



MINUTES

President and Board of Trustees
Village of Arlington Heights
Committee-of-the-Whole
Board Room
Arlington Heights Village Hall
33 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
August 9, 2021
7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

President Hayes and the following Trustees responded to roll: Baldino, Canty, Bertucci, LaBedz, Schwingbeck, Grasse, Tinaglia, and Scaletta.

Also present were: Randy Recklaus, Charles Perkins, Cris Papierniak, Jake Schmidt and Becky Hume

Residents present were: Paul Culhane, Miel Johnson, Amy Kitzmiller and Melissa Cayer.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Potential New Sustainability Initiatives/Green Project Ideas

Mr. Perkins addressed the issue of global warming. A study in 2016 showed that 78% of respondents in Chicago would like their community to work on sustainability. He presented a snapshot of what the Village is currently doing: solar panels on a bike shelter, native landscaping, hybrid vehicles, bio-fleet vehicles, permeable pavers, LED lights, reuse of the ash trees for Police Station moldings, solar lighting at gateway and Downtown signs, and the recycling program.

The Village is expected to receive \$625,000 in 2019-2022 from the Green Electric Aggregation program, and the intent is to apply for an MWRD Grant for permeable pavers. There was \$30,000 in 2020 Budget for electric vehicles.

Staff has identified fourteen types of projects and would like Board direction on which to pursue:

1. Solar- could occur at the Vail garage, the Hanson Center and at an additional bike shelter.
2. Wind- turbines and/or wind spires could be placed north of Village Hall. Wind spires could be placed at the former train station site, and turbines placed on parking lot light fixtures.
3. Education- promotion and public relations; update train station display, website, and an educational video.
4. Vehicle Charging Stations- Vail Garage, Evergreen Garage, North Garage. The total would be \$103,000. Additional infrastructure upgrades would be required at the Evergreen and North garages.
5. Vail/Campbell permeable street pavement/plaza-(part of the 2020 Budget) the Village did not get a Federal grant, but is looking into an MWRD grant.
6. Electric Vehicles (EV)- extra cost per vehicle is \$8,000. A charging station is \$2,000. Infrastructure would cost \$12,000 for the station installations on Village property. Electric motorcycles could be looked at as well. Other electric vehicles could be looked at, like shuttles to promote remote parking.
7. Digital Solar Kiosks
8. Roofing- green and white. These could be applied to the Senior Center.
9. Permeable Pavers- there are other opportunities besides Vail Ave.
10. Bioswales – these help with runoff and work as a traffic calming influence.
11. Bike/Scooter share programs
12. Rainwater Systems
13. Bike Plan Improvements
14. Pedestrian Crosswalks- promote walkability; create decorative crosswalks with pavers or designs.

Staff recommends moving forward with the first phase of EV charging stations at the Vail Avenue Garage estimated at approximately \$30,000 and continuing to pursue the Vail/Campbell permeable paver project through a combination of grants and green aggregation funds.

President Hayes puts education at #1. He said to use our current resources and Boards and Commissions to help in this regard. The Environmental, and Bicycle & Pedestrian Commissions specifically could help identify things that could be done at a low cost.

Trustee Canty asked if the commissions were consulted prior to this meeting. Mr. Recklaus said there are opportunities to do that, but staff wanted an initial read from the Board in order to give some direction. Trustee Canty said she would like to hear from the commissions first for additional ideas. She said her priority would be the bike pathways and connectors.

Trustee Scaletta asked if the Village knew how many EV's were registered in the Village. Mr. Recklaus said no, but would try to find out through the Secretary of State's office. Trustee Scaletta said charging stations are something to move forward on, he will want details on where they would be located. EV's use different connectors but they have adaptors. The length of the charge varies from 15 minutes to many hours depending on the charger. Maximum times can be programmed into the charging stations and users can be fined if they take more than their allotted time. Trustee Scaletta worried that the Vail Garage might have too much pressure, and he does not want to take up valuable parking spaces or have EV's taking 2 hours to charge and take up a space. He asked if it was better to have a few charging stations around town, perhaps in lots that are underused. Mr. Perkins said in the long term, we will probably have chargers in all the lots. Mr. Papierniak said there is available energy in the Vail Garage so it is easier to do a trial there. Trustee Scaletta said he doesn't want to set up a system where the spaces in the Vail Garage keep getting cannibalized.

The conversation moved to solar panels. Mr. Papierniak said moving snow is harder if it is on a panel on the top of a roof. Mr. Perkins said the photo in the packet is for an at grade structure. There are a lot of issues that will need to be worked out like snow load and melt. Trustee Scaletta said he hoped we would have some way of melting the snow that is up there because it is a potential hazard. He also noted that salt could erode the base of the structure. He wouldn't want a solar shelter for vehicles to become a problem. Trustee Scaletta requested returns for an entire year. Mr. Perkins said he couldn't get that information prior to the meeting. Trustee Scaletta said education is big, and he wants to spread the word on what we are doing. He suggested a TV segment that shows how recycling works. Groot's operation is impressive.

