

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MEETING HELD VIA GOTO MEETING AND
AVAILABLE LIVE AT WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/
JANUARY 5, 2021**

Call to Order

Village President Bass called the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees via GoToMeeting to order at 6:05 P.M. Tuesday, January 5, 2021, meeting held via GoToMeeting and available live at WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/, County of Cook, and State of Illinois.

Before calling the roll the Village President read into the record the requirements for public comments for later in the meeting.

On roll call by Village Clerk Beryl Herman the following were:

PRESENT: President Bass, Trustees Nickell, Patel. The following trustees were present via GoToMeeting, Trustees Halevi, Cope, Sargon, Klatzco

A quorum was present.

Also present: Anne Marie Gaura, Village Manager; Chuck Meyer, Assistant Village Manager; Heather McFarland, Assistant to the Village Manager; Jon Bogue, Management Analyst; Nadim Badran, Public Works Director; Scott Mangum, Community Development Director; Jay Parrott, Police Chief; Melissa Rimdzius, Director of Parks and Recreation; Doug Hammel, Development Manager.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of December 15, 2020 Meeting of the Committee of the Whole meeting were presented for approval.

Trustee Nickell moved to table the minutes of December 15, 2020 of the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Trustee Sargon.

Clerk Herman called the roll.

Ayes: Trustees Halevi, Sargon, Patel, Nickell, Klatzco, Cope (6:08)

Nays: None

Regular Business

1. Park and Recreation Board Biennial Report

This item was presented by Melissa Rimdzius, Parks and Recreation Director. Ms. Rimdzius turned this over to the Park and Recreation Board Chair, Carol Oraha for a PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Oraha presented the summary of significant activities for the last two years including:

- Holding 12 meetings
- Volunteer support for Village activities and event
- ProeselPark playground renovation
- ProeselPark playground donation to Kids Around the World
- Annual seasonal apparel bids
- Annual program and facility reports
- Lincolnwood Fest park usage request
- Annual summer camp bus transportation agreement
- Jewell Loyd Basketball Court naming ceremony
- M-NASR Articles of Agreement
- Requests for use of the Community Center for fundraising events
- Flowers Park tennis and basketball court resurfacing project
- Future public input process regarding a dog park
- Electronic message signage on park land
- Aquatic center pass fees and non-resident entry policies
- Neighborhood park sign replacement
- Contractual aquatic center concession services
- Community event status decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic, prior to the Restore Illinois Plan and State of Illinois guidance being released
- Aquatic center water slide resurfacing project
- Union Pacific Trail enhancements
- Future vision for Lincolnwood Fest
- Potential aquatic center operations during the pandemic
- Proesel Park sign replacement

Commissioner Oraha continued with a discussion of the 2021 – 2022 Anticipated Activities / Goals

- Review plans and bids for the Flowers Park sport court renovation project, and make a recommendation to the Village Board on how to proceed
- Participate in the Parks and Recreation Department strategic plan update process
- Review community feedback gathered during the dog park public input process, and make a recommendation to the Village Board on how to proceed
- Deliberate on initiatives, projects, major policies, and ideas brought forth by staff and referred by the Village Board

The Mayor opened up the discussion to the Village Board.

Trustee Ikezoe-Halevi thanked the Parks and Recreation Board for their efforts especially during the pandemic and especially enjoyed the Jewell Loyd event.

Trustee Cope thanked the Parks and Recreation Board for their efforts during truly trying events and the fine work that they have done.

Trustee Patel echoed the comments from the other Parks and Recreation Board and their members who are remote at this time.

Trustee Hlepas Nickell stated that she wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation Board for their efforts and asked Director Rimdzius if a decision has been made for summer programming.

Ms. Rimdzius stated that the Department and neighboring communities are working through programming options right now for the winter and are looking forward to the summer plans and will be looking to create pandemic proof events.

Trustee Sargon thanked Chairperson Oraha for her presentation and thanked the membership for their efforts during a trying year and thanked Ms. Rimdzius and her staff for the creative ideas that they came up with during the pandemic and the winter programming has been fulfilling.

