COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS – COMMUNITY ROOM
MONDAY, APRIL 22, 7:30 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Trustees Farwell, Hayes, Rosenberg, Scaletta, Sidor, and President Mulder.
BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:	Trustees Breyer, Glasgow and Blackwood
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:	Village Manager Bill Dixon, Director of Engineering Jim Massarelli, Civil Engineer Briget Schwab, Director of Building and Health Services James McCalister, Environmental Health Officer Jeff Bohner, Assistant Village Attorney Robin Ward and Village Clerk Becky Hume
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:	Charles Beck Executive Director Metropolis, Joe Lynn President of the Board of Directors for Metropolis, Trustee Elect Jim Tinaglia, Bicycle Advisory Commissioners Alan Medsker, Mitchell Polonsky and Michael Walczak, Environmental Commissioners David Templer and Michael Wilder, Arts Commissioners Deb Smart, Toni Higgins-Thrash and Scott DeLaney
SUBJECTS:	1. Proposed Complete Streets Policy 2. Proposed Code Amendment for Required Number of Bicycle Parking Spaces 3. Proposed Exterior Lighting Ordinance 4. Proposed Creation of Metropolis Task Force 5. Request for Closed Session

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President Mulder called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Mayor called the roll.

1. Proposed Complete Streets Policy/Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission

Ms. Schwab and Mr. Metzger presented the proposal for a Complete Streets Policy which would be included in Board of Trustees Policy Manual. Mr. Metzger said that the Village does a good job of addressing all kinds of transportation issues when projects/roads go through. To ensure this occurs in the future; the Commission would like to put the currently used best practices into policy. Ms. Schwab said that having a policy on the books will help the Village as it applies for grants. It was explained that the policy won't change what the Village is actually doing in practice, but formalizes what is being done in policy. There will be no costs incurred and not a lot will change. Mr. Metzger explained that the Commission wants to continue positive actions like making accommodations for bikes, pedestrians, and the disabled. It wants to ensure these issues are always considered when roads and sidewalks are put in. Engineering implements these issues already.

Trustee Scaletta said that most of these issues are already in code but in different places. Mr. Metzger explained that the policy makes a statement that the Village is thinking about everyone from pedestrians to the largest truck. Trustee Farwell said it is a good way to solidify policy and helps with additional funding sources. Trustee Rosenberg asked if the Complete Street Policy would take precedence over Village policy. Ms. Ward said that it is a conceptual idea/philosophy and that she couldn't imagine that something else that was updated would conflict with it. Mr. Walczak said there are a variety of different policies but no national standard, so this policy stands on its own terms. The Commission picked from the best ideas of what is available for the Village when putting it together.

Trustee Scaletta moved to approve the Complete Streets Policy. Trustee Sidor seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Proposed Code Amendment for Required Number of Bicycle Parking Spaces

Mr. Metzger said that when there is a new construction building, the Commission would like to require that a certain number of bike spaces be within a certain distance from the entrance of a building. This would make the Village even more bike friendly. Trustee Hayes said it was good idea and asked how the Commission came up with the specific numbers for the buildings. Ms. Schwab said that they surveyed the local area and chose Skokie as a model. No objections have been reported by Skokie and the policy has been in place a few years. Ms. Schwab said that staff has been recommending what is being proposed to developers for over a year and has not seen any backlash. No developers balked and all have put in bike racks as part of their developments.

Trustee Scaletta questioned the need for bike racks at senior housing developments and expressed concern for the possible proliferation of racks in the downtown area that might go unused as a result of the policy. He said he liked the idea, but didn't want to hamstring businesses, create more bureaucracy or crowd the downtown area with racks. Mr. Polonsky said that the Commission wanted to encourage ridership. Ms. Schwab stated that the idea was to have the plan be flexible. Trustee Scaletta said that the Board must be careful in adding this to the Code as the Village would then be legislating bike racks, then staff could say that in certain cases they weren't necessary and then the Commission would be frustrated that their recommendations were not being used.

Ms. Ward said this proposal would have to go to Public Hearing before the Plan Commission and more details might get fleshed out. She said the Board isn't being asked to approve a final version tonight. Mr. Metzger said the Commission wanted to float the concept to the Board. Trustee Scaletta said he liked the concept but would like to hear from the residents, businesses, Chamber of Commerce and developers. He thanked the Commission for their hard work.
Trustee Rosenberg clarified that this Code change would only affect new construction. Originally the proposed changed included properties that were going

through a large amount of renovation and/or a use change, but that portion of the proposal was dropped.

