

MINUTES OF SUPER RETREAT

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE, COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 99, DOWNERS GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 58, DOWNERS GROVE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS, DOWNERS GROVE TOWNSHIP, YORK TOWNSHIP, DOWNERS GROVE SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES, DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND DOWNERS GROVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Mayor Martin Tully welcomed everyone to the Super Retreat at 7:05 p.m. at Downers Grove South High Cafetorium, 1436 Norfolk Street, Downers Grove.

Officials Present:

Village of Downers Grove: Mayor Martin Tully; Commissioners Bill White, Bill Waldack, Marge Earl, Nicole Walus, Dave Fieldman, Enza Petrarca, Doug Kozlowski, Don Wilson, April Holden
Community School District 99: Julia Beckman, Michael Davenport, Donald Renner, Deborah Boyle, Rick Pavinato, Terry Pavesich, Dr. Hank Thiele, Mark Staehlin, Gina Ziccardi, Jill Browning

Downers Grove School District 58: Christopher Heppner, Elizabeth Sigale, John Miller, Dr. Keri Cremascoli, David Bein, Megan Hewitt

Downers Grove Board of Park Commissioners: Matt Cushing, Tom Salaba, Cathy Mahoney, Bob Gelwicks, Bill McAdam, Geoff Penman

Downers Grove Township: Kathleen Abbate, Christina West, Frank Wurster, Mark Thoman, Laura Hois

York Township: Michael Mariani, Pam Sarno

Downers Grove Sanitary District Board of Trustees: Amy Kovacevic, Nick Menninga, Alyssa Cherwak

Downers Grove Public Library Board of Trustees: Ed Earl, Wendee Grene, Susan Eblen, Dave Humphreys, Julie Milavec, Sue O'Brien

Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation: Michael Cassa, Lisa Wentzell

Mayor Tully welcomed everyone to the retreat. He thanked District 99 for hosting this event. He said the last retreat was 15 years ago and although much has changed, the need for taxing bodies to collaborate, communicate and cooperate has not changed. We are here to learn about each organization's mission, vision, goals, objectives and strategic plans in order to identify

opportunities for future collaboration and cooperation. He hopes this will generate momentum to carry it into the future.

Mayor Tully then reviewed the agenda and the order of presentations.

Community School District 99

Dr. Hank Thiele, Superintendent, introduced school board members in attendance.

Dr. Thiele said District 99 serves over 80,000 students and has 686 staff members. Top priorities include a caring and challenging environment to develop lifelong learners. Key issues include funding, new standardized testing mandates and modernizing facilities.

Downers Grove Park District

Bill McAdam, Executive Director, introduced board members in attendance.

Mr. McAdam reviewed the mission, vision, culture and core values of the Park District. He touched on the key programs and events. Key issues include addressing changing recreational trends in terms of recreation space, maintenance of infrastructure, growing the non-tax base revenue; growing and sustaining partnerships and sponsorships; managing open space, engaging with the community and management of invasive species.

Downers Grove Township

Christina West, Deputy Supervisor, introduced township officials in attendance.

Ms. West said Downers Grove Township was established in 1832 and covers 52 sq. miles. Ms. West outlined all of the municipalities in the township. She reviewed the functions of the Supervisor's Office, the Township Assessor's Office and the Township Highway Department. Top priorities in the Supervisor's Office include Ride DuPage, prevention and life skills education, senior referral information and services, maintaining a balanced budget with no debt as well as general assistance. Top priorities in the Assessor's Office include educating property owners as to the property assessment and exemption process. Top priorities in the Highway Department include tree removal, electronic recycling, road maintenance, brush pick-up, snow removal and storm sewer maintenance. Key issues are to work with municipalities to help fund Ride DuPage; increase the Township presence within schools; inform, assist and educate on assessments; and maintain roads.

York Township

Mike Mariani, Deputy Supervisor, introduced township officials in attendance.

Mr. Mariani said Township government is the oldest form of government in the country. There are three mandates: General assistance to the indigent; assessment of property for taxes; and maintenance of roads and bridges. Additionally, there are programs for senior citizens.

Mr. Mariani reviewed York Township's top priorities: General assistance, emergency assistance, back to school fairs, holiday programs, Salvation Army, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, food pantry, senior nutrition, senior transportation program, and senior center. Key issues include resource development in terms of nurturing existing partnerships, continuing to develop relationships to expand and enhance programs and services, and raising funds and community awareness.

Downers Grove Public Library

Julie Milavec, Director, introduced Library board members in attendance.

Ms. Milavec said the library's mission is to serve people to help them learn, grow and thrive. She provided an overview of the funding for and usage of the library. She described the makeup of the Library Board and explained that the board is an autonomous body and sets its own budget and levy. Top priorities include strategic planning, a facilities sustainability plan and a long range financial plan. Key issues are to align services with community needs, to budget with minimizing taxpayer impact in mind and to create a sustainable library infrastructure and service model.

Downers Grove Sanitary District

Nick Menninga, General Manager, introduced Trustees in attendance.

Mr. Menninga said the sanitary sewerage utility includes 250 miles of collection sewers and an 11-million gallon per day treatment plant. The service area extends beyond Downers Grove. The District owns the wastewater treatment plant and sewers. Top priorities include customer service, infrastructure integrity, environmental protection, stream ecology, discharge quality, cost control, energy, partnering, transparency, web presence and the annual open house. Key issues include regulatory pressure such as nutrients, wet weather operations and stream health; and an aging infrastructure. The sewers date to 1906 and the plant to 1954.

Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation (EDC)

Michael Cassa, President and CEO

Mr. Cassa said the EDC is a public/private partnership founded in 2006. He reviewed the mission statement and objectives of the EDC. Top priorities include implementation of the strategic plan, implementation of the 2016 Economic Development Plan to enhance the sales tax base and redevelopment of catalyst commercial centers. Key issues include older, obsolete commercial centers; sites with lot depth, visibility and access issues; regional competition for business projects; and impact of the internet.

Downers Grove Grade School District 58

David Bein, Assistant Superintendent for Business, introduced school board members in

attendance.

Mr. Bein said District 58 is composed of 11 neighborhood elementary schools, two middle schools, 5,000 students, 640 full and part-time employees, and has an annual budget of \$65.0 million. District 58 shares services, partners and engages with the Park District and District 99. Top priorities include student learning; student well-being/social emotional learning; technology for teaching and learning; and facilities, finance, operations and maintenance. Key issues are anticipating and preparing for state funding uncertainty; continuing improvements in curriculum, instruction and technology; challenging and inspiring students; and maintaining and improving facilities to support 21st century learning.

Village of Downers Grove

Martin Tully, Mayor, introduced Council and staff members.

Mayor Tully said the Village was founded in 1832 and incorporated in 1873. The Village has 49,000 residents and 3,500 businesses in 14.75 square miles. The Village Council consists of a Mayor and six Commissioners. Over 300 services are provided with a staff of 325 employees. The Mayor said the Village has a AAA bond rating and discussed various national awards. He said our relationships with other governmental bodies make these awards possible. Priorities include a facility sustainability plan; review downtown zoning, update the Comprehensive Plan, review the stormwater utility, enhance the sales tax base, emergency dispatch consolidation, review the sign ordinance, partnerships to address human services issues, review the zoning map, historic preservation, food truck ordinance and the super retreat. Key issues include facilities, rising personnel costs/public service pension costs, state funding threats and the stormwater utility.

Question and Answer Period

Mayor Tully spoke about barriers to collaboration. He also explained three referenda on the November ballot regarding how to pay for the Village's stormwater management system.

Bill Waldack spoke about the issue of homelessness and the opportunity to jointly address this matter.

Marge Earl asked about mosquitoes and mosquito spraying.

Dave Fieldman spoke about mosquito abatement programs conducted by various governmental bodies. The cost is \$10,000 for each spray. Bundling services may actually drive the cost up due to the monopoly on companies that provide this service.

Donald Renner noted that some students do not have internet access and there may be an opportunity to cooperate with the Village to lower Comcast costs.

Julie Milavec said the Library may be able to partner with District 99. She spoke of their program to loan out Wifi Hotspots.

Mark Thoman noted that all governmental units have IT departments. He suggested looking to consolidate hardware and personnel to reduce costs.

Bill McAdam spoke of working with the Boy Scouts to combat mosquitoes through the use of bat houses.

Mayor Tully thanked everyone for attending this retreat and expressed his hope that this was valuable. He thanked District 99 for coordinating this effort. He asked for feedback as to how to keep this going.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

April K. Holden
Village Clerk
Village of Downers Grove