

**MINUTES
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
July 12, 2021**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President Hayes; Trustees: Bertucci, Canty, Grasse, LaBedz, Scaletta, Schwingbeck, and Tinaglia

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Baldino

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager; Diana Mikula, Assistant Village Manager; Sarah Fitzgibbons, Management Analyst II

SUBJECTS: Village Board 2021 Goal Setting

President Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizens to be Heard

Keith Moens shared that we should attempt to allow remote access for public meetings, or allow for phone-in opportunities. Whatever happens to the redevelopment of Arlington Park, Keith Moens says we cannot allow for any tax discounts or rebates. There needs to be a speed reduction program with the Police Department. He also expressed concerns that since Staff and the Village Board ate dinner in a private room prior to the start of this Committee-of-the-Whole, does this meeting comply with the Open Meetings Act?

Madeline McCarren shared that the public does not have enough opportunity to learn about new policies. Madeline McCarren recommends that the Village host discussions with diverse citizens on potential policies to increase trust.

Don Viecegli recommends the Village develop a climate change statement and action-plan to combat greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Heidi Graham, on behalf of the League of Women Voters, urged the Village Board to continue to make Diversity Equity, and Inclusion a priority in the Village. Heidi Graham also encouraged the Village to prioritize the environment when considering equipment purchases. Heidi Graham also stated the Village needs to continue to prioritize mental health and supply a social worker to join the Police department on applicable calls for service. Heidi Graham stated that we do not need armed responses to the mental health crises.

Melissa Cayer encouraged the Village Board to abolish the TIF Districts as their resources go unused.

A. Village Board 2021 Goal Setting

Village Manager Randy Recklaus and Mayor Hayes made some opening remarks about the importance and purpose of the goal setting process.

The Village Board began by discussing the Board's interaction with itself as a workgroup. Each Trustee discussed their perspectives.

Village Manager Recklaus gave a review of some of themes highlighted during Departmental Status Reports, and updated the Board on the progress made towards goals identified in the 2019 session.

The Village Board discussed what internal and external trends and challenges they believe will impact the Village in coming years (see attachment for summary of trends and challenges discussed).

The final step of the process involved the Village Board discussing the strategic priorities for 2022-2023. Each trustee identified specific areas that they believed the Village Government should focus on in the coming year. Staff recorded the ideas and the Board discussed them as a group. All of the ideas and the consensus top priority items identified through the process were recorded by staff (see attached summary).

Village Manager Recklaus indicated that staff would put together a summary of the evening for the Board's approval and that this document would serve as a basis for a business plan process for Village Staff to plan more detailed objectives for the coming year.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

Motion was made by Trustee LaBedz, seconded by Trustee Schwingbeck to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

VILLAGE BOARD GOAL SETTING SESSION SUMMARY

JULY 12, 2021

FEEDBACK ON BOARD/STAFF INTERACTION

- Board would like more background information and time to consider high-stake issues when voting.
- Some members of the Board feel that motions come out really quickly; clarity needs to be given on what motion is being brought forth.
- Some Board members would like to know that well in-advance when a trustee is unable to attend a meeting. Some Trustees indicated they can't always provide that information due to their schedules
- Board agrees that engaging in one-on-one conversations with one another is still the best practice when there are disagreements or misunderstandings between Trustees.
- There is some debate over getting emails earlier vs. waiting for information to be put into the packet. There was agreement that if we have an update, we can e-mail out earlier in the week.
- It was agreed that a session would be held later in the year to further discuss Roberts Rules/Board Governance

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Keith Moens shared that we should attempt to allow remote access for public meetings, or allow for phone-in opportunities. Whatever happens to the redevelopment of Arlington Park, Keith Moens says we cannot allow for any tax discounts or rebates. There needs to be a speed reduction program with the Police Department. He also expressed concerns that since Staff and the Village Board ate dinner in a private room prior to the start of this Committee-of-the-Whole, does this meeting comply with the Open Meetings Act?
- Madeline McCarren shared that the public does not have enough opportunity to learn about new policies. Madeline McCarren recommends that the Village host discussions with diverse citizens on potential policies to increase trust.
- Don Viecegli recommends the Village develop a climate change statement and action-plan to combat greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- Heidi Graham, on behalf of the League of Women Voters, urged the Village Board to continue to make Diversity Equity, and Inclusion a priority in the Village. Heidi Graham also encouraged the Village to prioritize the environment when considering equipment purchases. Heidi Graham also stated the Village needs to continue to prioritize mental health and supply a social worker to join the Police department on applicable calls for service. Heidi Graham stated that we do not need armed responses to the mental health crises.
- Melissa Cayer encouraged the Village Board to abolish the TIF Districts as their resources go unused.

