

**League of Women Voters
Observers Report**

Board meeting attended: Downers Grove Village Council

Date and Location of meeting: June 20, 2017 Council Chambers, 801 Burlington Ave.

Meeting started: 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: about 9:00 p.m.

League Observer(s): Mary Blanchard

Board Members/Trustees present (P) not present (NP) tardy (T):

Mayor Martin Tully	P
Bob Barnett	P
Margaret Earl	P
Greg Hose	P
Nicole Walus	P
William Waldack	P
Bill White	P

Estimated Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff):

20

Meetings are Streamed and Archived at:

<http://www.downers.us/govt/mayor-council/council-meetings-amp-workshops>

Agenda can be found at:

http://www.downers.us/public/docs/agendas/2017/06-20-17/AGENDA_DOCUMENT.pdf

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments.

REPORTS (board members, staff, administrators)

Mayor Report: Rotary Grove Fest and the Council presence during the Fest. July 4th parade there will be more bands and more candy. Stated next Council meeting is July 11th.

Councilman Waldack commented on July 4th fireworks in neighborhoods.

Manager's Report:
No report

PRESENTATIONS

INFORMATION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda was approved.

ACTIVE AGENDA

Nothing on the active agenda.

FIRST READING AGENDA

As presented to the Council by David Fieldman.

7A on the agenda: Discussion about sidewalks in the northwest Belmont area and if this can be placed in the fiscal year 2018 budget. Placement of sidewalk on at least one side of the street. In the summer of 2016 they moved to petition request by residents of an area for sidewalks versus continuing the automatic placement. Mayor expounded at length on the two decade long effort of sidewalk placement in the Village stating that the NW Belmont area was next on the list for sidewalk placement when the program was halted. In previous meetings about this residents overall positive on the addition of a sidewalk although there are concerns about drainage and the overall condition of the street itself. They need to bundle the drainage with the sidewalk placement. This is a highly walkable area (Puffer, train, etc.) and needed.

Councilman Waldack thanked residents in the audience for their online comments.

Councilman Hose stated he spent time walking that area pre-election and they need sidewalks. Councilman Barnett stated while needed funding is an issue.

Resident comments began: major safety concerns in the area, no safe way to school, Rec Center, train. They thanked the department of public works and transportation and parking staffs for their helpfulness during this process. Upon request of raising hands the majority of people in attendance that are Belmont area residents are in favor.

7B on the agenda: Discussion about neighborhood traffic in the same neighborhood commenced. There was a traffic study done to check speed and traffic amount, as well as speed controls (stop signs). One resident spoke about sidewalk placement, street condition taking too long and that too many traffic studies have been done and the

Council is being frivolous with tax dollars. This same resident got in a shouting match with another resident in the vestibule when this group left after this discussion. The police officer on duty had to go out and ask them to depart.

7C on the agenda: Building code discussion about sprinklers being required in new, single family home construction. It was noted that all multifamily buildings must have sprinkler systems.) Councilman Waldack stated a sprinkler system can dispense 13 gallons of water in a minute resulting in major water damage. Wants to see this as an option that builders offer and residents can sign off that they have considered versus requiring this. Councilman Barnett said this adds a burden of expense to the residents although gave him pause in considering safety of our emergency fire crews. Mayor Tully is unconvinced requiring these is necessary and wants to consider a hybrid like what communities have done. Cost to install a system ranges from \$7,400 to \$13,000 in addition to yearly maintenance required on the system. Councilman White brought up that homes do burn faster now than in the past because of products used to build them and furniture inside being petroleum based. Councilman Waldack mentioned an article about the failure of systems and the damage they do when they are activated by accident. Council members are leaning in the majority voting no on requiring sprinklers.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Barnett brought up two things relating to the poor drainage in our Village Part A: The inability to upgrade homes if already in a poor drainage area and the frustrations this causes existing home owners, and Part B: For new homes that can build what they like, end up in higher elevation, and then flood neighboring yards. He said something very astute in that the water issue (of new construction) is pitting neighbors against one another in our town.

Discussion ensued: Councilman White: Part B is compelling although he doesn't want to vote for something like this and would rather build it into future discussions and work plans as part of broader Village strategic plan. Councilman Hose: Part B is a bigger conversation than Part A and Part A deserves more immediate consideration. Councilman Barnett: No real interest by the Village in Part A. White stated he thinks there is Village interest and wants more info from staff. Barnett stated asking for arbitrary limit to be increased (LPDA restrictions). Tully: they won't be changing the LPDA restrictions for Part A. Staff needs to report on this to take as part of bigger conversation; run off footprint information is needed. Waldack: there was a report done on this October 2016 similar to this question. Walus: This is important and wants to learn more and how we can bundle needs.

Vote: Motion failed 4:3 on Part A and Barnett withdrew the motion for Part B.

Additional comments: Barnett: 100 parcels that had construction made the water situation in our Village worse over the last couple of years and the Council continues to push this away as a priority. Hose: he would discuss this more but the majority won't.

Waldack: site detention on new properties – he has some ideas of what they could do.
 Tully: this needs to be addressed. He stated strongly that the Council has never fully funded the money they have budgeted to deal with the water/flooding. There are projects already budgeted to help with this problem and Council never funds those projects.

TRUSTEE DISCUSSION

Comments/Concerns:

General Features

	Yes	No	Comments
Did the meeting start on time?	x		
Were members attentive and prepared?	x		
Were members courteous to each other?	x		
Were members attentive to the publics' comments?	x		
Was the facility adequate?	x		
Could the audience see and hear?	x		
Were visual aids easily visible to the audience	x		
Were the meeting facilities handicapped accessible	x		

FOIA (Complete once, unless information changes.)

Illinois Open Meetings Act requirements

	Yes	No	Comments

Was the agenda posted 48 hours before the meeting? If yes, note where	x		
Did the agenda items clearly describe what was to be discussed?	x		
Were background materials made available to the public?	x		
Was there adequate discussion of the issues?	x		
Was there a closed session before, during or after the meeting?		x	
If there was a closed meeting, was any action taken after the closed session? If so, what action?		x	

Date Submitted: July 6, 2017

By: Mary Blanchard