

**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/
APRIL 20, 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 6:03 P.M. Tuesday, April 20, 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.

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

Present: President Bass, Trustees Halevi, Patel, Sargon, and Klatzco. Trustee Nickel was present via GoToMeeting.

Absent: Cope

A quorum was present.

Also present: Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura, The following were present via Go-To-Meeting Chuck Meyer, Assistant Village Manager; Jon Bogue, Acting Assistant to the Village Manager; Jake Litz, Management Analyst; Nadim Badran, Public Works Director; Scott Mangum, Community Development Director; Doug Hammel, Development Manager; Brendon Mendoza, Assistant to the Public Works Director.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 7, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting were presented for approval.

Trustee Sargon moved to approve the minutes of April 7, 2021 Committee of the Whole, Meeting, seconded by Trustee Halevi.

Upon Roll Call the results were:

Ayes: Trustees Halevi, Patel, Sargon, Klatzco.

Nays: None

Abstain: Nickell

Regular Business

1. Presentation of the Story Map for the Northeast Industrial District TIF

This item was presented by Doug Hammel, Development Manager. Mr. Hammel noted that a consultant provided the story map to present a more dynamic presentation to the committee.

A video was played about the Story Map's functionality.

Mr. Hammel illustrated that the Story Map allows for users to view high quality images of the plan, as well as Summary Tables and other graphs.

Mr. Hammel demonstrated how the plan recommendation is used, which he notes presents the user with a clear and compelling picture of the plan.

Mr. Hammel notes that the Story Map also includes an implementation plan which illustrates the partnerships that have been fostered to create this development. He then noted that the plan is available in multiple formats such as PDF for accessibility.

Trusteed Halevi commented that the Story Map is a good addition to the website that will allow users to see plans for the Village in a more dynamic way.

Trustee Patel had nothing to add.

Trustee Nickell had nothing to add.

Trustee Sargon thanked Mr. Hammel, and noted that the Story Map would allow a more dynamic, user friendly experience.

Trustee Klatzco agreed with Trustee Sargon.

2. Discussion Concerning Arthur Avenue Repaving

This item was presented by Nadim Badran, Public Works Director, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Badran began by providing background about the project, specifically about the February Capital Improvement Plan Workshop.

Mr. Badran described the roadway for the board, which is the segment of Arthur Ave between Hamlin Avenue to the East, and the Pacific and Union Bike Path to the West.

Mr. Badran noted that the repaving was included in the 2021 Plan. He added that paving the road with an "inverted" crown to prevent flooding to adjacent properties. No parking striping will be added and ADA improvements will be made to the crosswalk.

Mr. Badran showed the annotated design of the Arthur Avenue Repaving plan. He then noted that the 2021 Roadway Project design is completed and that bids have been received. The presentation was opened up to questions.

Trustee Halevi thanked Mr. Badran for the presentation.

Trustee Patel noted that the right-of-way was used for parking by two adjacent buildings, and was also often being used by semi-trucks for parking. Trustee Patel asked if there was anything that could be done to tell people that Arthur Ave is a street and not for parking. He noted that signage could be appropriate to prevent new asphalt being destroyed by parking.

Ms. Gaura stated that this would be looked into by staff and feedback would be provided.

Mr. Badran noted that different options were discussed such as a public parking lot. It was noted that the initial plan was just to pave the road, but that options may present themselves in the future.

President Bass noted that delineating a curb or signing stating 'no parking' would be important. He thanked Trustee Patel for bringing this to the attention of the Board.

Trustee Nickel had no comment, nor did Trustee Sargon.

Trustee Klatzco noted that many tractor-trailers are parked on the property. He noted that a lot of heavy equipment in the surrounding area may be dragged over the asphalt daily which would damage it. He feels that if money is spent, the work should last a long time.

Mr. Badran assured the Board that pavement cores that were taken suggest that the base of the road is strong.

3. Discussion Concerning In-Lieu of Parking

This item was presented by Scott Mangum, Community Development Director, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Magnum began his presentation by referencing the Village of Skokie's policy which aims to reduce and consolidate the amount of parking in mixed-use areas so that customers can park once and walk to multiple destinations. He noted that the Village of Lincolnwood already has a Fee In-Lieu of Parking Policy however neither a fee amount nor parking fund has been established. He then noted that existing public parking lots on W. Touhy Ave, between Lunt and Morse and at Central Park Ave. and Northeast Parkway, have been established.

