

Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove - Council Meeting

Betty Cheever Council Chambers

December 17, 2024

06:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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 Meetings

MIN 2024-10228 A. Minutes: Village Council Meeting Minutes - December 10, 2024

B. Executive Session Meeting Minutes for Approval Only – December 10, 2024

MOTION: *To Adopt the Village Council Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2024, 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

Sarah Beda, a resident, spoke about the library referendum question and asked Council to wait to bring this item further.

Kylie Spahn, a resident, thanked the Council for hosting Coffee with the Council and spoke in opposition of the Library Board Advisory Referendum.

Mary Blanchard, a resident, spoke in opposition of the Library Board Advisory Referendum.

David Rose, a resident, spoke about the December 3rd meeting and opined that putting the Library Board Advisory Referendum question on the spring ballot is questionable.

John Le Donne, a resident, spoke of the Future Land Use Map and requested the Council reconsider the zoning of certain properties located near the corner of Saratoga and Warren, in the Prince Pond area, to keep them consistent with the rest of the neighborhood.

Robin Tryloff, a resident, also spoke to the Future Land Use Map and also requested the zoning of the properties mentioned by Mr. Le Donne remain consistent with the Prince Pond neighborhood.

Council Minutes

Village of Downers Grove

December 17, 2024

5. Consent Agenda**COR 2024-10259** A. Claims Ordinance: No. 6581, Payroll - November 29, 2024**BIL 2024-10260** B. Bills Payable: No. 6844 - December 17, 2024**MOT 2024-10573** C. Motion: Authorize the Issuance of a 2025 Class "A" Scavenger License for Allied Waste Services of North America, LLC**MOT 2024-10602** D. Motion: Authorize a Three-Year Contract with Thompson Elevator Inspection Service, Inc.**RES 2024-10609** E. Resolution: Approve an Agreement with Abbott Tree Care Professionals for Tree and Stump Removal Services**RESOLUTION 2024-92****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND ABBOTT TREE CARE PROFESSIONALS****RES 2024-10607** F. Resolution: Approve an Agreement with Abbott Tree Care Professionals for Demand Pruning Services**RESOLUTION 2024-93****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND ABBOTT TREE CARE PROFESSIONALS****RES 2024-10608** G. Resolution: Approve an Agreement with Abbott Tree Care Professionals for Parkway Tree Pruning**RESOLUTION 2024-94****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE AND ABBOTT TREE CARE PROFESSIONALS****RES 2024-10617** H. Resolution: Authorize the Purchase of Renewable Electricity from the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider for the Purposes of Street Lighting and Commercial Accounts through Northern Illinois Municipal Electrical Collaborative**RESOLUTION 2024-95****A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY FROM THE LOWEST COST ELECTRICITY PROVIDER FOR THE PURPOSES OF STREET LIGHTING AND COMMERCIAL ACCOUNTS THROUGH NORTHERN ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC COLLABORATIVE****MOT 2024-10597** I. Motion: Authorize a Salary Increase for the Village Manager**MOT 2024-10599** J. Motion: Authorize a Salary Increase for the Village Attorney**MOT 2024-10590** K. Motion: Authorize the Annual 2025 Funding to the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC)**MOT 2024-10589** L. Motion: Authorize the Annual 2025 Funding to the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (EDC)**RES 2024-10601** M. Resolution: Approve an Annexation Agreement for the Property Located at 5819 Belmont Road**RESOLUTION 2024-96**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ANNEXATION AGREEMENT FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 5819 BELMONT ROAD

MOTION: To *Adopt the Consent Agenda of the December 17, 2024 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

6. Active Agenda

ORD 2024-10473 A. Ordinance: Amend the Rates Charged for Water

MOTION: To adopt *AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025 RATES CHARGED FOR WATER*, as presented. **ORDINANCE 6090**

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

ORD 2024-10588 B. Ordinance: Amend the 2025 Stormwater Utility Rate

MOTION: To adopt *AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2025 STORMWATER UTILITY RATE*, as presented. **ORDINANCE 6091**

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

ORD 2024-10603 C. Ordinance: Amend the Employee Administrative Rules and Regulations of the Village of Downers Grove, Illinois

MOTION: To adopt *AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS*, as presented. **ORDINANCE 6089**

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

7. First Reading

RES 2024-10569 A. Resolution: Grant Historic Landmark Designation for 1129 Curtiss Street

Community Development Director Stan Popovich presented via PowerPoint and explained that the home on this property is a classic foursquare home. He said the Historic Preservation and Design Review Board found this to meet the criteria for Historic Landmark Designation and recommended approval.