Trustee Klatzco stated kudos to staff and thank you to the Park Board Members for efforts.

Mayor Bass stated he was very appreciative of the very good team present at the Commission and Staff level.

Trustee Patel moved to approve the Biannual Report for the Parks and Recreation Board. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Klatzco.

Clerk Herman called the roll.

Ayes: Trustees Halevi, Sargon, Patel, Nickell, Klatzco, Cope

Nays: None

2. Code Enforcement Process Improvements Update

This item was presented by Anne Marie Gaura, Village Manager using PowerPoint. Doug Hammel and Nadim Badran were available for questions.

Ms. Gaura provided background on this topic where this process first began in August and this being the fourth and final meeting on Code Enforcement process. Ms. Gaura highlighted tonight's presentation which was to focus on certain Code Enforcement issues.

Ms. Gaura stated that the Village is looking to identify certain priority issues and determine any special polices or processes. Ms. Gaura highlighted for the public that any violation of the Code would be addressed and enforced.

Ms. Gaura summarized that the first priority emphasized by the Village Board was to address stormwater management and a plan had been developed that incorporated CBBEL, Community Development, and Public Works staff. Staff has also increased the tempo of site visits and conducting pre-construction meetings.

Ms. Gaura continued regarding the enforcement of illegally parked and inoperable vehicles and stated that through the weekly code enforcement team meetings helps to address these types of issues. Ms. Gaura added that tall grass issues have been part of the plan.

Ms. Gaura addressed the next priority issue which was unpermitted construction and vacant property maintenance. Ms. Gaura added that components of this enforcement effort were addressed through weekend enforcement and closely monitoring of properties.

Ms. Gaura extended the discussion to include exterior structural maintenance. Ms. Gaura said that if the Village becomes aware of these types of issues then staff will seek enforcement and carry through the issue until adjudication.

Ms. Gaura provided a summary of the Community Cleanliness Pilot Program in which staff have been allocated to collect trash, branches and other debris left in the alleys and parkways. The Village has had 28 instances per week, on average, of items being picked up. Ms. Gaura stated that at the end of the presentation staff will be requesting direction regarding this Program to determine if it will be continued through the next year.

Trustee Patel asked what was meant by 28 instances per week.

Mr. Badran stated that on average the staff member collected 28 items per week that were larger and items traditionally considered "fly dumping". Mr. Badran continued that in many instances yard waste was disposed of that was not properly disposed of by someone.

Ms. Gaura continued that garbage toter regulations was another issue of note to the Board. Ms. Gaura said that per the Village Board's direction staff would be recommending amendments to Section 11-1-3 of the Village Code regarding the time to place refuse out for collection. Ms. Gaura continued that this is not a high priority for consideration but if the Board would like to proceed on this item then an Ordinance will be presented at a future meeting.

Ms. Gaura continued with a discussion on leaf collection services. Ms. Gaura stated that there has been concerns about the placement of leaves at the curb and stated that if this service was to be provided in the future it may require a negotiation with Groot or the purchase of equipment and hiring of staff to provide this service going forward.

Ms. Gaura continued regarding the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and stated that in her time with the Village there have been a handful of complaints regarding this topic.

Ms. Gaura provided a summary of the discussion in terms of the current objectives and goals of the Code Enforcement process along with requesting guidance on these topics.

Mayor Bass stated that the charge of the Village Public Works Department is to maintain cleanliness. Mayor Bass stated that if an issue comes in or is discovered then it should be addressed.

Ms. Gaura stated that it does happen and Public Works does remove items as the calls come in, but they do not get everything immediately.

Trustee Sargon asked if the Village Board would address these items in order.

The Board discuss the Village totter timing question.

Trustee Halevi stated that she could go either way on this item. Trustee Halevi stated that there is a concern that if the timeframe is expanded for totters it could cause issues with parking availability.

