

**League of Women Voters
Observers Report**

Board meeting attended: Downers Grove Village Council

Date and Location of meeting: May 16, 2017 Council Chambers, 801 Burlington Ave.

Meeting started: 7:03 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: about 10:45 p.m.

League Observer(s): Emily Teising

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):

60

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/2017/05-16-17/AGENDA_DOCUMENT.pdf

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Victoria, (address) Grand Ave. – Seeking further action from the village to resolve code violations on her neighbor’s property, violations that have prevented her from being able to sell her house for the past two years.

Response: Mayor said staff will look into the situation, whether something has gotten hung up in court, for example.

Resident of Woodridge, requesting stronger response to protesters at the Access Health Center, 1700 75th Street. Deeply disturbed by confrontational, aggressive men with megaphones shouting with women. Police are often there, and ask people on both sides to respect each other, he said, but this is insufficient.

Response: Mayor Tully said he was sympathetic to the speaker's frustration and asked if the clinic or patrons had filed complaints, as that would be the appropriate way to proceed.

During comments on authorizing water main improvements, a local licensed plumber urged the commissioners to make sure that plumbers doing work in the village to connect residential piping to the new water mains are licensed.

REPORTS (board members, staff, administrators)

Mayor Tully: A ceremony May 18 honored fallen police officer Richard J. Barth. The farmers market is back, Saturdays from 7 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the DG Main Street train station: <http://www.ymcachicago.org/indianboundary/pages/downtown-downers-grove-market>

Grove Fest, June 22-25 (Rotary) <http://www.rotarygrovefest.com/>

Commissioner Waldack: Reminder, classic car show Fridays starts May 19. <http://www.downtowndg.org/sites/www.downtowndg.org/files/assets/printablecarshow2017flyer.pdf>

Commissioner Walus: Noah's Hope Cupcake Classic 5K race May 21. <http://www.noahshope.com/cupcake/>

No report from José, White, Earl or Barnett.

Manager's Report:

General Fund Sustainability

http://www.downers.us/public/docs/agendas/2017/05-16-17/INF%202017-7382%20-%20Long%20Range%20Planning%20-%2005-16-2017_6244.pdf

Tully: changing trends in consumer behavior mean that the village must find new revenue sources to replace lost revenue.

Despite cuts, General Fun expenses in 2017 are 11 percent higher than in 2008. Public Safety Pension Expenses are 177 percent higher than in 2008.

Commissioners agreed that staff should investigate implementing a 1 percent food and beverage tax. Applicable to restaurants and to some prepared food at grocery stores.

PRESENTATIONS

INFORMATION ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

http://www.downers.us/public/docs/agendas/2017/05-09-17/AGENDA_DOCUMENT.pdf

TRUSTEE DISCUSSION

Comments/Concerns:

About 2 hours of the meeting were spent on the following item:

[ORD 2017-7340](#) An ordinance authorizing a special use for 7221 Lemont Road to permit an animal boarding facility

Nine members of the public who live in the neighborhood near the proposed facility spoke against approval. Some spoke more than once. Mainly concerned about noise, property values.

One person, an architect working on the project, spoke in favor.

More than once, Mayor Tully reminded the audience not to applaud or interject, and to be civil.

Summary of points brought up during council discussion:

- More than one member of the council had recently walked the neighborhood
- Some concern that once the facility is built, remedying any failure to comply with village code will be difficult.
- The petitioner has every incentive to comply with the conditions of approval.
- "You're not entitled to no change in your environment," Barnett said.

Passed 5-2 with limitation of 94 dogs at any one time. Walus and Waldack voted against.

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 public's 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: May 19, 2017

By: Emily Teising