Public Comments

Matt Hanssel, owner of this property, spoke about his love for old houses and said he feels lucky to be in Downers Grove.

Ken Lerner, a resident, voiced his support for this item.

Sharon Anderson, a resident, spoke in support of this item.

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Tully spoke in favor of this, thanking the owners of the property and the Friends of the Edwards House for their role in the landmarking process. He spoke about how preserving historic homes can contribute to environmental sustainability.

Commissioner Davenport also shared his support of this and thanked the owners for bringing this forward. He said he hopes to see more homes landmarked in the future.

ORD 2024-10613 B. Ordinance: Calling For a Public Hearing and Joint Review Board Meeting to Consider the Designation of a Redevelopment Project Area and the Approval of a Redevelopment Plan and Project for the Village of Downers Grove Meadowbrook Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area

Mr. Popovich presented via Power Point and reviewed the phases of the redevelopment project. He noted that the scheduled Public Hearing date is March 4th, 2025 and the Joint Review Board Meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2025. With regard to next steps, Mr. Popovich explained this item will be brought to the Planning and Zoning Commission at their January 6th, 2025, meeting.

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Gilmartin said he looks forward to moving this forward. Commissioners Davenport and Tully concurred.

8. Attorney's Report

Pursuant to Section 2.5 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code, Village Attorney Enza Petrarca presented the following for Village Council consideration:

1. An ordinance calling for a public hearing and Joint Review Board meeting to consider the designation of a redevelopment project area and the approval of a redevelopment plan and project for the Village of Downers Grove Meadowbrook Tax Increment Redevelopment Project Area.

9. Mayor's Report

Mayor Barnett noted that this meeting would be the last Village Council meeting of the year and spoke about the January 2, 2025 Joint Meeting of the Village Council and the Library Board of Trustees. He thanked all for their participation in the Village Council meetings and for their involvement in the Guiding DG process. He wished everyone a happy holiday season, encouraging all to think of others during this time of the year.

10. Council Member Reports

Commissioners Davenport, Glover and Sadowski-Fugitt wished everyone "Happy Holidays". Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt also wished those people struggling with grief peace during this time.

Commissioner Tully spoke about keeping discussions civil, stressing that harmful, abusive or violent rhetoric is never okay and he stands against those who spread such hate. He called for more dialogue and less debate during the holiday season. He announced that there are 190 days until Rotary Grove fest.

Commissioner Gilmartin wished everyone Happy Holidays. He said he looks forward to the January 2nd joint meeting with the Library Board of Trustees.

Commissioner José wished everyone Happy Holidays and health and safety while celebrating.

11. Manager's Report

REP 2024-10570 A. Guiding DG: Comprehensive Plan and Related Projects - Environmental Sustainability Plan Draft Vision, Goals and Recommendations

Manager Fieldman introduced Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Jason Michnick, who presented an outline of the Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP), and explained that the meeting's focus would be on the introduction of the plan and the Vision Section. The ESP is organized around five themes: Energy, Ecology, Transportation and Facilities, Materials and Resources, and Governance. Mr. Michnick reviewed the Council-recommended changes and explained that, in an effort to get through the conversation of the evening, any Council feedback regarding things such as word choices or sentence structure be provided to Village staff in writing so that they may be consolidated and be incorporated into future drafts more effectively. He asked for the Council's feedback on the structure of the Vision Section, the choice of the five themes, as well as the overall vision statement.

Village Council Comments/Suggestions

Mayor Barnett shared that he likes what he sees and thinks it captures the input given by the Village Council. He thanked the Environmental Concerns Commission (ECC) and Village staff for their work on this. The rest of the Council concurred.

Commissioner Gilmartin noted that the Key Recommendations should be noted as not exhaustive, and he shared his opinion that the footnotes explanation was good.

Mr. Michnick reviewed the important concepts Community Goals and Village Key Recommendations for each of the themes.

1. Energy

Commissioner Gilmartin suggested the addition of ensuring that all vendors contracted by the Village align with the Village's sustainability goals. The Council concurred.

Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Tully and José proposed the addition of policies to incentivize more sustainable and green building practices and incorporating these into Economic Development Agreements. Commissioner José suggested fitting this into the 3rd Bullet Point.

2. Ecology

Mayor Barnett shared his approval of this section.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt noted that water conservation (of more than potable water) is missing from the Community Goals. She asked about the use of the words "urban forest" over "urban canopy". Mr. Michnick clarified that "urban forest" is a more holistic and comprehensive term, as explained to him by Village Forester Greg Soltwisch. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt suggested adding "maintain" or "improve upon" in this section and providing more examples to help readers visualize better. She and the Mayor emphasized expanding conversation goals beyond potable water to include systems like rainwater and graywater reclamation.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked how the first Community Goal relates to native plantings. Mr. Michnick explained by advocating for preserving 30% of land and water as wild or native spaces. Commissioner Gilmartin suggested a clearer explanation.

Commissioner Davenport asked about habitat connectivity. Mr. Michnick noted gaps between local habitats.

Mayor Barnett asked about the word "maintain" when speaking about urban forest (canopy) limiting the Village's ability to grow or expand. Commissioner Hosé suggested the use of "enhance" or "enhancement of" instead of "maintain". The Council concurred.

3. Material and Resources

Mr. Michnick noted the Village's introduction of the Recycle Coach software platform. He explained that it provides residents with the ability to use an app to get information on curbside waste collection, offers pickup reminders and includes resources on recyclables.

Commissioners Gilmartin, Sadowski-Fugitt, and Davenport suggested the last bullet point under Key Recommendations state "strategies that support green businesses and green business practices".

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt requested the removal of the word "Consider" from the first bullet point under Key Recommendations. The Council concurred.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt requested the consideration, under Key Recommendations, some nod to the Village encouraging more recycling and composting in its Waste Contracts. The Mayor said this would be along the Community Goal of "find solutions to reduce the amount of waste". Commissioner Tully said this should be put into the Objectives and Action Plan. The Council Concurred. Manager Fieldman noted that the current contract expires in 2026 and the next contract would be discussed as a Priority Action Item in the summer of 2025.

4. Transportation and Transportation Facilities

Mayor Barnett suggested that there should be a Key Recommendation that ties to the first bulleted Community Goal about "transforming parkways into natural corridors". Mr. Michnick explained this goal made him think of the bioswale program. The program is controlled by the Village, but the residents maintain the bioswale. The Council agreed that the first bulleted Key Recommendations could be worded to have a better tie to this. Commissioner Hosé opined that being more distant with the first Community Goal is the way to go. He said there are challenges that need to be addressed before promoting it.

Commissioner Gilmartin spoke of the second bullet under Key Recommendations. The Council agreed that the word consider was too "soft" and that the wording needed to be less specific and should read more along the lines of "solar collection opportunities" (not limiting the types of energy). Manager Fieldman said there is an opportunity to explore energy generation from parking spaces in the Village. He said staff will take that as general direction to look into this further.

Commissioner Tully spoke about future proofing. He said in the third Key Recommendations bullet point it is important to clarify "charging infrastructure" for the common reader and consider changing it to "EV charging infrastructure". Commissioner Gilmartin asked if "EV" covers non-car forms of transportation. Mr. Michnick said that the team would allow the flexibility of not specifically pointing to electric vehicles, focusing more on the development of infrastructure for alternative kinds of transportation.

Mayor Barnett suggested reducing the specificity of public spaces (eliminate the use of the word parking lots).

5. Governance

Commissioner Davenport said the second Community Goal bullet point is missing the addition of community organizations, previously mentioned by the Council.

Mr. Michnick explained the next time this appears before the Council, both the Village Objectives and the Community Goals will be complete.

Mayor Barnett invited those in attendance to comment.

Public Comments

Bruce Swanson, resident, said the ESP presentation was better than he expected and suggested that the Village collaborate with the Greener Grove organization.

Ken Lerner, ECC member, shared concerns with the Governance section of the ESP.

Kevin Leslie, Greener Grove member, thanked the Council, Village staff, and Mr. Michnick for their work on this topic. He spoke positively about a collaboration between the organization and the Village.

David Rose, a resident, provided several suggestions to improve the ESP.