Trustee Patel stated that this issue came up before and during the last Code Enforcement meeting we saw a list of complaints on this item. Trustee Patel stated he thought that the Village Board could be polled on this matter.

Trustee Nickell stated that she was interested in allowing for more of a grace period but to give staff flexibility to not enforce.

Trustee Patel asked if this is a complaint based or proactive enforcement issue.

Ms. Gaura stated that it is enforced on a complaint basis from residents or from Trustees in the past.

Trustee Sargon stated that she wanted to have flexibility especially for those members of the community who may be older or work outside of normal of hours and cannot take their containers in.

Trustee Klatzco stated that he was in favor of status quo and leave it as a complaint based system.

Trustee Cope stated that we may need to have flexibility in terms of administration and implementation of the program.

Trustee Sargon stated that it creates confusion for staff because we are giving staff different direction on how this should be handled.

Trustee Nickell asked for the proper location for storage containers.

Mr. Hammel stated that the refuse containers should be stored in a side yard or rear yard where it is not visible from the street, but there are instances where there will be an exception granted if needed.

Trustee Cope stated that he would be in support of 3:00 pm for placement out and pickup no later than 8:00 am.

Trustee Halevi stated that she would be in support of 3:00 pm on Sunday and no later than 8:00 am on Tuesday.

Trustee Patel stated that he was in support of 3:00 pm on Sunday and no later than 8:00 am on Tuesday.

Trustee Nickell stated that she was flexible with the majority of the discussion but wanted to make sure that whatever gets changed to is well advertised and publicized.

Trustee Klatzco stated that he was in support of the changes proposed by Trustee Cope.

Trustee Sargon stated that she was in support of the changes proposed by Trustee Cope.

Trustee Nickell asked if there is a way to create a hot list for properties that are vacant

Trustee Nickell stated that there are a lot of properties that have a lot of legally non-compliant signs and issues, such as the hardscape or signs are not permitted. Trustee Nickell stated there are certain instances where these fixtures are in disrepair.

Ms. Gaura stated the Village would have to go back and see when they were approved and determine if they can be brought up to the Code.

Trustee Nickell stated that she was referring to issues where there are poles that have chipped paint or weeds overgrown.

Ms. Gaura stated that the Village enforces such issues to ensure that there is compliance when there is a Code violation.

Trustee Nickell asked if a resurfacing of a parking lot would trigger bringing something up to Code.

Mr. Hammel stated that the resurfacing of a parking lot does not trigger bringing it up to Code but if there are maintenance issues for the property then the Village can enforce the maintenance issues.

Trustee Patel asked to clarify Trustee Nickell's comments as he had similar questions about when certain signs lose their legal non-conforming status. Trustee Patel stated that he had concerns about triggers.

Trustee Nickell asked how long the Village informs someone that a pole sign is in violation of the code for maintenance and they have to maintain the equipment.

Trustee Patel stated that he was looking at recent meetings and saw that there were instances where property owners had installed landscaping elements and those had fallen into disrepair and staff would need to go back to determine what was approved and see what happened. Trustee Patel voiced concerns about the number of properties that do not meet the level of maintenance that is needed and that the Village would maybe need to look at the properties and maintain the properties' condition.

Trustee Nickell stated a desire to be notified if there is a look back on properties that were previously given specially permissions for landscaping and variations to ensure that the property is being maintained as approved by the Village Code.

Trustee Nickell stated that she had concerns about the quality of maintenance of aged elements of a property. Trustee Nickell continued that the Beautification Commission is currently looking at the guidelines for landscaping to allow for additional options.

Ms. Gaura stated that she will debrief tomorrow and follow-up if there are questions about it.

Ms. Gaura continued that a topic of discussion was the collection of leaves. Ms. Gaura stated that to provide this service, it could be done by Groot or by staff but it would be an additional cost. Ms. Gaura stated that leaf collection is currently available through the bag program at no additional cost to the resident.

Trustee Halevi stated that she was in favor of the status quo but wanted to do more communication on standards.

