

**VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF  
COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Village of Lake Bluff Board of Trustees met as a Committee-of-the-Whole (“COW”) on Monday, November 22, 2021. Village President Charlot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following were present:

Village President:	Regis Charlot
Trustees:	Barbara Ankenman Kate Briand Taryn Fisher Joy Markee (arrived at 6:36 p.m.) Stephen Rappin Susan Rider
Absent:	Katharine Hatch, Village Clerk Peter Friedman, Village Attorney
Also Present:	Drew Irvin, Village Administrator (VA) Jeff Hansen, Village Engineer Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator

**Non-Agenda Items and Visitors**

President Charlot stated the COW allocates 15 minutes for those individuals who would like the opportunity to address the COW on any matter not listed on the agenda. There were no requests to address the COW.

**Consideration of the Minutes from the November 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Trustee Ankenman moved to approve the November 8, COW minutes as amended. Trustee Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Ayes:	(5)	Ankenman, Briand, Fisher, Rappin, Rider
Nays:	(0)	
Absent:	(1)	Markee

**Discussion Regarding the Lake Bluff Downtown Streetscape Plan**

VA Drew Irvin introduced the agenda item then Village architect/landscape architect Jodi Mariano from Teska Associates, Inc. to begin the Lake Bluff Downtown Streetscape Plan presentation.

Ms. Mariano said the agenda items for this evening includes a review of the study area, goals and timeline; and Draft Plan with the Architectural Board of Review (ABR) recommendations;

discussion/priority projects; public outreach summary and budget costs. She began the presentation by reviewing the study area (Metra Train Station at the west to Evanston Avenue at the East; North Avenue at the north down to south of Center Avenue to the south) then read the project goals: enhancing the downtown user experience; preserve existing trees when possible; elevate pedestrian safety; and maximize the utility of the current public parking inventory. Ms. Mariano reviewed the timeline and actions taken as of to date, outreach statistics, and community feedback poll inputs.

In response to a question from Trustee Rappin, Ms. Mariano said she did not want to make the question specific to Block One but address the concept that downtown has successfully tested flexibility and its streetscape. A discussion followed.

Ms. Mariano continued with the review of the community feedback poll inputs, community feedback key takeaway responses, downtown streetscape issues and opportunities which included entries to downtown, street types, crossings, active park edges, alleyway connectors, Village Green edges, and Block One opportunities.

Ms. Mariano showed an image of the study area then reviewed the draft concept plan with the ABR recommendation and Planning Principles associated with Blocks Two, Three, Four, One and the Village Green. Ms. Mariano reviewed the streetscape amenities, furnishings, decorative lighting, bike shelter options, seating nooks, fire pits, signs, and streetscape plantings/shrubs. Lastly, she reviewed the concept budget costs for Areas 1, 1A, 1B, and 2 and noted the total cost would be approximately \$1,585,690.

President Charlot said the conceptual plan reflects forward looking aspects of the Village against the adversity of the pandemic as well as how to capitalize on ways to continue outdoor dining. He said he likes the strategic vision of the presentation.

Trustee Ankenman said she loves the proposed improvements and thinks it would be nice to have a year to live in the Block Two improvements to determine if the amenities and structures accomplished the goal or if the overall plan should be revisited. She said it is important to have a vision that can be considered alongside the capital budget items and to have something in place when seeking grants.

In response to a question from Trustee Rider, Ms. Mariano said often time improvements are driven by necessities and a foundation is needed before proceeding with any beautification.

Trustee Briand asked if a traffic study was done and said she is not a fan of the one-way street concept. She said the conceptual planning should be tabled for the foreseeable future by virtue of the economic condition then commented on how this could impact the Farmers Market. Trustee Briand said she thinks from a cost standpoint, she thinks the estimated figures are really low.

In response to comments from the Board, Ms. Mariano said a traffic study is not part of this current scope and she would encourage the Village to continue testing and observing what is out there today. Also, she does not think the proposal will negatively impact the Farmers Market.

VA Irvin said this is a conceptual plan that will continue to be refined as it goes through the process. The goal is to get input at a high level then consider adopting the conceptual plan, knowing there will be

modifications over time as improvements, to apply for grant so as not to impact the Village budget.

Trustee Briand expressed her concern regarding the visitor entry signage and said she thinks Staff time should be spent seeking grants dollars for hard infrastructure needs.

President Charlot said Staff is working on the hard infrastructure dollars to address strategic items such as flooding. He said this is a conceptual plan that will be done over several years and will not preempt any storm water concerns or requirements.

Trustee Markee said this is a beautiful plan and she likes the idea that there is a blueprint that can be adjusted moving forward. This is a long-term project and both priority and cosmetic improvements will need to be done according to the budget.

Trustee Rappin said he thinks the concept plan addresses the public feedback regarding socialization, outdoor dining and connectivity without materially changing downtown but contemporize, beautify and made it a little more intuitive. Trustee Rappin said he likes the idea of the bump outs on Scranton Avenue heading toward the Metra station and the Village Green is fantastic but he would be leery of putting too much concrete. He said he thinks there is a little urgency, not super urgent, as the current conditions on Block One is very temporary looking and very much an eyesore. He expressed his concern regarding socialization when the outdoor tent is removed because when the area is occupied it plays out Lake Bluff essence of socialization.

In response to a comment from Trustee Rappin, Ms. Mariano said the feedback she heard was socialization was wonderful and lovely but there is a huge disconnect between the servers, businesses, pedestrians and tent space. The tent currently occupies the 18-foot roadway area and the ABR recommended relocating it to the north side with curbless sections for connectivity and safety.

President Charlot commented on countries that socialize outdoor during the colder months. He said cold weather should not be a deterrent factor and we should continue to work out the temporary aspects and move forward with this plan.

Trustee Rider said she likes the one-way street concept but the “Do Not Entry” signs are not very inviting, and she expressed her concern regarding the trees near the bank. Ms. Mariano said she reviewed the trees with the forestry department then commented on their current condition. Trustee Rider expressed her concern regarding the signage and stated otherwise; she thinks Block One is something that; although, it got a big price tag, would be something to do in the near term.

In response to a comment from Trustee Ankenman, Ms. Mariano said she heard there was a desire to reinforce downtown for people living here and those that walk and bike to the area, not necessarily encourage traffic from Sheridan Road. She said it is worth considering as there is sufficient space for a one-way east bound concept.

Trustee Rider suggested making more use of the south side of the street and said the proposed seating nooks around the Village Green will create a more inviting public area.

Trustee Markee asked everyone to be mindful of the additional scope of maintenance work that the

upkeep of the space could create for the Village public works department.

President Charlot opened the floor to public comments.

**Public Comments**

Stephanie Bjork asked what is the implication for the taxpayer regarding the grant situation, VA Irvin said the terms of the grant and program goals are focused around communities with businesses severally impacted by COVID-19 but it does not exclude the Village from applying. He said the project could be funded 100% by others but the Village would probably make a better case to co-fund the project to some degree. A discussion followed.

Mickey Collins shared her concerns regarding the one-way street concept noting it would be confusing to visitors coming downtown. Also, there is a national trend of cities reversing back to two-way streets as a technique to vitalize the retail in downtown and for safety reasons. Ms. Collins commented on the proposed conceptual plan then provided a copy of her Block One Concept 3 plan for consideration.

**Adjournment**

As there were no further comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Rider and seconded by Trustee Ankenman. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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R. Drew Irvin  
Village Administrator