REP 2024-10578 B. Guiding DG: Comprehensive Plan and Related Projects - Bike and Pedestrian Plan What's Possible Assessment.

Manager Fieldman introduced the Bike and Pedestrian Plan *What's Possible* Assessment, emphasizing its focus on prioritizing non-vehicular transportation while balancing feasibility and community needs. Challenges like trail connections and large streets were highlighted. Representatives from Baxter and Woodman, Aaron Tully and Jackson Marvel, presented the plan's purpose, criteria, and considerations.

Mr. Marvel also reviewed maps detailing current limitations, potential corridor transformations and conflicts, particularly in areas requiring collaboration. Safety improvements for intersections, such as better lighting, reduced vehicle speeds, and shorter crossing distances, were discussed.

The assessment includes a spreadsheet with 133 segments outlining potential improvements. Mr. Tully emphasized goals of fostering a stronger active transportation culture and implementing strategies for enhancement.

Manager Fieldman asked the Council to evaluate how well the document aligns with their direction and what additional elements they would like to see in the active transportation plan.

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked for more information on the complexities of Fairview. Mr. Marvel clarified that the team's proposal includes a series of bike lanes that will involve the removal of the middle turn lane, and the reallocation of the 12-feet to create protected bike lanes on either side of the roadway. Commissioner Hosé asked for a description of a protected bike lane, to which Mr. Marvel gave a description of the 3 types, including white striped, buffered and protected.

Commissioner Hosé asked how this would impact emergency response and snow plowing. Mr. Tully addressed the maintenance of the proposed facilities, emphasizing the team's goal to ensure they are usable year-round, 24/7. He also mentioned the team would provide case studies on how these problems will be addressed.

Mayor Barnett asked the Council to comment on whether or not the deliverable was met.

Commissioners Davenport, Glover, Sadowski-Fugitt, and Hosé all agreed that it did, appreciating the depth, flexibility, and tools provided for further discussions. Commissioner Gilmartin expressed that the presentation exceeded his expectations, particularly valuing its connection to other plans and the acknowledgment of factors beyond the Village's control. Commissioner Tully praised the resource, highlighting the usefulness of the page on implementable dimensions. When asked, Manager Fieldman confirmed that the graphic mentioned was created by staff.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he does not think this graphic was part of the What's Possible exercise, rather it is a part of how the Council might evaluate this. Manager Fieldman said this is a graphic that staff to help frame a discussion of what was thought to be a key question of what the "What's Possible" document might be. He provided

further details on how the graphic might be used. Commissioner Gilmartin said when he saw this for the first time, the benefit layer was not included. He said there are benefits that could be layered on to the decision making. Commissioner Tully agreed and said the benefits were assumed, but there needs to be a logical process to get things done, so he has no problem with reflecting that somehow.

Mayor Barnett asked if the Council had any further questions.

Commissioner José inquired about page 4 of the report and whether the design standard listed, indicating that it is an industry standard that all residents should live within a quarter mile of an existing, or proposed bicycle or shared use facility, was developed specifically for this. Mr. Tully replied stating that it is an industry standard and thought of as a quarter-mile/5-minute walk or a half-mile/8-10 minute walk.

Commissioner Davenport noted that he appreciated that this is more than just a Bike and Pedestrian Plan, it has become an Active Transportation Plan. He inquired about the downtown bike friendly zone and why it did not extend further north. Mr. Marvel explained it was based on business locations but emphasized that the final decision on its boundaries rests with the Council.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if there was a reason pedestrian bridges were not included. Mr. Tully explained among other reasons, there are studies that show that if pedestrians are forced to take extra steps, they will not utilize the bridge, so the cost benefit is not there.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt asked about the challenges related to road crossings and if there are reasons pedestrian islands and medians were not discussed. Mr. Tully explained the team is looking at incorporating pedestrian refuges and signalization into the plan.

Commissioner José spoke to the comments made that this is "the Plan" and he opined that that is not necessarily true, adding that this is a component of the Plan. He shared that this needs to be thought of in more than just dollars and cents, and he is not convinced that what was presented as possible, is necessarily beneficial. He noted there is one bridge mentioned in the document.

