

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ray Semple, Trustee
SECONDER:	Dawn Abernathy, Trustee
AYES:	Abernathy, Lambert, Meier, Russell, Schwenk, Semple

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Mayor Lentz opened the floor to public commentary.

Gail Becky, resident of Mundelein thanked everyone involved in the Comprehensive Plan for helping homeowners.

Mayor Lentz closed the floor to public commentary.

PRESENTATIONS/AWARDS

Park Street Improvements Presentation

Mayor Lentz stated that the idea of open seating on Park St. started when businesses started to take a big hit due to COVID. The Economic Development Commission (EDC) did some checks on businesses and a few restaurants suggested closing Park St. to offer open dining. The Village also provided picnic tables and it became a huge hit in the summer. Lentz stated that the question now is if it should be closed permanently to continue the initiative and provide more outdoor seating.

Village Planner Malec presented a concept via video conference for Park St. so businesses can continue to offer outdoor dining, musical stage, and fire pit among other ideas. She stated that it will enhance the appearance of downtown and gives a reason for people to visit. It will also bring the community closer together when hosting different events. Malec added that back in October there was an ad hoc committee visiting restaurants to see how businesses were doing. The feedback that they received from the public was overwhelmingly well and there was a mixed response from the businesses. Most of the restaurants were in favor, but others were concerned about visibility and access. Business owners and residents would also like to see a Town Hall meeting to hear input about the project.

Malec stated that when implementing these types of project, there is a "TLC Approach":
Tactical improvement: Temporary, low cost, experimental to test the success of a change or addition.

Lean: Interventions or enhancements that are more of an investment and typically based on the success of an improvement.

Climax: Long-term high-cost investments that typically involve permanent changes.

Malec recommended the second approach (Lean) which may include:

- Medium level of investment by Village and stakeholders
- Refined, more aesthetically pleasing version of Phase I
- Improvements are still mobile so the closure can be undone if unsuccessful.
- Install decorative security barriers or security barriers with forklift
- Install fire pits, stage, other leisure enhancements to create a destination
- Cohesive dining furniture

- Entryway arch feature
- Neighborhood branding on light posts
- Wayfinding signs
- Light ceiling over Park St.

The Village is also considering purchasing 22 E. Park St. (adjacent to mural). This property could be used short-term for public purposes like:

- Additional outdoor seating
- Food trucks or built-in pop-up restaurant space
- Landscaping
- Play area for children
- Extension of Farmer's Market

In the Long-term, the property could remain as open space or be sold to a commercial developer to bring in more business to Park St.

Malec stated that the cost estimate of the project would be a total of \$300K which includes signage, branding campaign, archway, security planters, light ceiling over Park St., and improvements to 22 E Park St. She recommended a town hall meeting to all businesses and residents in the Village to get more feedback.

Other considerations to think about is finding a fair balance between treating all businesses evenly and equally and focusing on improvements that will create destinations in distinct places. She suggested the Village explores an annual fee from businesses that use this area to offset costs or ask businesses to invest in their own table and chairs but retain some Village control to keep cohesiveness.

Trustee Abernathy stated that this idea is wonderful. She inquired if the Park St. archway would be considered more of a permanent structure and if that idea could be tabled for a different phase. She suggested the \$75K be used to help businesses fund tables and chairs. Village Administrator stated that everything that was presented is conceptual. The bigger picture is that there should be an identifying feature that helps identify the location. He added that the light ceiling will be the most expensive because there will be a need for new light posts to be installed. Abernathy added that there should also be some type of crosswalk across Route 45 to make it safer for pedestrians.

Trustee Semple stated that he absolutely supports the project. His thoughts were that the light ceiling may be expensive, but it is truly worth it and will create a destination. Semple inquired how the project would be funded. Guenther stated it would be funded by revenues from surplus properties.

Trustee Lambert inquired if the plan would be to extend the closure to Seymour Ave. as well. Guenther confirmed, stating that they plan on working on this area first before moving Eastward. Lambert asked if Village staff has talked to a realtor about vacant locations in the area. Guenther stated they were waiting to get approval from the Board first and see if there was any interest in the project before talking to developers.

Trustee Meier joined the conversation at 7:44 PM. She was present from the beginning of the meeting but was having problems with audio.

Meier asked if the property that would be used to fund this project had already been sold. Guenther confirmed it had not and added that they would tailor expenditures before we move forward. Meier asked for confirmation on using proceeds from the sale to fund this project. Guenther confirmed. Meier added she would like to add language to a future motion on the agenda to reflect this.

Trustee Schwenk inquired if the entryway feature would go across Route 45. Guenther stated the archway would go across Park St. Schwenk added that one of his concerns was that there would be a dining area next to a very busy street. He asked if the stated would consider lowering the speed limit or maybe the sign can be positioned overhead across Route 45 to create more caution.

Trustee Russell stated he loved the idea.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Lentz stated the Lake County Health Department announced that Region 9 would advance to Tier 2 starting tomorrow, January 26.

Village Administrator Guenther stated that the new mitigations were the following:

- Indoor fitness classes with groups limited to 10 people
- Cultural Institutions reopen (libraries, museums)
- Household, meeting, and event gatherings are limited to 10 people
- Gaming and casinos reopen at 25% capacity
- Movie theaters reopen at 50% capacity

Mayoral Proclamation - Michael O'Brien

Commission Appointment

Motion to approve Commission appointment of Vicki Repsholdt to the Economic Development Commission.

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America in Bloom and CN Railroad Overpass Beautification Grant Award (**Resolution No. 21-01-03**)

Motion to Adopt a Resolution approving and accepting the America in Bloom and CN EcoConnexions "From the Ground Up" grant award and authorizing the Village Administrator to sign the grant agreement.

Trustee Meier inquired where the \$54K would come from. Guenther stated that the amount has been included in the Public Works budget. He confirmed that if the grant were approved, it would be covered there. If the grant were not approved, the Village would contact the organization and notify them that we cannot accept the grant.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jan 25, 2021 7:00 PM (Approval of Minutes)