Mr. Magnum showed a graphic comparing different parking strategies for different areas. He noted that areas of low density, with no main street or downtown such as Lincolnwood have found success through numerous methods.

The requested action from the Village Board concerns taking steps to formalize a fee in-lieu of parking policy.

President Bass raised concern about the price. He noted that the Village is developing and that large costs are dissuading people from wanting to acquire a property. He looked to Trustee Halevi for comments.

Trustee Halevi wanted to know more about different locations and because Lincolnwood is so small, she said she was unsure where this extra parking would be able to end up. She wanted to know about different alternatives.

Trustee Patel noted that fee in-lieu parking is appropriate for new developments. If there were properties being developed that were in need of parking, he noted too that the cost of paving a parking lot is high. He noted that various areas could allow for the fee in-lieu parking system, but that it was hard to justify.

President Bass stated that he tends to agree with Trustee Patel.

Trustee Nickell noted that she believed the issue should be looked into deeper. She stated that an overlay could be an investment of the future and that a different amount could be set. She said she would be in favor of doing more work to identify areas and potentially adjust the schedule.

Trustee Saigon said she would also be in favor of coming back to this in the future.

Trustee Klatzco noted that in-lieu parking works well in downtown areas with limited space, but that the large cost for developers in an area like Lincolnwood should be avoided.

Ms. Gaura requested that President Bass poll the Board.

President Bass took a poll to explore the issue deeper and pursue alternatives. He noted that the majority of the board wanted to revisit the issue at a later date.

4. Discussion Concerning Backyard Chickens

This item was presented by Jon Bogue, Development Manager, using PowerPoint.

Mr. Bogue noted that this issue was raised in July 2020.

The policy in place is that "Keeping certain animals is prohibited" as part of Village policy. He noted that Chicago allows chickens and Evanston allows hens. He explains that occasionally complaints are registered by residents. Mr. Bogue noted the benefits that are listed, such as human-animal bonds and autonomy over food selection. He then noted some concerns, quoting Dr. Connie Austin who stated that risks involved salmonella and other diseases.

Mr. Bogue showed a table stating the number of Chicken-keeping permits granted in various nearby neighborhoods.

Mr. Bogue stated that staff were looking for what guidelines the Board whether they want to explore the allowance of hens.

Trustees were asked for their opinion.

Trustee Halevi asked whether the public comments could be heard before the trustees.

Resident Roosevelt Batiste explained that he and his daughters built a coop in their backyard, and purchased four chickens. He noted that his daughters grew attached to the hens and wanted to see if the board would discuss changing the Village policy.

Assistant Village Manager, Meyer read an email from resident Sharon Mau:

“Dear Village Board, I would like to see the Village adopt a proposal for a new ordinance allowing the keeping of hens and chickens within the Village. Our nearby neighbor, Evanston, has strict guidelines and an application that we can mirror.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely, Sharon Mau”

Trustee Halevi read the following statement, most of which she had read at the Committee of the Whole of August 4, 2020.

“As a Board, we make many decisions affecting our Village. Usually we deal with items such as licenses, fences, flooding, trees and shrubs. Today we are discussing a different type of topic, the keeping of hens in Lincolnwood. What makes this unique is that we are talking about living animals that require care and feeding.

*Anyone who wants to keep chickens must prepare to spend time and money and energy caring for these birds. Just as you must care for a dog or cat, you’ll have to do the same for hens.

*It takes three to six months before a hen can start laying eggs. Hens must have a chicken coop as well as a specific amount of space to walk around. A hen cannot stay in a henhouse all day; it must have an enclosed area. Hens must be protected from the cold in winter and the extreme heat in summer.

*The average hen lays eggs for two to three years, but can live more than ten years. What will happen to hens when they can no longer lay eggs? Village regulations do not allow residents to kill animals. This can lead to owners letting their hens loose, which will cause a problem for all residents.

*Since last year I have seen three postings on Nextdoor Lincolnwood of chickens running loose in nearby Chicago neighborhoods

*Village regulations also do not allow residents to sell eggs.

*Owners will have to learn to clean up chicken poop daily to keep their area from smelling and attracting pests”.

Update:

*“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported in December 2020, that 576 Americans became sick from contracting Salmonella from chicks and ducklings that are backyard poultry. Salmonella cases have been reported in all 50 states.