Mayor Barnett requested more information about regulations concerning sharrows. Mr. Tully explained that the team still sees shared-use facilities as necessary, emphasizing that some corridors must accommodate both vehicles and bicycles. He noted plans to enhance sharrow areas with regulatory measures and shared several ideas to achieve this.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt spoke about vegetation and asked if the document is talking about overgrown vegetation or intentional bioswales. Mr. Marvel explained that for the most part, the reference is to brush that is not maintained.

Commissioner Gilmartin acknowledged that sharrow routes are good for bikes, but also inquired whether those areas could also be enhanced for pedestrian use. Mr. Marvel explained that there are mostly sidewalks on one side of the street, with the exception of a few small districts/neighborhoods. He said all options were explored.

Mayor Barnett inquired about industry opinions on the value, or lack thereof, of crosswalk treatments in terms of paint. Mr. Tully explained that there are a variety of crosswalks and striping types, explaining that certain types may be enhanced artistically. He further explained that the team is trying to make sure crosswalks are clear, standard and understood, by including elements like signage to help ensure that pedestrians are seen.

Mayor Barnett began the discussion about what should be included and not included in this document.

Commissioner Gilmartin shared that he is not suggesting this become the plan, however, with the details included in this document, it should serve as an appendix to whatever the plan may be.

Commissioner Davenport asked if that was the intent. Mr. Tully said it is something they have actively discussed. The What's Possible complete map is a plan that only lacks prioritization, which is something the team can work on by creating an implementation action table.

Commissioner Davenport inquired if it was anticipated that the maps be included in the plan. Mr. Tully and Mr. Marvel responded that they would be and Mr. Marvel added that often, plans abruptly go from an origin destination analysis to recommendations without consideration between. He said regardless if the entire document is included in the actual plan, many of the elements in this document will be included..

Commissioner José said he thinks whether or not this should be included depends on context, elaborating that if the plan is well understood, it could work. He once again reiterated that he does not agree with this document becoming the actual plan. He added that there needs to be a public engagement piece to this that should provide the Council with direction on how this should be prioritized. Mayor Barnett said he thinks what Commissioner José is referring to is part of the exercise that the Council is engaged in.

Commissioner José said he disagreed with the Mayor and does not think this is necessarily the right time for the plan to be put in place, but rather this is a time to put together all of the possibilities for future Councils to consider when the actual plan is put together. He said to Commissioner Gilmartin's point, he thinks the data collected is fantastic. He asked the opinion of the Council as to whether this document will become the actual plan or if the plan will be created later.

Manager Fieldman reviewed Commissioner José's points for clarification.

Commissioner José said he does not feel any changes need to be made in this document, but that is dependent upon how it will be used.

Mr. Tully clarified that when he referenced the What's Possible complete plan, he did not mean it was the actual Bike and Pedestrian Plan, rather that it was a network of possibilities for it.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt spoke about making specific areas, north-south and east-west in town, safer to traverse. She said she is not interested in the sharrows on any main streets, but she would be okay with them on low-traffic, side roads. The Commissioner added that she is supportive of parking only on one side of the street and both she and Mayor Barnett agreed that for the on-street options, they would only be interested in protected lane options. Manager Fieldman clarified that the sharrows would be supported by lighting, a full sidewalk network on low volume streets, and would include additional regulations.

Mayor Barnett and Commissioners Sadowski-Fugitt, Gilmartin and Davenport spoke of creating intentionality behind crosswalks that inform the public with bump-outs, radius changes, etc.. They should be standardized including elements that tell people where they are and what they are near. Mayor Barnett also suggested a branding opportunity at the crosswalks.

Manager Fieldman received confirmation from the Council that they were in agreement with the Policy Recommendations about safety at intersections, as reviewed by Mr. Tully and Mr. Marvel.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he liked that the map of What's Possible aligned with other plans, adding that it reduces some of the areas of resistance and while also increasing implementability. Commissioner Davenport said another layer would be where the Village is looking to do work in the future. He suggested noting where other priorities are.

Manager Fieldman said staff talked with the consultants about how to indicate the usability of high value improvements.

Commissioner Tully suggested bundling with other projects and having a purposeful and realistic plan.

Commissioner José said he likes the idea of the macro-level ideas and thinks the Village should build towards something like that. He said he thinks the real questions include what will be built and what the impacts will be. He said he would like to see safer bike lanes that include separation, but he also wants to make sure other aspects are covered.