Mr. Metzger said that the Commission is glad that the idea is being discussed. He said riders would like more places to lock their bikes and a rack is better than a tree or pole. Trustee Sidor agreed with the concept but also concurred with Trustee Scaletta's points. He said he is not sure if riders will come just because the racks are there. It was clarified that racks can be placed on private property without the Village's permission. Trustee Farwell asked why Skokie was used as a model. Mr. Walzcak said they had the clearest policy and it was very applicable to our downtown with our various uses. Skokie does not have any measures of success, but there has not been any push back. Trustee Farwell suggested site visits to measure usages and utilization. He concurred with Trustees Scaletta and Sidor.

Trustee Rosenberg thanked the Commission for their efforts. President Mulder said it was positive movement to provide safer and more user friendly environments for cyclists and said she preferred bike racks to parking garages. The suggestion will be completely aired through Plan Commission process. She thanked the Commission for their 2 years worth of work on this project. Trustee Farwell noted the upcoming Bike Swap, Ride of Silence, Arlington 500, and asked for the Bike Safety Public Service announcement to be put up again. The Board recommended that the Plan Commission Public Hearing be widely publicized when this issue comes forward and that the Chamber of Commerce be notified.

3. Environmental Commission's Proposed Exterior Lighting Ordinance

Mr. Dixon said the Environmental Commission has been working on this subject for a number of years. Boards and Commissions usually come with staff arm in arm with proposals, but that is not case tonight.

Mr. Wilder said the Commission began looking at impacts of lighting 4 yrs ago. Their focus is on energy conservation. The environmental industry and other communities are promoting the concept of dark skies. Homer Glen is a model on the south side. Barrington Hills passed a similar ordinance in 2010. The Commission looked at what these communities were doing and considered them for Arlington Heights. Its goal is to try to bring environmental opportunities to the Board. After soliciting staff feedback, Engineering said there would be enforcement concerns. The Commission wanted to present the opportunity for guidelines for public lighting without reducing security. Their hope was to address lighting nuisances where light trespasses from one structure to another. In looking at the Code, there was an opportunity to leverage restrictions that existed. Already the Village has lighting limits on parking lots and the idea is to include driveways and yards to these lighting restrictions.

Trustee Sidor asked if there were many complaints regarding light nuisance. Mr. Dixon said there had been 2 in the last 5 years. Mr. Wilder explained that driveways are not exempt the restriction. Trustee Hayes said the current enforcement vehicle is to have someone complain under the nuisance section of Village Code. This idea gives teeth to determining nuisance. Ms. Ward said that it would be difficult to enforce and that there is no staff available at night to enforce it. She said judges don't take kindly to these kinds of cases as nuisances are subjective. She said the concept of lighting as a nuisance is difficult, she said it's a solution to a problem we don't have.

Trustee Hayes said the idea would have more merit if it was a problem within Village. The idea may raise problems. Mr. Wilder said the Commission's goal is to advise the Board on environmental issues, this is a topical issue so they wanted to Board to review the idea. He said they noted there is existing Code language that already enforces lighting and that this part of the Code could be applied to off-street parking areas in commercial, industrial, multi- family housing and single family properties. They were hoping it would be seen as a positive move without being overly restrictive and without creating any more enforcement issues. Trustee Farwell asked if Malibu lighting would be included. Mr. Wilder said yes.

Trustee Scaletta asked how this would affect the downtown. Mr. Wilder said the current Code already addresses downtown lighting and parking, this action would apply the same standard to other portions of properties like the rear and sides of buildings even where they don't have parking. Mr. Wilder clarified that the goal was to save energy. Trustee Scaletta said that this policy would solve a problem that doesn't exist. He said if there are safety issues because of lighting, it would be reported and the Board and staff would address them. He said he prefers less Code not more. It can't be enforced, there's no night time staff and there are no complaints. He said he understands the passion for the idea, but doesn't see the reality of why the Village should move forward with this. Mr. Wilder said the Commission was not looking to solve a problem but looking for an opportunity to reduce energy.

Mr. Dixon said that Trustee Glasgow had indicated that he was not in favor of the proposal.

Trustee Farwell said he doesn't like to add to Code if there is no need. He said the Village takes its motto seriously and usually neighbors work these kinds of issues out with one another. He suggested this idea might be better in the form of a Policy not unlike the Parade Blanket Laying Policy. If a nuisance did occur, a police officer can point to the policy and it might help his case on the street.

Trustee Hayes thanked the Commission for bringing the idea forward but said perhaps it's an idea whose time has not yet come. He said it was not a waste of time as the Board can resurrect the information when it becomes an issue. He reiterated that he did not think there is a problem that needs to be addressed other than between neighbors.

