

**League of Women Voters
Observers Report**

Board meeting attended: Downers Grove Village Council

Date and Location of meeting: February 12, 2019, Council Chambers, 801 Burlington Ave.

Meeting started: 7 p.m.

Meeting adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

League Observer: Emily Teising (via YouTube)

Trustees present (P) not present (NP) tardy (T), (Term expires)

Mayor Martin Tully	P	(2019)
Bob Barnett	P	(2021)
Margaret Earl	P	(2021)
Greg Hose	P	(2021)
Nicole Walus	P	(2019)
William Waldack	P	(2019)
Bill White	P	(2019)

Est. Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff): n/a (Observer was not in the room; Mayor Tully referred to “so many of you in the audience” and many voices recited the Pledge of Allegiance.)

Meetings are Streamed and Archived at:

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

[Council Minutes - 02-05-19](#) Approved unanimously

Public comment: Amy Gassen: VP of DG Historical Society. Development regarding Historic Home program (honorary designation) Historical Society will pay for plaque and membership. Thursday, March 7 event at Emmett’s. DownersGroveHistory.org.

Consent Agenda

- A. BIL 2019-8076 Bills Payable: No. 6438, February 12, 2019
- B. A resolution continuing participation in the Suburban Tree Consortium and authorizing certain purchases for 2019 [RES 2019-8068](#)
- C. A resolution authorizing a master pole attachment agreement with New Cingular Wireless for use of Village-owned poles in rights-of-way [RES 2019-8069](#)
- D. A motion awarding \$42,300 to Misfits Construction Company, Chicago, Illinois, for supply of crushed limestone [MOT 2019-8070](#)
- E. A resolution authorizing a letter of understanding with the State of Illinois Department of Transportation for Ogden Avenue [RES 2019-8071](#)
- F. Note receipt of minutes of Boards and Commissions [MIN 2019-8082](#)

Active Agenda

- A. An ordinance amending parking permit provisions for residents [ORD 2019-8063](#)

Questions related to Lot R from Marge Earl (resident parking to park overnight in the deck) Clarification by David Fieldman: Ordinance relates to making sure that all the private spaces are maximized before public spaces are used.

Unanimously approved

- B. A resolution authorizing an agreement with Leopardo Companies, Inc. for preconstruction services for the Village facilities project [RES 2019-8078](#)

Unanimously approved

First Reading

- A. An ordinance regulating the sale of cats, dogs and rabbits [ORD 2019-8058](#)
- B. A resolution supporting Senate Bill 2280 [RES 2019-8059](#)

First two items relate to the same issue. Dan Carlson: Jan 8 meeting, potential options were presented. Council had directed staff to draft an ordinance and a resolution supporting. The animals must be obtained from an animal rescue organization.

Happiness is Pets is the only shop in town that sells pets. They recently moved. The ordinance allows them to operate until their lease expires.

The State Senate Bill is similar, but there is no further action currently scheduled.

Tully: “we’ve had a tremendous amount of input from the community and beyond.” The earliest we’d be voting on this would be March 5.

Waldack: We’ve met a number of times on this. We believe that animals are capable of love and therefore we ought to love them and care for them...There’s a whole problem with the supply chain...We have a pretty good turnout tonight...emails going back for months. I fear that we have a proposed ordinance...the way it’s written, it isn’t going to take place for four years. You have one business that has a reputation...how are we going to amortize this? Are we going to allow this to continue? We admit this is wrong, but we don’t want to fix this for...? Is not happy with the time of implementation. Wants not more than 60 days. Or for Humane society or someone to approve their supply chain.

Hosé: In favor of an ordinance of this nature. I stand in favor of the ordinance. I’d like to see a shorter amortization period if possible. We received a couple of comments about the fine structure. Is there a way to increase that?

Earl: I have received more email on this than I have gotten on anything since I have been sitting up here. I do not submit the length of time that was proposed for the amortization period. Between 5-6 months, 60 days? I’m fine with the shorter the better. I think we need to tighten up the language. As far as I’m concerned, the sooner, the better. If this had been any other business, we would not have put up with it. If these are just commodities to the people that are selling them...they sell 1.8 puppies a day out of

this store. I support this ordinance. We've been threatened with lawsuits. I believe it is worth going to the mat for this.

White: I'm generally in favor of the ordinance. I want to take a look at a few things. How much time do we spend verifying that the retail sales comply? On the amortization period, if we believe this is a moral issue, the only answer is now.

Barnett: The fine issue...they ought to be meaningful if we are going to have them at all. As far as the amortization period, something that is a logical path. What about the animals that are there now? Do we have any legal precedents that we could point back to, where we want to abolish that use? Even as relate to zoning? The last thing is this definition issue. I'd like to hear everyone in the audience talk about it a bit. If the goal is to eliminate puppy mill sales, we should probably ban all sales. Amortization needs to be orderly and thought-through.

Walus: This is an emotionally charged issue. We've received communications from residents and non-residents on both sides. In my opinion, if we are here to represent our residents. I will be voting for the ordinance. I am in favor of a shorter amortization period.

Tully: When we get to public comment, if you're reading the room, you probably know where things are going. Let's be clear, six months ago, this wasn't on our radar screen. That's extremely unusual. It's a pretty comprehensive ordinance. We don't want to pass an ordinance that we can't enforce. I don't feel strongly about the fines. We do try to do things in an orderly fashion whenever we change the rules. Emphasized the importance of orderly transition.

Public Comment:

In support of ordinance: a number of private citizens, representatives of the Humane Society etc.: 15

In support of reasonable amortization, in support of Pet Store: 1 (president, CEO of Chamber 630)

Against ordinance: Representative of Happiness is Pets: The breeders they work with comply with Humane Society/USDA. The claim our puppies are mill-bred is extraordinary. Challenged council members to provide evidence for their claims.

Tully: Listening to this, I almost think it doesn't go far enough. We've got to keep it simple. If it's not simple, it won't be effective.

Earl: acquired two dog from Happiness is pets, first was ill, the second was not well-socialized.

Hosé: hearing the various comments, inclined to move toward full ban.

Waldack: just one business. It sometimes seems unfair. I know that person, I trust her.

C. An ordinance creating a Class R-3 liquor license classification [ORD 2019-8053](#)

Allows Cooper's Hawk Restaurant – for onsite and offsite liquor consumption. Barnett: why did we need to do this? Attorney: we don't have a classification that allows full restaurant liquor license and sales.

Mayor's report: Coffee with Council DGPL, Feb. 16.

Nicole Walus: Pizza wars, DGS

Date Submitted: February 18, 2018, By: Emily Teising