Trustee Cope stated that he was in support of the status quo.

Trustee Patel stated that he was in support of the status quo.

Trustee Nickell stated that she was in support of the status quo

Trustee Sargon stated that she was in support of the status quo

Trustee Klatzco stated that he was in support of the status quo.

The Mayor stated that the consensus was to maintain the current program.

Ms. Gaura provided a summary regarding the community cleanliness program in which a staff member provided janitorial work for the Parks and spent half of their time with collecting refuse. Ms. Gaura added that this was possible this year due to seasonal staff members being available due to the pool and other traditional programming not being implemented this year due to the pandemic. Ms. Gaura asked if there was a desire to do an additional program for

community cleanliness if it was done for six months it would be handled by seasonal staff and if done year round it would require some shuffling of staffing.

Trustee Halevi said she wanted to be conservative and would recommend six months at this time due to the cost-basis of this program. Trustee Halevi continued that there have been reports of TVs.

Mr. Badran stated that the Village collected 16 TVs at a cost of \$60 apiece. Mr. Badran continued by saying that the usage went up through the process and there was a concern about creating a larger issue and would want to increase the communication efforts.

Trustee Cope asked how the Village handled this program before.

Mr. Badran stated that if Public Works staff saw refuse collection outside of normal collection hours then staff would try to clean it up when they see fly dumping.

Trustee Cope asked how much this program would cost.

Ms. Gaura stated that it depends on the guidance from the Village Board and depending on the policy direction from the Village Board.

Trustee Cope stated that he would be in support of keeping the current program of having a seasonal employee handling this program.

Trustee Patel asked if the items being regularly picked up were not a situation where the Village could ticket someone.

Mr. Badran stated that in most instances in the alley the Village cannot verify the ownership of something and will try to work with residents to address but it is not always clear who is responsible.

Trustee Patel stated that it is a difficult situation, if staff does not address it then the refuse will stay out. Trustee Patel asked if the Village can work with Groot regarding a deal to remove. Trustee Patel asked that if there is a seasonal staff member on site during the winter then it would be requested that the spare person be tasked with cleaning up the snow on sidewalks that are otherwise not addressed.

Mr. Badran stated that the program ended earlier this fall and would not be continued until the summer.

Trustee Nickell stated that she has a concern about education for the public and stated that there is a difference between fly dumping and people not following the rules. Trustee Nickell continued that the Village should utilize the water bills. Trustee Nickell added that the addressing of fly dumping should be done year-round.

Trustee Sargon stated she added a desire for more education. Trustee Sargon said that she would be in support of using education and would look at what it could take to have this done on a six month basis.

Trustee Klatzco stated that fly dumping should also be caught and should be addressed. Trustee Klatzco added that residents should be educated on what can be deposited.

Trustee Patel asked if this item could be discussed as a discretionary item during the Budget.

Mayor Bass stated that he was agreeable to that proposal.

Trustee Halevi asked if Groot had reduced what they are picking up.

Mr. Badran stated that Groot is cleaning up bulk items.

Ms. Gaura stated that there was a consensus about education and enforcement. Ms. Gaura stated that there will be a full communications plan and do not budget for community cleanliness program.

Mayor Bass asked for the discussion of gas powered leaf blowers and asked for the reading of the leaf blower ordinance from Dale Wickum

Mr. Meyer read the letter from Dale Wickum

Dear Barry,

Regarding Lincolnwood's leaf blower ordinance:

In 2001, Lincolnwood joined with Evanston, Wilmette, Winnetka, Glencoe, and Highland Park in a progressive environmental ordinance restricting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. Presently, the devices are banned from May 15th to Oct 1st, while allowing their use for Spring and Fall clean-up. The restricted dates are based on climatological data for the Chicagoland area. The ordinance reflects a quality of life issue that goes beyond the boundaries of our village.

