

MINUTES
VILLAGE OF ELBURN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW)
FEBRUARY 5, 2018

Board Members Present: President Jeff Walter, Trustees: Ken Anderson, Sue Filek, Bill Grabarek, Patricia Schuberg, Matt Wilson

Board Members Absent: Dave Gualdoni

Staff Members Present: Finance Director Doug Elder, Village Attorneys Britz & Bill Thomas, Police Chief Nick Sikora; Building Commissioner Tom Brennan; Village Engineer David Burroughs, Public Works Supt Phil VanBogaert

Others Present: Residents Wayne Byerhof, LeRoy Herra, Chuck Urbasek; Tree Expert Ken Doty; Metropolitan Mayors Caucus rep Edith Makra; Shodeen rep Bob Skidmore; Elburn Herald Reporter Susan O'Neill; Elburn Community Development Corp (ECDC) rep Craig Hasenbalg

1. Call to Order – Mayor Walter called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.
2. Roll Call – A roll call vote ensued.
3. Public Comment – None
4. Discuss Tree Planting Guidelines – Public Works Supt VanBogaert introduced Ken Doty from Doty Nurseries. Doty spoke briefly about his background which includes owning a nursery and serving on various boards and consortiums, including Morton Arboretum. His goal is to help introduce better trees for the Chicago area and encourage diversity in “urban forests.” The goal for communities is to follow the 5:10:15 rule: no more than 5 percent of trees should be of the same species; no more than 10 percent should be from the same genus; and no more than 15 percent should be from the same family. Diversity of trees when planting a street scape is strongly encouraged in order to avoid species devastation. There are 46 species (refer to Northern Illinois Tree List prepared by Morton Arboretum) that will grow well in parkways. Planting all the same species for an artistic result is a risk. For a canopy effect, different species with a similar mature height and shape is suggested—for example, Glen Ellyn has several. If the same species is used for an entire street scape, the same species should be prohibited from the remainder of the development. The GRC2 plan (presented earlier this evening) addresses urban forestry.

Discussion ensued regarding trees planted on Station Boulevard. Shodeen rep, Bob Skidmore, said the goal is for the one street in Elburn Station to be a canopy street and the remainder of the 500+ acres will be diverse. A grand entrance to Metra is desired. When asked about putting a performance warranty in place, Skidmore said Shodeen will not do this because there was no dollar amount or a time period specified—for Station Boulevard, it would cost more to bond the trees than replant them. There was discussion if the SSA would pay for tree replacements—if so, invoking the SSA should occur soon so funds will be available if/when needed—we do not want to burden the remainder of Elburn tax payers for this experiment. Skidmore said Shodeen would like the SSA to cover maintenance on some of the Metra property—Shodeen will plant the trees and the SSA would cover any maintenance. There was consensus from the Board that the SSA should be written to cover the cost to replace trees. Village Attorney Britz will ensure SSA language includes maintenance of the trees. Skidmore said Metra will not object to contributing to the SSA. Skidmore and Britz will discuss this further.

5. Discuss Creation of Economic Development Initiative Programs – Trustee Wilson and ECDC rep Craig Hasenbalg stated with population growth and the pending Route 47/I-88 interchange completion, they would like to begin discussion to promote economic growth and re-growth of the downtown area. The goal is to have something in place the Village and ECDC can offer potential purchasers/businesses (e.g., TIF, etc.). It was cautioned this could affect revenue to other entities requiring other groups to cover the gap. There was consensus from the Board that it is worthwhile to explore. Skidmore said Shodeen would like to participate in this endeavor. In Elburn Station there is commercial and business planned in the mixed area near Metra. The ECDC asked the Board to set parameters rather than proceed vaguely (i.e., identify target location(s) and work through options). There was consensus from the Board to start on the downtown area and possibly expand to include the Community Center. This will remain on COW agendas going forward for further discussion.
6. Discuss Elburn Station Public Improvement Acceptance – Village Engineer Dave Burroughs completed inspections on underground improvements, made all modifications and determined reduction in letter of credit. This will be on a future Village Board agenda for review/approval. All utility improvements are being done now—there will be no above ground utilities.
7. Discuss Automatic Activation of Tornado Sirens – Chief Sikora stated funds were approved in this year's budget to automatically activate sirens. The weather service is updating their system and they have been hesitant to sell equipment until after the upgrade which may not occur before Elburn's fiscal year-end. At this time, they can provide internet hookup but can't guarantee satellite. Looking for direction from the Board to either transfer funds to next fiscal year or obtain a partial system at this time. If we go with a partial system this fiscal year, it would carry over \$2,000-\$2,500 to next fiscal with a potential price increase. There was consensus from the Board that it seems logical to move forward this fiscal year with the internet portion of the system and do the remainder next year—with a guarantee from the vendor that it won't require a major overhaul if we move forward now. Sikora will obtain a guarantee from the vendor and will move forward with the partial installation prior to April 30.
8. Other Business – Anderson Road Guardrail – Village Engineer Burroughs advised KDOT did not complete a warrant study and the finding is that curb and gutter is not considered a barrier in this instance. A minimum of 15' shoulder is required but is not obtainable (north and south side of the tracks). The pedestrian/bike path should also have some type of barrier (fence, shrub, etc.). Cable or wire barrier (instead of a guardrail) does not meet criteria. Direction from the Board was requested. This has not been shared with KDOT as of yet. Mayor Walter would like to meet with KDOT as he does not see how the Village should be on the hook for this oversight. Attorney Britz is involved and said although the Village "signed off" taking over responsibility for the bridge, the Board of Trustees are not engineers and did not sign off on technical aspects. Burroughs said this should have been examined when the road was constructed and typically would have been researched by the Federal Government since federal funds were involved. When the Village inquired about a guardrail in the past, the response was always that the bridge was built as designed. Burroughs will arrange a meeting between the Village, KDOT and Attorney Britz.
9. Adjourn – Trustee Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Filek and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane McQuilkin
Village Clerk