Salmonella symptoms include diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps that can lead to hospitalization and even death.

Poultry can have this bacteria even if they look clean and healthy.

*The CDC does not recommend that children under age 5, handle poultry and that anyone touching poultry must avoid touching their face and should wash their hands afterward.

*All farm animals have different illnesses they can pass to humans. Scientists and health officials are concerned that there could be a pandemic of a new strain of Avian flu (bird flu) because of the way we raise chickens. A new strain of virus has recently been detected in pigs.

*I discussed keeping hens with a resident who owns a veterinary clinic. She said few veterinarians care for hens and that a visit to a vet that does will cost about \$100. She said they have three clients with hens; one looks after hers and treats them like pets, but the other two don't treat them as well. The resident said they would not recommend allowing hens in Lincolnwood because of what they've seen in Chicago.

*Many homeowner's insurance policies do not allow keeping chickens.

*Lincolnwood will be spending money to be sure that anyone who keeps hens is compliant with rules and has built the proper structure and fencing. This will be adding additional duties and time to our staff.

*Unlike Evanston, which allows hens, Lincolnwood doesn't have a Public Health Department to monitor a Salmonella outbreak or any related health issues.

*Owning hens for eggs shouldn't be looked upon as a fad, or something trendy to do, such as buying rabbits for Easter because they're cute, because in the end it is the animals that will suffer and the Village will be required to take steps to clean up after irresponsible owners."

Conclusion:

*The biggest take-away from this discussion is that Lincolnwood has predators, including coyotes, foxes, hawks, raccoons, opossums, mice, and rats. All of these will be able to smell hens and seek them out as a food source.

*That means that predators will try to get to hens by any means possible, including digging under fences, jumping over fences and flying down into open yard areas.

*Residents who say they will be able to protect their hens have to understand that they are bringing a threat into their neighborhoods, because if a predator cannot reach its prey, it will turn to any other available food source, which includes pets left outdoors and possibly confront children.

*Bringing hens into Lincolnwood will affect every resident permanently because the threat from predators will come on a daily basis. Hungry wild animals pose a danger to residents.

*Several weekends ago, at about 1AM, I looked out my front window Pratt and I could see what I thought were two large dogs running along the country club fence near Lowell. When I didn't see an owner I realized they were coyotes. Both stopped at the gate and squeezed under the fence into the golf course. Wildlife is all around us, and always will be.

*While I'm sure there can be responsible owners, if they know what is involved, I don't want to see people grow tired of raising hens after a few months because they didn't expect all the work they'll have to do every day. People often have good intentions that don't last.

Trustee Patel explained that he had seen bad examples of people looking after chickens. He asked staff how going about the ordinance through a licensure route would operate, and how much it would cost. Trustee Patel noted that the resident living in a multi-family condo would further complicate the license process.

Mr. Bogue noted that there is a process that requires owners of hens to register through the state.

President Bass noted that an instance of feral cats which are being raised by a resident have caused many problems such as allergies and private property to be damaged. He noted that chicken ownership could lead to similar problems. He noted that if chickens were next door to him he, for example, would be allergic to them.

Trustee Nickell abstained from commenting.

Trustee Sargon agreed with Trustee Patel that residents should be given the process to move this issue forward.

Trustee Klatzco noted that coming up with a licensure has a certain cost of enforcement. He noted that looking after chickens is a difficult undertaking, and he expressed skepticism that the Village would be able to enforce the issue.

Resident Roosevelt Jean Batiste stated that lot size is important when it comes to raising chickens. He stated that the owner of hens should be regulated as it is going to happen regardless.

Trustee Patel noted that time and money is already being spent to deal with the issue, so it would be better to use the funds to regulate.

Trustee Halevi noted that more information on the issue could be obtained from staff.

President Bass agreed with Trustee Halevi that more information on the issue should be acquired. He assured the residents in attendance that the issue will be investigated further.

Trustee Klatzco stated that they would bring back a defined program that would further explain and investigate the issue.

Public Forum

None

Adjournment

At 7:18 P.M. Trustee Sargon made a motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole, seconded by Trustee Klatzco.

Upon roll call the results were:

Ayes: Trustees Patel, Nickell, Sargon, Klatzco

Nays: None

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beryl Herman
Village Clerk