

## **Village Board Goal Setting Session Summary**

### **July 31, 2023**

#### **Feedback on Board/Staff Interaction**

- Several Trustees commented on how well the Board interacts with each other and how staff provides timely and important information.
  - Board members asked for more information and more timely updates on the following:
    - Ongoing and end results of issues and projects around the Village
    - TIF projects
    - New businesses and failed projects
    - Crime and arrests
- Board members commented how it can be difficult to understand complex issues and ask follow up questions prior to Village Board meetings when they first learn about the topic in the Friday Packet or Village Board Agenda. They asked Village staff to consider providing complex or timely information in advance of the Friday Packet, Village Board Agenda, etc. when possible.
- creating the Friday Packet earlier in the week, or informing the Board of important information prior to the Friday Packet.
- Board members indicated they do not need to receive Monthly Snapshots and Quarterly Reports, and they do not want to create more work for Village staff separate from the data staff is already collecting. The Board agreed a high-level quarterly snapshot is most valuable. Board members also discussed the value of providing information in the form of a narrative versus data points.

#### **Themes, Trends, and Challenges Identified by the Village Board**

- Arlington Park Redevelopment and Chicago Bears
  - Identify and highlight opportunities for the site, including various uses, environmental and walkability opportunities, safety, etc.
  - Redevelopment of Arlington Park is going to be a high-priority for Village staff over the next several years, but other projects should not be overshadowed.
- Crime and Youth Issues
  - Perceived feeling of safety within the Village versus statistics-based data about safety.
  - Enforcing speeding laws.
  - Many police issues seem to focus on certain motels and apartment complexes.
  - Are Neighborhood Watch Programs effective? If so, how do we promote neighborhoods to take ownership?
- Environment
  - Enhance recycling program awareness and education.
  - Enhance opportunities for the Village to increase walkability and bicycle friendliness to reduce reliance on vehicles.

- Transparency and Integrity
  - Consider a Code of Conduct and ethics standard.
  - Residents need quality communication about activity in the Village to maintain and improve trust in government.
- Attract and Retain Businesses
  - Constantly attract high-quality new businesses.
  - Local economic development needs to focus on filling the empty spaces and storefronts around the Village.
  - Improve the gateways into the Village and into downtown so they are more welcoming and attractive. Improvements should include aesthetic and types of businesses.
- Commuter Parking and Remote Work
  - Commuting to work is reduced due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Should the Village review and consider repurposing commuter parking spaces?
- Expectations and Involvement
  - Concern of unrealistic perceptions about Village services and delivery.
  - How do we encourage more residents to be involved and/or stay informed?
- Communication and Enhanced Information
  - Improve communication about Arlington Alfresco parking.
  - Improve communication about Village services like composting. Some residents may not know these programs are available.
- Entertainment Opportunities
  - How can we focus on different entertainment options or businesses that offer experiences (e.g., mini golf, trampoline park, etc.)?
  - Explore entertainment opportunities that are engaging to different ages.
- COVID-19 Recovery
  - Recovery of different sectors to pre-pandemic levels.
  - Help residents recover from the trauma COVID-19 caused.
- Housing, Affordability, and Senior Options
  - Property taxes and cost of housing in the Village.
  - Explore affordable housing opportunities.
  - There's a lack of ranch-style homes in the Village. Seniors who are downsizing may need to leave the Village because there aren't accessible homes for them.
  - Historical preservations among housing.
- Mission Statement, Vision, and Values
  - Should we create a mission statement, vision, or value document to define who we are as a Village?
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
  - Continue to improve DEI efforts.
  - Belonging needs to be included in DEI efforts. Residents need to feel they belong in Arlington Heights.
  - DEI and belonging are about feeling safe.
- Public Services
  - The Village needs to continue to provide quality public services while keeping property taxes low.

- Maintain good fiscal responsibility.
- Panhandling
  - Panhandling at major intersections seems to have increased recently.
- Connecting Residents on the North and South Sides of the Village
  - Promote that we are one Village.
  - Village services are applied equally to all areas of the Village. Some residents feel their area of the Village receives less services.
- Disrespect of Law, Lack of Civility, and Lack of Respect for Others
  - All ages, not just youth, seem to be more disrespectful lately. People are disregarding the law and don't have basic respect for their neighbors. This may be due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - Residents have a right to enjoy their property, but they should also consider how nuisances (e.g., late-night loud noises, etc.) can affect their neighbors' right to enjoy their own property.

### **Public Comment Regarding Themes, Trends, and Challenges**

- Keith Moens shared that any goals related to public safety should specifically include speeding. Keith Moens recommended the Village Board draft a Speed Calming Policy with clear guidelines and require Village staff to enforce it.
- Peg Lane provided a general comment about gender equity. Peg Lane also asked for clarification about how the Village Board's visioning session will lead to results. The Village Board and staff informed her the Village has hosted this strategic planning session every two years for nearly 30 years. Following this session, the Village Board will approve strategic priorities for 2024 – 2025 and staff will create a business plan that communicates how the priorities will be met.
- Argie Karafotias shared his experience working with Village staff. Argie Karafotias said staff have been very transparent with him and answer his questions when asked. Argie Karafotias also stated that he believes people aren't listening or paying attention if they are unaware of what is occurring in the Village. Argie Karafotias encouraged the Village Board to do something about the appearance of the south side of the Village. Argie Karafotias commented on the importance of safety and the Police in the Village, and how he believes Chief of Police Nicholas Pecora is doing a great job. Finally, Argie Karafotias stated that he believes the Village is doing a great job working the Chicago Bears and encouraged everyone involved to make things happen quickly.

### **2024 – 2025 Strategic Priorities**

The Village Board used the Themes, Trends, and Challenges to create topic areas for strategic priorities. Each Trustee was given one sticker worth one point, one sticker worth two points, and one sticker worth three points. Using their stickers, the Board informally voted on which three topic areas they believed were most important for Village staff to work on in 2024 and 2025. The point tally is reflected below:

<b><u>Strategic Priority Topic Areas</u></b>	<b><u>Point Total</u></b>
Arlington Park Redevelopment	10
Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility	9
Sustainability (Emphasis on Bicycle and Pedestrian Access)	9
Providing High Quality Services	7
Public Safety and Crime	7
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Community Engagement	5
Maintaining Infrastructure	3
Local Economic Development and Business Development	2
Affordable Housing	2
Communication, Transparency, and Trust	0
Civility and Respect	0
Sounds of Summer and Entertainment	0

Note: In this process, the Village Board voted on which strategic priority topic areas are most important or need the most improvement in 2024 and 2025. Topic areas that received a low point total or no points does not mean the Village Board believes it is unimportant.

Based on the results above, Village staff will craft language to create the 2024 – 2025 strategic priority list and present it to the Village Board for approval. Once approved, Village staff will create a business plan with detailed objects as to how the priorities will be met over the 2-year period.