



rRemarks Data for April 21, 2026 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section & Item: Active - MOT 2026-11205 C. Motion: Approving a Contract with Sculpture Milwaukee for the Selection and Installation of Public Art in Linda Kunze Plaza and Three Flexible Amenity Areas

Commenter: Ted Rocha

Comment: I watched last week's meeting and was struck by how the Village Board acted related to the statue project. It was surprising how arrogant the Village Council and Mayor came off. I know this may come as a surprise to some of you, but you all made a choice to run for office. And, become public servants. Not some untouchable royalty.

You basically declared to residents: "Don't you dare criticize us. We know better than you."

When you CHOSE to serve the public, that means you also chose to get feedback.

And, that feedback should include criticism when warranted.

How you scolded those guys doing the Macho Man statue was, frankly, sad.

Declaring that you don't want to hear 'misinformation' and lecturing the public for sharing their perspective is so out-of-line with what public service is about for me.

You may not like what you heard, but I have news for you: that's what comes with the job.

Please, reconsider how you lecture the residents about how they engage with you. You came off terrible.

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Commenter: Liz Pelling

Comment: While I don't think you made the right call with Milwaukee vs. MachoMan, all residents can live with your choice to pick a consultant because that's what you, our elected officials, believe is best for the entire community.

But, please consider posting ALL the submitted proposals from the artists and consultants publicly for all to view. Why? To date, you have only posted the winning bid from Milwaukee Sculpture. It sounds like there were close to ten proposals. Post all of

them so the public can see for themselves why you chose the Wisconsin folks. I read the Shaw story about 'getting facts right' and I saw in the video that there was some debate over the cost of the winning bid vs the others and in the last meeting, the Council disputed the price differences.

<https://www.shawlocal.com/my-suburban-life/2026/04/19/macho-man-monument-backer-s-criticized-for-inaccurate-social-media-post-on-sculptures-future-in-downers-grove/>

How can we know what is true? What was 'wrong' in the discussion? What were the prices of everyone's bid? If you post them all, we'll see for ourselves.

You claim to be transparent, so live up to your promises:

<https://www.downers.us/transparency>

Thank you for the consideration to let some sunshine into your public art proposal process.

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Rose

Comment: Comment on the connection of current US wars to the issue of ecological sustainability, and the celebration of Earth Day

The US/Israel attack on Iran and Iran's subsequent restriction of passage through the Strait of Hormuz has called worldwide attention to the availability of resources crucial to our current way of living. Oil, nat gas, fertilizer, helium, and sulphur are among the products whose availability has been drastically reduced by the fighting and the closure to unfriendly vessels.

Optimistic assessments hope shipments of the affected products can be restored within weeks or months. Pessimists currently fear it may take years if ever for volumes to return to pre- Feb 28 levels.

In that regard, some analysts observe the impact of the war is a preview of long term impacts they have been warning about for years (decades?).

I include myself in that set.

The war is a direct result of Americans' refusal/inability to recognize our way of living is not ecologically sustainable. That is, the way of living in rich nations is not sustainable without exploiting and expropriating the people, resources and products of the world's poor nations. This arrangement is not sustainable materially or socially/politically/economically without resorting to violence, as the assorted wars and conflicts in which the US is involved confirms.

Up till now, VC and as far as I can tell almost all DG residents fail to recognize this reality and our culpability. As the inadequacy of the Comp Plan and its ESP implicitly affirms.

See my comment to the 17 Feb VC meeting regarding VC's sustainability effort (remarks to the meeting accessible as of 20 Apr 2026, in contrast to my prior efforts to access them, which generated an "error page not found" message),
https://agendadocs.downers.us/public/docs/agendas/2026/02_17_2026/rEmarks.pdf?_gl=1*1mgw771*_ga*Nzg2MDAxMTk3LjE3NzY3MzI2MTQ.*_ga_50YCDGRG70*czE3NzY3MzI2MTQkbzEkZzEkdDE3NzY3MzI2MzMkajQxJGwwJGgw

Or more ominously, residents do recognize this reality and culpability and are fine with it, so long as they are on the exploiting side.

In other words, if we want the US to stop its abusive behavior towards other nations and their citizens AND towards Mother Earth and each other, among the many changes we need to help bring about we need to change our way of living and change the way VC operates.

Either VC needs to stop promoting economic and population growth or it needs to explain how such growth is ecologically sustainable and does not contribute to worsening inequality and exploitation both inside and outside the US.

Likewise residents need to start educating themselves to what ecological sustainability means relative to their current unsustainable way of living. Example: what is the appropriate price of a gallon of gasoline (price of diesel, price of jet fuel) when petroleum is a non-renewable resource? What evidence leads you to believe EVs can simply replace gas-powered cars and allow Americans' "happy motoring" way of living to go on unimpeded?

The need to live ecologically sustainably is inherently intertwined with our need to strengthen community, promote equity and equality, and build genuine participatory democracy in all our political and economic institutions.

Until celebration of Earth Day reflects these objectives, it will be little more than an annual exercise in conscience laundering.