TRENDS AND THEMES

- Post-Covid 19 Recovery
 - Economically- helping our residents and business recover; recovery has been uneven in the community.
 - The Village is in a position to restore services paused or slowed during the pandemic.
 - Socially- life will be different in a post-pandemic world. We need to recognize that there will be a “new normal.”
 - Special Events: we have the opportunity to reassess our special events and bring them back in a safe manner.
- Sustainability
 - Continuing to prioritize opportunities to choose sustainable, green options
- Identity of the Village since Arlington International Racecourse went up for sale
 - The Village current branding is horse-related, we will have to rethink our branding.
 - “What does the Village want to be known for?”
 - Can Arlington Al Fresco be a part of the Village’s rebranding/identity?
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
 - Residents with disabilities need to be considered when we are discussing infrastructure and special events. We need to truly be inclusive to ensure that participation is widely available.
 - Continue to recruit and retain diverse employees
 - New communication opportunities for the community: we need to find ways to share what we have in common with one another.
- Mental Health
 - We need to continually look for training opportunities for our Public Safety employees when responding to mental health crises.
- Property Tax Concerns
 - Residents and businesses have been strained by the pandemic, we need to highly consider this.
- Revenues
 - We need to make sure that revenues make sense and we are not over-charging.
- Affordable/ Attainable Housing
 - We need to continue prioritizing affordable housing, but also consider attainable housing.
- Livable Community
 - Less vehicle use and more biking/walking around the community.
- Business Development
 - We need to be a welcoming community for new businesses
- Permits
 - We should consider self-certification on small projects & increase the number of offerings for 1 day permits
- Balance the needs of the Business Districts

- The downtown has benefited from Al Fresco, we must not forget about the north & south sides of town.
- Major Projects currently underway allow less time for new major initiatives
 - ERP- 30-month implementation by staff on a new software system Village-wide
 - Racetrack Redevelopment- Multiyear effort
 - DEI- Continuing to recruit and retain diverse employees
- Long Range Plan for Downtown
 - As we prioritized turning the downtown into an entertainment district, we must continue to have forward thinking.
 - Al Fresco changed the landscape of downtown, we must consider how that has impacted it.

PRIORITIES NEXT TWO YEARS

Suggested Priorities that received no votes: Mental Health

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Vote #</u>	<u>Notes from Board</u>
1.Post COVID-19 Recovery	17	• Economic recovery for our residents & businesses • Social expectations and comfortability will change • Recognize that there is a “new normal”
2.Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion	11	• Continue to recruit and retain diverse employees • No quotas • Cultural events • Connect to members of the community who are typically “missed” in the conversation
3.Re-use/Redevelopment of Arlington Park	6	• Focus on the best solution for the space • Develop around Arlington Park to best support the entertainment • Move quickly on this
4 Sustainability/Green Initiatives	6	• Electric car charging stations • Continue to operate and acquire a green fleet
5. Managing Taxes & Fees	6	• “Right size” revenues • Keep taxes as low as possible with 0% increase
6. Maintain & Improve Core Services	6	• ERP: make sure we pick the right technological solution for the community

		• Focus on delivery of high quality of village services • Maintain infrastructure • Keep permits, but eliminate the long process
7. Livable Community	2	• Community welcome for all ages • More pedestrian and bicycle pathways
8. Enhance Communication with Residents and Businesses	1	• Help businesses understand what is needed when joining the community, such as permits, licenses, etc. • More communication platforms & opportunities
9. Affordable/Attainable Housing	1	• Continue to prioritize affordable housing, while considering that attainable housing is important.