Mayor Barnett asked the consultants what the solutions are to the Village's existing barriers. Mr. Tully said this is a very important consideration, one that the team does not have a readily identifiable answer for and may need some direction. He added that the team wants this to be a utilitarian plan, rather than a recreation-focused plan. Mr. Tully added that consideration needs to be given to trip generation from train stations and to employment centers, while filling some gaps that are lacking in the public transit system.

Commissioner José asked what the demand is for people biking to work in the Village. He said he wants to make sure the Village is not doing too much for something that does not have much demand, and only sees people biking to get to the train and back. Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt agreed and said this is why she suggested starting with the shared use path. Mr. Tully said one of the things they want to encourage is bicycle-friendly businesses.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked for insight on creating a more non-motorized focused mobility and the cost-benefit to that. He suggested updating the project vernacular to include things like mobility, so that it seems less limited. Mr. Tully shared the team did provide implementation strategies through building improvements, intersections and thoroughfare reconstruction. He said an example would be including a line item in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) that includes grants and other opportunities at the federal and state levels. He said there are a lot of lucrative federal programs that are encouraging safe and active transportation facility development. Commissioner Gilmartin said it would be good to know how much money municipalities that have taken advantage of those programs were able to offset cost-wise. Mr. Tully noted that the benefits are multi-dimensional and the benefits are laid out in the draft of Chapter 1, that has not yet been shared with staff. Commissioner Davenport concurred with this and noted that there is data showing that these facilities will get used, and he also agreed there is other funding available that might help pay for improvements.

Mr. Tully said there are also new requirements for what needs to be included in active transportation plans. He said they will need to structure the plan around those key elements.

Commissioner Gilmartin spoke of the subjectivity to the character of Downers Grove and how it may play into the character of the Village for some people, giving the example of brick paved streets. He shared his concern that the idea of character is limiting. Commissioner José said he intended for this plan to be limiting because character is subjective to each person. Mr. Tully said these facilities need to fit seamlessly into Downers Grove because they could be here for a very long time. He said the sharrows could be an important part of creating a facility that matches what the Council wants to see improvement-wise, while maintaining community character.

Mayor Barnett spoke about character and noted that it will change over time. Commissioner Gilmartin agreed.

Manager Fieldman thanked the Council for their input. He said that staff sees the Council's discussion on barriers and crossings as a key component to the success of any implementable plan. He said it is great to be part of this discussion.

Mayor Barnett thanked the presenters.

Public Comments

Bruce Swanson shared his content with what has been presented and suggested doing small-scale, inexpensive, experiments to see if things work before moving forward.

David Rose returned to the podium and asked if the spreadsheet was on the website. Manager Fieldman said it is at the end of the What's Possible presentation. Mr. Rose asked questions about the bike lanes on Main Street and about the Plan moving forward.

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Janet Whittingham, a resident, shared concerns about burdening taxpayers with the costs involved with tearing up projects recently completed to move forward with this plan. Mayor Barnett clarified that there was no discussion of ripping up brick streets.

REP 2024-10616 C. 2023-25 Long Range Plan Priority Action Items Discussion

Manager Fieldman presented via PowerPoint and provided an update on the Priority Action Items. He shared that 5 Priority Action Items have been completed and provided the status of the remaining items, including the recommendation to continue to differ 3 Priority Action Items to a later date.

Village Council Comments

Commissioner Davenport said he thinks the Village Council needs to listen to staff recommendations, and opined that items like updating the Village's sign ordinance are best to differ until the next Long Range Plan is discussed. He said he thinks Downers Grove is at organizational capacity. Commissioner Glover agreed.

Commissioner Tully also agreed and noted that these items include matters that significantly impact the community and deserve consideration, time and community input.

Commissioner José agreed with everything said and suggested another check in on the Priority Action Items relatively soon. He said he is interested in seeing if there is anything on the current list that can also be put on hold.

Commissioner Sadowski-Fugitt said she thinks they should keep moving forward on the current list of items.

Commissioner Gilmartin asked if Village staff felt confident that the current items will be completed before the next Council is in place.

Manager Fieldman said the earliest Houseal Lavigne can have the Comp Plan update prepared is in June or July.

Commissioner Gilmartin said he is fine with keeping the items discussed off the list.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: To *Adjourn the December 17, 2024, 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

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Village Clerk