

Village of Lombard

*Village Hall
255 East Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
villageoflombard.org*



Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 3, 2011

7:00 PM

Village Hall

Transportation & Safety Committee

Trustee Keith Giagnorio, Chairperson

Trustee Zachary Wilson-Co-Chairperson

John Schwarz, Nancy Sherretz, Jean Nolan, Robert Difino, Bob Corbino, Gerri Kuehl,

Jerry Schaefer and Ken Snead

*Staff Liaisons: Deputy Chief Pat Rollins - Police and Frank Kalisik and John Johnson -
Public Works*

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Giagnorio at 7:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call

Present: John Schwarz, Robert Difino, Nancy Sherretz, Jerry Shaefer and Ken Snead

Absent: Jean Nolan, Gerri Kuehl and Bob Corbino

Others Present:

Ray Byrne, Police Chief

Bill Heniff, Community Development Director

Frank Kalisik, Civil Engineer

John Johnson, Technical Services Supervisor

3.0 Public Participation

4.0 Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Shaefer, seconded by Sherretz, to approve the Minutes of the October 4, 2010, meeting. The motion carried by a voice vote

5.0 Unfinished Business

6.0 New Business

100703

Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA) Strategic Advisory Report

Requesting input relative to staff's suggestions and recommendations together with direction to prepare a final report response from the Village Board to the ISHTA.

Heniff reviewed the item. He explained that it was sent to 30 members to identify and begin to implement solutions for what some of the long-range issues are that ISTHA should be addressing. The Village is focusing on a couple items. We would like ISTHA to become a partner with the Village so we can participate instead of just being informed about what they're going to do. We were happy to see the Stewardship Elements portion regarding stormwater, etc. They recognize that they are a large property owner in the Village and collaboration is important. The density discussions need to be reviewed carefully. We don't want to overburden our transportation system.

General discussion ensued and the Committee concurred with Staff on the items presented.

100704**Village of Lombard Downtown Revitalization Project Guidebook**

A request for a committee recommendation regarding the proposed development concept plans (Chapters 1 & 2), streetscape enhancements (Chapter 3), transportation strategies (Chapter 6) and implementation strategies (Chapter 7).

Heniff reviewed the item. He explained to the committee that this is a long-range document, however, it would be best to adopt a final plan as soon as possible so we can begin to market the plan. Staff wanted to incorporate comments from Transportation and Safety Committee before a draft goes to Plan Commission and the Board of Trustees.

Difino commented that there will be certain elements that are going to fall on the taxpayers and asked if the consultant prioritized the plan with finances in mind, i.e. this is what you really need to do to get this plan up and running. Heniff explained that they did not, that would come from committees and the Board, however, Chapter 7 does address implementation. It has to be flexible because we don't know where the economy is going to be in 3 - 5 years. Difino asked if there is one thing that would attract private development. Heniff answered that there is not one magic bullet. The plan does address the issue, saying that if you find someone interested, there can be opportunities. Difino commented that "road dieting", in his opinion, works well in small little villages, but St. Charles Rd. is still a major thoroughfare. Snead interjected that that is the idea, don't make it a major thoroughfare, force the through-traffic to another road. Schaefer said that he thought it would be counter-productive.

Schaefer commented that Glen Ellyn, Elmhurst and Wheaton are viable downtown areas. He went on to say that he agrees with the suggestion in the plan to eliminate the gas station. Also, one-way streets makes it more pedestrian friendly. It's easier to cross the street if you're only looking for traffic in one direction and it slows traffic down so they circulate through the area. Heniff talked about how downtown LaGrange has transformed.

Snead added that his first reaction was that there was no way [road dieting] would work, but the more he thought about it the majority of the day there would not be much impact by having the road down to one lane. The only hours that are really busy are the morning and evening rush. Heniff pointed out that the Fire Department does have concerns about serving the opposite end of town, but it does offer some opportunities such as additional parking on the north side of St Charles Rd. It may be that what happens on the theater site will set the tone. Snead agreed that one beneficial aspect of road dieting is the additional parking. If that were implemented all the way through the St. Charles/Main St. area that would make all of the parking you could want available. Sherretz pointed out that in the development section the plan shows a 166 space deficiency, so the glaring problem is there is no parking. Until parking is resolved you're not going to get any restaurants there. People on the south side of town are not going to walk there. Heniff pointed out that the document does identify several elements of parking. Also, Metra would like 200 more spaces. Difino asked if the Village has asked Metra for funds for a parking garage. Heniff answered that Metra said they do not have funds, but they did make clear that North Park Parking Lot may be candidate for a parking garage. Heniff added that having a parking shortfall is actually a good sign, the idea here is thinking about a parking garage to meet increased demand, i.e. if Metra set up an express service from Lombard to downtown Chicago. If the redevelopment does not occur, Downtown may not need a parking garage.

Difino asked about mid-block crosswalks. Heniff explained that a good example would be by the Hammerschmidt parking lot. That may be an opportunity for a mid-block

crosswalk and the second example is mid-block Main between Maple/Parkside. If Elmhurst Memorial were to expand that may be useful.

Schaefer asked if the current business owners are aware of the plan. Heniff told him that staff spent all summer doing neighborhood meetings and public forums. A lot of these comments that have been included are from the consultants sitting with residents and business owners. The Village has had two public meetings and now the committees are looking at it.

General discussion ensued regarding the economy.

Giagnorio suggested that the downtown area should be renamed to also draw people south. There are a lot of things of interest on Main. Heniff answered that the point is well taken and went on to say that there are not many vacant businesses on S. Main. So the other argument would be do you need additional Village resources there. One goal that would benefit S. Main is to get people off the Illinois Prairie path and going towards Downtown. He went on to say that the Village needs to decide what we want Downtown to be. We don't have to have it be an economic engine, it could be more of a lifestyle destination.

Sherretz asked about bus transit, there is bus turn around area by the premium parking area. Heniff responded that the RTA has pulled the funding for the Circulator. It could change if there were more pressure on the RTA, say if gas prices keep going up.

Schaefer added that he likes the concept of the viaduct with murals.

100688

Olde Towne East

Staff recommendation to eliminate the No Parking Anytime restriction on the east side of Charlotte Street between St. Charles Road and Grove Street and on both sides of Windsor Avenue between Martha Street and Craig Place. (DISTRICT #4)

Kalisik reviewed the item.

It was moved by Shaefer, seconded by Difino, that this matter be recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote

100689

300 S. Westmore-Meyers Road

Modifying the existing parking restriction for two parking spaces from 2-Hour Parking to 10-Minute Parking. (DISTRICT #5)

Kalisik reviewed the item.

It was moved by Schwarz, seconded by Sherretz, that this matter be recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval. The motion carried by a voice vote

7.0 Other Business

8.0 Information Only

9.0 Adjournment

Chief Byrne announced that Deputy Chief Rollins will be serving as liaison to the committee.

It was moved by Snead, seconded by Difino, to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. The motion carried by a voice vote