Trustee Scaletta asked what the payback was for the solar/wind turbines. Jake Schmidt, Assistant Planner, said these devices are not connected to the grid. They charge during the day and discharge the light so there is not any return, but they give the ability to bring light to where we don't have power. Trustee Scaletta said if there is not enough sun or wind we would need a back up system. Mr. Schmidt said these are used in places where we couldn't do anything before, so they are better than nothing. They don't replace existing lights at this time, but could be used that way in the future.

Mr. Perkins said the Village uses a similar system Downtown to light the commuter parking signs and banners. The light is not super bright, but is better than no lighting. Trustee Scaletta said if we need lighting, this is not the best choice unless there is a backup. Mr. Perkins said these devices provide an opportunity to demonstrate Green Technology. Trustee Scaletta said to make sure safety/security is considered in relation to risk.

Trustee Scaletta asked where the water goes when using permeable pavers. Mr. Papierniak said the systems have drains that go into underground

storage. Trustee Scaletta said he liked the idea of the EV's for non-emergency personnel. Mr. Papierniak said EV's are low maintenance and Public Works hasn't had to replace a battery in the current fleet, which is 7-9 years old. Mr. Recklaus said the base model for the new police SUV Interceptor is a hybrid. Staff is not seeing any power issues and fueling time is down. Trustee Scaletta liked the idea of the kiosks as they would be a time saver for staff. He liked the idea of the Senior Center roof being converted. He liked the bike path concept. He asked if there was a plan to connect them all. Mr. Perkins said there is a plan, what was presented tonight showed the most recent priorities which connects some of the system. Trustee Scaletta said he didn't want to rip up things we just did in relation to the decorative sidewalks. Mr. Perkins said there are other locations that would work like Arlington Heights Road and Sigwalt. Trustee Scaletta asked if the light ceiling could be solar. Mr. Perkins said the lights are LED connected to the grid. They are not a solar product. Trustee Scaletta asked if the light ceiling could be added and considered sustainable.

Trustee Schwingbeck liked the idea of charging stations at Public Works. As we phase out vehicles, EV's and corresponding charging stations make sense. If we put stations in Vail Garage, who would be using them? Who do we want to use them? He said he hoped it was patrons of the businesses. If a resident has a station at home, would they use them? Mr. Perkins said the requests have come from the residents of the apartment building. That is their parking space. It would be those residents, then businesses and customers. The stations may not be helpful to all, but would be to some. Staff is not recommending all garages at once, just trying it with a test. Trustee Schwingbeck asked which floor would be used. Mr. Perkins said the lower first floor areas are being considered. Trustee Schwingbeck said he liked the enhanced bike programs. He liked the EV and Public Works charging stations. He said he was good with testing a charging station in a garage.

Trustee Bertucci asked what the Federal mandates were on EV's. He asked if there was a drop-dead date, and if the Village should stage the purchases to meet it. He said the priority of chargers should be for residents who use the garages. They would be more apt to need/use than a Downtown business patron. He thinks the Board needs to know the mandates and work backwards to meet them. He agreed with a trial period to work out the bugs on charging stations. He had concerns about solar/wind because of the cost to install them and there is unsure revenue. He would like to see the research on white roofs. He agreed with the staff recommendation on charging stations and pavers on Vail/Campbell. He said it would enhance the Downtown and help with water. Trustee Bertucci said the bike/pedestrian crosswalks were good idea but to be careful they don't impede traffic. Make sure what we put in makes sense and doesn't create unintended problems.

Trustee LaBedz agreed with charging stations. The focus is the residents of the buildings. In the long term, we need to think about their needs. The companies are saying that is what they are going to produce, it's not only

mandates. She said to move forward with a station at Public Works. She is intrigued by the solar/wind turbine idea as it might be useful on dark streets. She agreed education is a big component. Trustee LaBedz agreed with replacing staff vehicles with EV's. The white roof is a useful tool. She agreed with the permeable pavers. She said to connect the bike lanes and do whatever we can do to encourage people to walk or drive. She said it was good for the Board to talk before reaching out to the Boards & Commissions because we don't want to go to them first and then not want to pursue their ideas. She appreciates their input, but it's better to have a defined goal.

Trustee Grasse said she hopes we can incorporate a lot of these in time. Education is very important, having visuals with what we do helps in the education. She suggested QR codes to explain what is in place. She wants to model our commitment and prioritize our own vehicles. She said by committing ourselves, we educate people. She liked the kiosk idea as it would draw attention. She said the bioswales are a good idea, but reiterated having a QR code to explain why they are helpful. She liked the solar panel-train station idea as an example for the community.

Trustee Baldino said he was a big proponent of charging stations. They are for the residents down town, not for the short-term, free parking spots. He is a huge fan of turning over the fleet. He said the charging stations will fill up over time. His priorities are: EV Village vehicles, permeable pavers, and expanding bike paths. He said he liked the visual of the solar panels, but is not as excited about them anymore since the Village has 100% renewable energy. He said all the ideas are great ideas, but there are other priorities we should focus on first, unless there is a specific application like an area that needs light and does not have a power source.