Gas-powered leaf blowers fail on every aspect of their environment impact:

THE NOISE ISSUE:

The decibel level of leaf blowers is extremely high, regularly exceeding 109 Dbs. Cal OSHA allows only 20 minutes of daily exposure to 100 Dbs and indicates anyone subjected to the noise level of the average leaf blower for more than 20 minutes will begin to suffer hearing loss. The noise levels are immune to property lines and at 50 feet from the source are still over the decibel level recommended by the World Health Organization. The EPA and The World Health Organization consider noise pollution to

be a major priority along with air and water quality. Studies indicate excessive noise heightens aggression and violence, and, along with a loss of tranquility, is a major factor in the degradation of community.

THE AIRBORNE PARTICULATE ISSUE:

Leaf blowers generate 2.6 pounds of PM 10 dust per hour of use. This is small-particle dust consisting of lead, mercury, arsenic, pesticides, fecal matter, and other industrial fallout which exacerbates respiratory, asthma, and immune system problems. Normally, this residue remains undisturbed on our sidewalks and lawns, but the 175 to 200 mph wind velocity generated by leaf blowers stirs it up, creating an airborne health hazard.

THE HYDROCARBON ISSUE:

Gas-powered leaf blowers run on inefficient two-stroke engines. Approximately 30 percent of raw, unburned oil and gas is expelled from their exhaust, resulting in an airborne loss of 1.5 gallons of fuel per hour of use. The combustion emits particles smaller than 2.5 micrometers which is highly toxic to humans and pets. The California EPA issued a report stating that gas-powered leaf blowers produce 145 times more hydrocarbons, 7.5 times more carbon monoxide, and 11 times more particulate matter than a light duty vehicle driven at 30mph. The California Resources Board also stated that gas-powered leaf blowers produce the same amount of hydrocarbons in one half hour of use as a car driven 2,200 miles at 30mph. The Lung Association states that a single gas-powered leaf blower causes as much smog as 17 cars.

AUDITORY BEAUTIFICATION:

My hat is off to the forward-thinking trustees who drafted Lincolnwood's leaf-blower ordinance, recognizing that preserving Lincolnwood's unique character includes auditory beautification. At present, enforcement of the ordinance is only implemented when requested by a resident. And while it's good to see a notice regarding the leaf-blower ordinance in the newsletter every Spring, it's imperative to keep the residents, landscapers, and police, informed of the issue and its impact on the village.

Dale Wickum

Trustee Halevi stated her support of referring this to a Board for consideration.

Trustee Cope stated that he was in support of referring this to a Board for consideration

Trustee Patel stated that he was in support of referring this to a Board for consideration so long as the restrictions remain in place. Trustee Patel voiced support of licensing landscapers as well to assist with enforcement.

Trustee Nickell stated her support of referring this to a Board for consideration. Trustee Nickell stated a desire to have this address expeditiously and would want to determine how they register the landscapers.

Trustee Sargon stated her support for referring this to CORB for consideration.

Trustee Klatzco stated that this was discussed during the meeting of the Village Board and voiced a concern about the Village outright outlawing leaf blowers and stated that landscapers will charge extra if it is charged for the costs. Trustee Klatzco voiced support for referring to CORB.

Trustee Sargon voiced her thank you to staff for their assistance in putting this together.

Ms. Gaura asked for the items regarding Public Forum and COVID-19 Testing Facilities to be moved to the next meeting.

Trustee Nickell made a motion to move the items to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sargon.

Clerk Herman called the roll.

Ayes: Trustees Halevi, Cope, Patel, Nickell, Sargon, Klatzco Sargon, Patel, Nickell, Klatzco, Cope

Nays: None

Public Forum

Dr. Agnihotri suggested that instead of picking up one large item it was suggested that large dumpsters be placed at strategic locations for people to move their refuse to defined locations.

Adjournment

At 7:58 P.M. Trustee Nickell made a motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Trustee Patel.

Upon roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Halevi, Cope, Patel, Nickell, Sargon, Klatzco

Nays: None

Respectfully Submitted,



Beryl Herman
Village Clerk