

League of Women Voters Observers Report

Board meeting attended: Downers Grove Village Council

Date and Location of meeting: June 6, 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):

25

Meetings are Streamed and Archived at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/VillageDownersGrove>

Agenda can be found at:

[Agenda June 6, 2017](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ed Earl, of the Downers Grove Public Library Foundation invited all to the dedication of the mural in the children's section of the library, June 11 at 1:30 p.m. Mayor Tully said he put it in his calendar and plans to attend.

Jyotsna Jagai, speaking on behalf of the Green Grovers and DG Marchers urged the village to incorporate curbside composting in the local waste disposal system. Mayor Tully said the village usually examines these questions in the context of renegotiating contracts with Republic (the waste management company), and asked staff to put this item on the environmental commission agenda.

Jane Rendall and her husband, 4620 Prospect Ave. Restrictions on their property because of its location in a Localized Poor Drainage Area have hindered the sale of the property. They built their home here 61 years ago. Their daughter questioned whether the village should reconsider its approach to storm water management. Mayor Tully noted the property has been on the LPDA map since the 1980s, and the purpose of those maps is to protect all homeowners. Some find the ordinances too restrictive, others not restrictive enough. The mayor explained there is a comprehensive process for the entire village, and advised the property owners to work with staff to find other venues for relief (rather than a modification to the storm water ordinance).

REPORTS (board members, staff, administrators)

Mayor's Report: Nicole Szydlowski appointed to 3-year term on Community Events Commission. Ted Jenkins appointed to 3-year term on the Parking and Transportation Commission.

Downers Grove North High School Girls' soccer team placed 4th in the 3A State championship.

Manager's Report: Facilities Sustainability Plan – Village Campus

Council members have been discussing what to do with the Village Campus since the end of February.

- **The issue:** Village Hall and the Police Station Require Significant Maintenance or Replacement
- **The solution:** pairing a new Village Hall/Police Station with either a medical building, town homes, or apartment building.
- **A majority of council members** originally leaned toward the apartment building option, which would have the lowest tax impact, with Earl strongly favoring a do nothing approach for now.
- **Members of the public (about 6)** who spoke at the first meeting when this was discussed favored the DuPage Medical Group building or the town homes.

Meeting moved to the conference room for the June 6 discussion. Discussion was lengthy and somewhat tense. Video begins at about 1h55min. General review of plan status. Due to a lack of consensus, the issue had not been discussed since May 2 when no one seconded the motion to follow up on the townhomes option. Mayor Tully explained that issues with the Village Hall and Police Station buildings (roof and boiler system) raised the sense of urgency again.

By the end of the discussion:

- Commissioners Barnett, Hosé, Tully and White agreed staff should continue to pursue the Townhouses option for the facilities sustainability plan.
- Commissioners Walus and Earl supported using funds to make repairs for now.

- Commissioner Waldack said he thinks the village can do better (get more proposals).

Audience comments and questions:

1. Speaker said the council needs to do a better job educating people about what the village needs.
2. Speaker would like a sense of the worst-case scenario.
3. Speaker commented on the huge amount of distrust among council members, but commended them for having this discussion.

PRESENTATIONS

INFORMATION ITEMS

Proclamation celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Garden Club of Downers Grove.

CONSENT AGENDA Approved Unanimously. See above agenda link.

ACTIVE AGENDA

Commissioner Hose voted against items D, E, F (Authorizing contracts for water Main Improvements). José surprised to learn a licensed plumber is not required for the portion of the water main improvements to homes. The mayor responded that here have not been issues with water connections in the village.

Commissioner Barnett voted against Motion H, authorizing a labor agreement with the DG Fire Fighters Union Local 3234. Mayor Tully thanked all involved.

FIRST READING

Accept audit by BKD, LLP. This is the first year BKD, LLP has done the village's audit. No significant deficiencies or weaknesses were identified, and the transition to working with the new firm went smoothly.

Resolution to grant historic landmark designation for 5325 Fairmount – note that this is one way of keeping a modest-sized home in the village's housing inventory, according to Rich Kulovany of Friends of the Edwards House.

Resurfacing and reconstruction bid awarded to Chicagoland Paving Contractors for \$979,900.00. Lowest of 8 bids.

Jurisdictional transfer of portions of Hobson Road to the County of DuPage, for maintenance concerning snow and ice removal. Commissioner Waldack asked

why jurisdictional control needs to be transferred to accomplish this. Manager Fieldman will get more information before the next meeting.

TRUSTEE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Waldack requested that ordinance amending the municipal code regarding mosquitoes in abandoned swimming pools be considered. Staff will put together a report.

Commissioner Waldack suggested that petitioners be required to use companies from a pre-approved list for traffic studies. Manager Fieldman said staff will work on standards for ensuring the accuracy, consistency, understandability, and independence of traffic studies.

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		From time to time, council members needed to be reminded to speak directly into the microphone. Sound seems ok on the YouTube video.
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: June 7, 2017

By: Emily Teising