Trustee Tinaglia said his clients with apartment buildings are all incorporating charging stations. If we are in the business of having apartments, we need charging stations. He sees three components, chargers for residents who use our garages, chargers for our fleet, and the perception of embracing the technology. He suggested adding charging stations on one of our lots by the train station and having 5-6 drive up locations, to demonstrate our commitment. Permeable pavers are great. If there was a way to capture that water into canisters after it filters and use it for something, that would be wonderful. The bicycle share is a good idea. He was not keen on the scooters. Education is the most important of all, he agreed with Mayor Hayes. He said to do programming, website information kiosks, and QR codes. The more we can share the better. He wants to advocate for as much as we can.

President Hayes said his lowest priority is green roofs, as they are not very effective. Wind turbines are too costly with little benefit. \$110,000 for three turbines is too much for him.

Trustee Bertucci asked if the voltage is going to be an issue in the garages. Mr. Papierniak said that is under analysis, we will bring in ComEd early on.

Trustee Bertucci said it may be a challenge if by 2030 all residents are using electric. He said to look ahead and work backwards in anticipation. Mr. Recklaus said the big driver will be single family homes, not only in the amount of electricity, but when it is being used. A lot of charging will occur when people are sleeping, but it is something we will need to keep tabs on. Mr. Papierniak said smart meters could enhance the efficiencies.

Paul Culhane said solar energy is very cost effective. The State mandates do need to be followed. Grants are available through the State and Federal governments. There may be money we could take advantage of. He said the Village should align with the 'Ready for 100' program which advocates sustainable energy and other comprehensive efficiency programs.

Miel Johnson spoke on behalf of the League of Women Voters. She said environmental action is an advocacy goal for them this year. She suggested the Village commit to using nontoxic pesticides and stop using gas powered equipment in landscape maintenance.

Amy Kitzmiller asked for the Board to look beyond the dollars of investing. Impact is not only about the return. Farmers markets, charging stations, and bike paths show you care about your residents. She said to measure the impact and identify a long-term goal. The 'Ready for 100' sign-on is a concept that has huge impact. Everything matters now and the costs of not acting compounds the impacts. She suggested offering matching grants to businesses who want to put chargers in their parking lots. She suggested putting demands on the commissions, and ask them to show how they can have an impact.

Melissa Cayer said she would like to opt out of the paper water and sewer bill. TIF districts should be abolished and zoning laws should be relaxed. She offered thanks for the Lake Cook/Wilke crossing. She asked the Village to address noise pollution, sponsor a Village wide garage sale, and plan a date where used items to go to the curb. She recommended ceiling fans and electric lawn mowers as power savers.

Mr. Recklaus said this meeting was to get feedback, the details of where the stations go and what the next steps are will now be worked on. From what he heard, charging opportunities for Downtown residents is a priority. Now we will also consider a visual representation of what we are doing. Staff will try and balance those two directives.

Trustee Tinaglia said they were two different things. You can't kill two birds with one stone on this one.

Trustee Scaletta said to do it for the residents immediately, the visual cues are secondary. It makes sense for charging stations at Public Works and at Village Hall for their vehicles. He suggested a possible location at the dead end of the garage. He does not want to take money out of this fund for Village cars, that should come out of General Fund. Mr. Recklaus said staff

will crunch the numbers looking at cost and operational issues. If there is a higher cost for an EV, there are budget limitations and the fleet budget is tight. We have to think about how to fund them. Initially, the idea was to use the aggregation fund to offset the budgeted delta, and over time, we can build in extra cost.

Trustee Canty agreed with Mr. Recklaus on supplementing the cost of EV's. She looks at the fund to offset the difference to move forward more quickly in converting to EV's. She said she does not understand the Kiosk, and is not a fan of that. She loved the concept of the QR codes throughout the Village. Not a lot of people are in the train station these days so she was not sure a static display is the way forward. QR codes give you more flexibility. EV's should be the focus. She would like staff to explore matching grants for businesses for charging stations.

Trustee LaBedz asked if there was a fleet buying program for EV's. The answer was yes. Generally, EV's cost \$8,000 more than gas powered vehicles. Staff will look at all the options.

Trustee Scaletta said to check with Meier to see the impact. He agreed that we should talk about the impact so is not going to spend \$100,000 on a \$4,000 impact. He said the Village would achieve more impact by improving bicycle lanes.

Trustee Tinaglia recommended talking to the large project builders to figure out where to put charging stations. There has to be a location that they have figured out. He said staff needs to pursue grants. Mr. Papierniak said staff has worked very hard to get grant monies.

Mr. Recklaus summarized the Board's priorities:

1. Charging Stations for Downtown residents
2. EV's for Village fleet
3. Expanding educational materials and looking at different ways to do it, not just static display
4. Expand the bike path network
5. Permeable Pavers at Vail/Campbell using grant money and other locations if possible
6. Seek feedback from the Boards and Commissions (Environmental, Bike)

V. OTHER BUSINESS

VI. ADJOURNMENT