baked into Village Policies..

Mayor Pro-Tem José said that the Comp Plan, and other policies, were not written into ordinance - so they do not have to be followed at every point. They are visioning plans, so when people do not agree with their plan, the Council can make the final decision.

Commissioner Gilmartin said the Council looks to the plans for guiding principles and he thinks this would create a collective vision of what they would like the Bike and Ped Plan to look like.

Commissioner Tully said the sidewalk matrix was so successful because it came out of TCD 2 - and it provided a sense of empowerment. He said he wants this designed so that it succeeds.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he wants to see what the opportunity is, he wants the public to see what the possibility is, and then the Council decides.

Commissioner Tully gave the example of eminent domain as a part of visioning and the Village not going forward with it - he thinks it is important that it is a part of the existing conditions.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he is not as interested in looking at why things were not completed.

Commissioner Davenport said the intent is to identify challenges, this includes lack of policy, possible lack of political will, and lack of economics. He said he hopes to find a plan that identifies a way to go about this that most people are accepting of.

Commissioner Tully explained that what they are looking at is existing conditions and not a visioning document.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he thinks of existing conditions differently than Commissioner Tully.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said two key components to anything is public input/politics and money. He said the Council can have a robust vision, but it also has to be realistic.

Manager Fieldman said the Council's discussion has been helpful to staff, and there is a pattern of what did not work in the past. He said moving forward, there needs to be a different plan, including one with more visioning.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he is aware that the public's input is important, but that the public's input from over 10 years ago is less important to him than the current input of the public and their visioning for this plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said the public input was more on the plans, than it was on the visions in 2013.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she is only interested in seeing patterns that were structural, not just about people being mad, from the 2013 Plan in the Existing Conditions. She does not want the plans to contradict what the Council wants to do with this plan. She said lining up different plans at the same time may make things more easily accessible.

Mr. Koonce then presented on the Streetscape Plan, focusing on the Issues and Opportunities. He spoke of the summary on page 43 and said that this Plan is oriented on physical implementation.

Mayor Pro Tem José said that he thinks the words Key Takeaways should be removed and the bold title of Issues and Opportunities should stay. Commissioner Tully concurred.

Commissioner Tully concurred and said that they are suggested opportunities of things to think about, and not to go and do.

Commissioner Glover said that the summary mentions the streetscape being cohesive, which he thinks ties into making the outdoor dining enhancements permanent. He said in it's current state, the Village's outdoor dining leaves people guessing and takes away from the cohesive design – which he thinks is the driving force and is the reason why he brought forward the permanent Outdoor Dining Program. Commissioner Glover said that the intent is not to take away parking, but to create a greater sense of cohesiveness.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he thinks the Key Takeaways should be made into recommendations - knowing there are no plans in place yet. He added that he wants to make sure that whatever is done is cohesive between Fairview and Main Street. He thinks that there are areas where the streetscape is lacking and others where it looks good. The Commissioner spoke of his desire to have new gateway signs for the north and south entrances to the Village. With regard to outdoor dining, he said he needs to see what is recommended, but struggles because it is a little disconnected. Commissioner Gilmartin said he wants to see the ideas before making decisions.

Commissioner Davenport said he agrees with a lot of what has been said. He referenced many pages in the Streetscape Report, suggesting additions, corrections and/or omissions from the report. Some of his comments included: signs - stakeholder comments regarding signs that seem to be out of place; formatting - the templates are inconsistent to him between this plan and the Bike and Ped Plan; temporary on street dining – he questioned if it should be documented in this section, since the discussion is about existing conditions; safety related to outdoor dining – he questioned if it is it safer to have it on-street with barricades or making it permanent. With regard to Issues and Opportunities – the Commissioner said when it comes to the downtown, the Village and the DMC work together, pointing out that there is not a Fairview Area management corporation. He thinks that should be a Key Takeaway, especially with regard to the connection between the downtown and the Fairview Focus Area. With regard to the statements about parks, Commissioner Davenport said there should also be mention of the Village's partnership with the Park District as a Key Takeaway in the Existing Conditions Report. Lastly, he said gateways are mentioned twice on the last page, and he did not see it mentioned anywhere in the Existing Condition report. He further stated that he was not sure if the gateways mentioned were to different areas or to the Village.

Manager Fieldman said that the Fairview area could be a gateway to both the Village and to the Fairview area, but that is not the case for the downtown, as it is in the middle of the Village.

Commissioner Davenport shared that for anyone coming into town on Metra, the downtown is their entrance to the Village. He also expressed that the summary, listed at the end of Existing Conditions, makes him skip over the Key Takeaways.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she does not think that things are as cohesive as they should be. She mentioned the following: the lack of signage that directs people where to park; that consistency is important – with the varied streetscapes and with the variance in the way the outdoor dining has been implemented (also stating it could be a safety concern and safety needs to be more of a part of the Existing Conditions Report). The Commissioner said that since the feedback results shows that the public values green space and culture and art, it should used when visioning the plan. She said she does not see the tie in of public feedback with the existing conditions. She spoke of lighting and the existing conditions and how to improve on them. Lastly, with regard to outdoor dining, she asked if a map could be included indicating where the current outdoor dining has replaced parking. She also asked if the map could include drop off and loading pathways.