Trustee Scaletta thanked the Commission for being proactive, for working with other commissions and supporting the local schools. He said if there is anything the Board can do to help the Commission encourage energy conservation, they want to do it, but this just didn't seem to be the right time for this idea. Mr. Wilder said the Commission wanted to get a sense of where the Board stood and get feedback. It had been discussing the idea for a long time and rather than have the topic continue to come up, they wanted to know which direction to go.

President Mulder suggested that by having the information out and public, residents might start to comply independently. She said if a business has a negative impact, hopefully it would be reported and staff would address the problem. She said that the Village is unique and that neighbors typically work out their problems.

Trustee Sidor thanked the Commission and noted how it had inspired and supported many environmental ideas, programs and even Loyola graduate student and former Environmental Commission Member Mary Jo Warskow who completed an Environmental Studies Fellowship with the Village.

Trustee Rosenberg noted that the Village had a 10% increase in recycling, He also reminded residents that there is a recycling event sponsored by the Village Special Events Commission, Saturday at the Nokia/Siemens parking lot from 9-2.

No action was taken by the Board.

4. Creation of Metropolis Task Force

Ms. Smart said that the purpose of the Task Force would be to support Metropolis. She said that the recent election in the Village brought out the fact that there was a lot of miscommunication, misnomers and misunderstandings about Metropolis. She said she's put together a unique group of people that would independently and comprehensively address these issues. Those selected have differing skill sets and the idea is to put them in an environment to think freely and give an independent assessment. She noted that the Village is the landlord of Metropolis. She said ultimately, the Task Force would produce a comprehensive white paper which gives the Board and the Metropolis Board information and support.

She said all members of the Task Force are patrons of the arts, and not political. They want to volunteer their time to give Metropolis information that they may not have access to today. The proposed Task Members are: Deb Smart (Chair) Toni Higgins-Thrash (expert in Community Performing Business models), Nancy McLaughlin (Vice President GE Commercial Finance), Gary Gephart (Assistant Vice President Finance, North Shore Healthcare), Jim Mitchell (Mitchell's Jewelers), Scott De Laney (Senior Brand Marketer/Innovation Strategist), and Maryellen Riley (Strategic Marketing Specialist Harper College). She stressed that the group is an independent/apolitical/stand-a-lone group working for the good of the Village and Metropolis.

Trustee Hayes thanked Ms. Smart for her initiative and idea. He said Metropolis is an asset of the Village. The Task Forces' sole purpose is to ensure continued long-term viability of this asset. He said he appreciated the members of proposed task force for coming forward. He thanked Mr. Beck and Mr. Lynn for accepting this idea and being open to it with the ultimate goal of helping them out. This expertise comes free of charge to the community. He said there will be difficult decisions and discussions ahead.

President Mulder said that the only purpose of the Task Force is to help and give free advice. She said Metropolis has had to reduce staff and do a lot with fewer resources already. She said that Metropolis brings $5 million year to local food establishments. 70% of people purchasing tickets live outside of the Village.

Trustee Scaletta said this is good idea, but warned the Task Force that they may come under criticism. He liked that it has a 90 day window and a diversity of experience. Ms. Smart said that there is no action required by the Board, but they would like to interview staff and draw on their knowledge. Mr. Dixon said the Village would cooperate fully.

Trustee Sidor said it was like hiring a consulting firm, but it's going to be free. Information will be shared so the Board is more informed. He charged the Task force to find out why more residents are not going to the shows.

Trustee Farwell suggested that the Task Force have an odd number of members in case of tie votes. He suggested they add a private school administrator to the Task Force as the school has been an economic engine of the Theater. He also suggested the Task Force conduct a hearing to get ideas from the community and perhaps dispel some of the misinformation that exists surrounding the Theater.

Trustee Rosenberg suggested that a website be developed or used to solicit information and ideas. He said if there was a need for an expert, the Board would consider a recommendation.

Mr. Lynn said the Board of Metropolis is looking forward to outcome. The Metropolis Board is made up of 15 professional members of the community who are dedicated and volunteer their time. The Metropolis Board is very committed and takes their charge very seriously.

Mr. Beck said that the numbers are coming in strong for the upcoming shows. Great programs are planned for next year, and presales are off to a really good start. He said he is nothing if not transparent, welcomes input and help. He said the fundraiser gala is Saturday night and, tickets are still available.

President Mulder thanked Mr. Beck, Mr. Lynn and Ms. Smart for their ultimate act of citizenship.

5. Trustee Scaletta moved to adjourn to Closed Session per 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21): discussion of minutes lawfully closed and per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1): appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel at 9:05 p.m. Trustee Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried.