

Village Center Commission

Meeting Notes

February 6 2019

A meeting of the Village Center Commission was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall Conference Room, 850 Waukegan Road, Deerfield, Illinois. Chairman Jannes Zobus called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Present were:

Jennifer Holtz  
Joan Reed (arrived 8:03)  
Kenneth Stolman  
Jannes Zobus, Chairperson

Absent were:

Janice Shaw  
Victoria Street

Also Present:

Dan Nakahara, Village Planner  
Jeri Cotton, Secretary

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments on non-agenda items.

Document Approval

Ms. Reed moved to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2018 VCC meeting. Mr. Stolman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Business:

1. Discussion with Deerfield Park District Executive Director Jeff Nehila on the Jewett Park Master Plan and Phase I Renovations

Mr. Nehila noted that the Park District began discussing possible improvements to Jewett Park over a year ago. They made a commitment to do other projects as well. They held numerous public meetings as well as Park Board and special meetings before coming up with their proposed improvements. The Park District developed concept plans over the summer and selected the best parts of the plans for their Jewett Park Master Plan. One of the recurring general opinions was that Jewett Park is only great for kids. Mr. Nehila also noted that it has been a long time goal of the Park District to purchase the residential properties over time that are at the north end of Jewett Park. The concept plan includes an upgrade to the skate park, additional improvements to the

ball fields plus drainage and regrading. The south parking lot will be expanded and rounded so school busses are better able to enter and exit the drop-off/pick-up area. The Veteran's Memorial will be relocated to the Jewett Community Center drop-off and pick-up area and will be ADA accessible. The Memorial will gain a lot of visibility as well. They added additional playground areas as well as a fountain area with seating and public art.

There will be additional green space at the north end of Jewett Park that will have a council ring for small groups as well as a picnic shelter. The Park District is also proposing to add a small concert area in the depression area near the library steps.

The entire project was prioritized into two phases. Phase I will start this year and will include the parking lot, ball fields and regrading. Mr. Nehila noted the Park District is also scheduling to work on the splash pad at Deer Spring Pool and other improvements prior to working on Phase II, which will take place in 2024. Ch. Zobus ensured the project will be completed without going to the tax payers.

Ch. Zobus noted that this plan addresses and is consistent with the Northwest Quadrant plan. She believes the Jewett Master Plan will be good for a variety of age groups.

## 2. Update on Downtown Resident Survey

Mr. Nakahara distributed preliminary survey results. There have been 758 responses to date. Information was distributed in the January utility bills and will be sent with the February and March bills as well. There was an e-blast from the Village and there will be two additional e-blasts in February and March. Information on the survey was also in D-Tales, on Facebook and in a Deerfield Review article.

To date, the respondents are 71% female and 28% male. 46 percent of the respondents were between the ages of 35 and 49. Most respondents have lived in Deerfield either less than 5 years or more than 25 years. The Commission discussed and reviewed the questions and responses. Mr. Nakahara noted the response to the survey from residents has been encouraging. He asked the Commission to begin think about what the Commission can do based on the responses.

## 3. Village Center Update

Mr. Nakahara discussed the recent closing of Josh's restaurant. Mr. Stolman noted that Josh is very kind and generous person who has sponsored a number of events and charities. Mr. Stolman believes Josh felt the Village did not support the tenants regarding the increasing rents and noted there are a number of vacancies in Deerfield Square.

Ch. Zobus was contacted by a gentleman that wants to open a co-working facility above Bobby's Restaurant in Deerfield Village Center. Randy Horton will be attending the April VCC meeting.

Mr. Nakahara noted they are looking at a new landscaping plan for Village Hall. The Village Hall landscaping plan was last updated when the new Village Hall was built. The Commissioners believe the proposed plan looks lovely.

The flower planter program is coming up. There is nothing new at this point. Moore Landscaping is the Village landscaper this year. There will be an article in D-Tales for the March/April edition about the planter program. Mr. Nakahara spoke with Moore Landscaping about revamping and promoting the program. Moore Landscaping will reach out to other communities to see what they do. For next year, Mr. Nakahara suggested the possibility of having sponsorships for the planter urns. Ms. Reed suggested having the Village pay for 10 planters and plantings and offer to Village Center merchants on a first come first served basis.

Mr. Nakahara noted a new business called Worchester House will open soon on Waukegan Road. The First Presbyterian Church will be adding a new roof to the south elevation. Cove School will share part of the Holy Cross building for their high school and post-secondary program. A nail salon is going through the zoning process to open in a vacant space in Marshall Mall and a reflexology massage spa is proposing to go into the former Baskin Robbin space. Panera will be moving into the outlot building north of the Jewel grocery store. North Shore Sports and Wellness is proposing to relocate some of their Joy of the Game core businesses in the former Berto Center at 550 Lake Cook Road.

Adjournment:

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Village Center Commission is April 3, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Cotton  
Secretary