Manager Fieldman said the team can work on the map.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said he agrees with what has been said with regard to the content of the Existing Conditions Memorandum, but also said he thinks it fairly, and accurately, represents what the downtown and the Fairview Avenue corridor is like. He said he would recaption the Issues and Opportunities section. He mentioned that he thinks there is a lack of consistency in the downtown and that there should be an enhancement in the physical connection of the Fairview area and the downtown. He shared that he thinks there are opportunities in the Fairview Area with regard to community art space and other amenities that could be offered to the 40% of train riders that walk to the Fairview Train Station (also mentioning that the overhead utilities could pose challenges). Mayor Pro Tem José suggested

that a potential TIF District should be added to the report - to allow for the possibility of adding a management corporation to the Fairview area.

Commissioner Tully said if sticking to Existing Conditions, he needs to understand why things were not done. He said there have been property owner issues in the downtown area and there were Village issues because of it. He thinks that the report should mention the lack of a management corporation for the Fairview Area. He spoke of lights being strung in other downtown areas to create a consistency in the downtown, which is something Downers Grove never did and he would like to know why. The Commissioner said there should be a discussion about gateway signs and if they should be to the community or to different areas of the community. He spoke of the history of adding the SSA to create the DMC, and how that could affect creating another SSA to create a Fairview Business District. Commissioner Tully then spoke of the recent addition of landscaping being a big improvement in the downtown and that he thinks it needs to be pointed out in the report.

Commissioner Gilmartin spoke about signage and that it is not consistent - i.e. some on light poles, other on their own poles. He said he wants to make sure recommendations that come back are future proof and not short term. He also said he would like to know why there are no gateway signs to the community.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Scott Richards, resident, expressed concern and opined that the Council is supporting the downtown area restaurants and not the other businesses. He thinks that before making outdoor dining permanent, there should be a referendum for the public to weigh in.

Clorinda Greco, business owner, referenced the Commissioner comments about Oak Park and said there is a dispute on biking in the Oak Park downtown area. She expressed concern about consistency in the downtown when it comes to outdoor dining, and thinks that restaurants are given more consideration than other businesses.

Janet Whittingham, resident, spoke of concerns with on street parking, stating that the parking study is either stale or wrong because she thinks the parking in the downtown area is not adequate. She also spoke of concerns with the possible addition of bike lanes in neighborhoods and expressed her opinion that the public should decide via a referendum. She also shared her concerns with the Pop-up events not being as specific as they should be. Ms. Whittingham also clarified that she has never called any of the Council members names or quoted them incorrectly.

Robin Tryloff, resident, spoke about the benefits of public art and gathering spaces and requested they are incorporated as a part of the Streetscape Plan.

### **Council Questions/Comments**

Commissioner Davenport said he was as at the Grove Fest Pop-up event and he also felt the questions that were asked were very general. He questioned what the targets and goals were for public events.

Mr. Koonce said with regard to targets, there has been excellent turnout. He said it was hard to tally the people that attended the kick-off event, because they were coming and going, but there was an estimated 200 plus people at that event. He said some of the best totals his firm has seen has been in the hundreds. Mr. Koonce said he hopes to get into the triple digits across the three workshop events that happen. He encouraged the Guiding Committee members (the Village Council) to attend the events. He reviewed the visioning topics and gave an outline of what will happen during the breakout sessions at the event. Mr. Koonce explained that the Council will be provided with feedback about the events. He also shared the difference in the events – with pop-ups being a quick hit on people, with more general questions, and the workshop events being a deeper dive, where they talk to people for over an hour. He said the visioning events always get people talking and they will be fun events, just like the kick off was.

Manager Fieldman added that Village staff has been working with Josh and the team about being more granular in questioning at the events.

Commissioner Tully asked Mr. Koonce to go back to the Project Status Update Calendar presented earlier. He

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explained that the Council has only spoken about existing conditions and what might be explored, and that it would be at least a month (or more) before any concepts are even presented. He said no one has anything concrete to look at or react to. He said this process is still in the conceptual mode and the public will be given the opportunity to see what the team is working on, when it is made available.

Mayor Pro-Tem José said that the visioning will happen over the next month, and that is when things will start to come together.

Commissioner Davenport shared that he does not want to present any drawings to the Community until the Council has a consensus on them.

Commissioner Gilmartin requested the demographics of the people that participate in the visioning events be collected – including age and the amount of time lived in Downers Grove.

Mr. Koonce said he would talk to All Together about bringing age boards, used at previous events, to the entrances.

## 10. Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem José asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session.

***MOTION: To convene into closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(2) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. An additional motion was made to convene into close session pursuant to Section 2(c)(3) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider the selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance.***

***RESULT: Motion carried 6-0 by roll call. .***

***MOTIONED TO APPROVE: Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt***

***SECONDED BY: Commissioner Gilmartin***

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

***NAYES: None***

Mayor Pro Tem José declared the motion carried by roll call vote and the meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 10:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosa Berardi  
Village Clerk