

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village Council

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
Library Board Trustees Member Selection Process	Dave Fieldman Village Manager

SYNOPSIS

Continued discussion concerning a framework for consideration of alternative Library Board of Trustees member selection processes.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The strategic goals for 2023-2025 include *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Action at the discretion of the Village Council.

BACKGROUND

The Village Council (VC) and Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) held a joining meeting on January 2, 2025 to explore a framework for discussions between the VC and LBOT, to explore potential alternative approaches for selecting LBOT trustees and the pros and cons of such alternatives. The VC and LBOT provided some direction for next steps and indicated a desire to hold another joint meeting soon. Below are some key questions that the VC and LBOT may wish to consider addressing.

What Are the Goals and Objectives of the Project?

The goals and objectives should be identified by the VC and LBOT. They should be included in the documents establishing the working group and used to guide the contents and direction of the working group's report.

What is the Governance Model for the Project?

This question should be answered to establish the "rules of engagement" of the entire project and any working group that may be formed. It may address topics including how the members of the group will communicate among themselves and to the VC and LBOT. The VC and LBOT discussed a few of the governance related topics at the January 2, 2025 joint meeting and identified the following:

The process should:

- Be collaborative
- Allow the Village and Library to be equally represented throughout the process
- Be transparent
- Allow for public participation
- Enhance the relationship and build trust between the VoDG and DGPL

What Items Should be Included in the Report?

Based on discussion at the January 2, 2025 meeting, the working group will draft a report furthering the goals and objectives of the project, summarizing the attributes of an appointed and elected library board based on existing research, analyzing options for consideration and providing recommendations.

What is the Project Schedule?

At the January 2, 2025 Joint Meeting, the VC and LBOT indicated that the report should be completed by September, 2025. This would allow a referendum question to be placed on the March 2026 ballot, if necessary. The deadline for submitting a referendum question is 79 days prior to a regularly scheduled election. 10 ILCS 5/28-2(c). Sunday, December 28 is 79 days before March 17, 2026; therefore the last day for the Village Council to pass a resolution initiating a public question would be Monday, December 29, 2025. It should be noted that there are additional options related to the schedule.

Align with Village Council Cycle - To allow the current VC to complete the project, it would have to be completed by April 15.

Align with Library Board Appointment Schedule - The project would have to be completed by July if the report recommendations are intended to apply to the 2025 library appointment process.

Who Should be on the Working Group?

Based on discussion at the January 2, 2025 meeting, the working group would consist of members from the VC and LBOT. The group will be supported by staff from both organizations.