

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD  
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
VILLAGE HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MEETING HELD VIA GOTO MEETING AND  
AVAILABLE LIVE AT WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/  
JUNE 1, 2021**

**Call to Order**

Village President Patel called the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees via GoToMeeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Tuesday, June 1, 2021, meeting held via GoToMeeting and available live at [WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/](http://WWW.LINCOLNWOODIL.ORG/LIVE-CABLE-CHANNEL/), County of Cook, and State of Illinois.

Upon roll call by Village Clerk Beryl Herman the following were:

Present: President Patel, Trustees Klatzco, Herrera, Sargon, Saleem and Halevi.

Absent: None

After calling the roll the Village President asked if there were any public comments.

A quorum was present.

Also present: Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura, The following were present via Go-To-Meeting Chuck Meyer, Assistant Village Manager; Jon Bogue, Acting Assistant to the Village Manager; Jake Litz, Management Analyst; Nadim Badran, Public Works Director; Scott Mangum, Community Development Director; Doug Hammel, Development Manager; Brendon Mendoza, Assistant to the Public Works Director.

Public Comment was requested.....there was none.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of May 4, 2021 and the May 19, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meetings were presented for approval.

Trustee Sargon moved to approve the minutes of May 4, 2021 and May 19, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meetings, seconded by Trustee Herrera.

Upon Roll Call the results were:

Ayes: Trustees Klatzco, Herrera, Sargon, Saleem and Halevi.

Nays: None

## **Regular Business**

### **1. Biennial Report of the Beautification Commission**

This item was presented by Assistant to the Public Works Director Brendon Mendoza. Mr. Mendoza stated that he would provide an update for the Beautification Commission's Biennial Report. He began by providing some brief background into the Beautification Commission. He then handed the presentation over to Chairperson Mau.

Chairperson Mau listed several of the events and activities which are coordinated by the Commission, including annual plantings, Arbor Day Tree Plantings and the Lincolnwood in Bloom contest. She then delineated some of the anticipated activities for the Commission for 2021-2022 including and possibilities for expanding outreach by holding a booth at the upcoming Lincolnwood Fest.

Mr. Mendoza stated that the Commission was designated a Task Force in 2013 and became a Commission in 2018.

Mr. Mendoza then opened the floor to any questions from the Village Board.

Trustee Sargon thanked the commissioner for her presentation and for community clean-up efforts that the Commission have recently undertaken. They will be working with an Environmental Commission. She wanted to add that there would be a strong opportunity for collaboration through an event named 'OAKtober' wherein the planting of oak trees would be pushed.

Mayor Patel thanked the Beautification Commission and noted that the exposure of the Commission could be increased in the future. He added that the Board would be excited to collaborate with the Commission in the coming months.

### **2. Discussion Concerning Cannabis Dispensary and Video Gaming**

This item was presented by Scott Mangum, Community Development Director, using PowerPoint.

Mr Mangum noted that during the Finance Committee meeting of December 17, 2020, Cannabis dispensaries and Video Gaming were identified as potential revenue sources for the community. These issues have been previously discussed by the board, but were raised again in light of new regulations which would allow for an increase in the number of Cannabis dispensaries in the State of Illinois. Mr Mangum ran the Board through some of the background behind Cannabis dispensaries including the potential financial benefits of such institutions. He noted that there were certain issues that could come about due to an increase in the number of stores, such as the 'Cannibalization' of stores.

He moved on to the issue of Video Gaming locations by providing a brief background on the issue. He asked whether there were any comments or concerns surrounding either issues.

Village Attorney Elrod, (who was present virtually,) asked to comment on the issues being discussed. He brought to the attention of the board a specific nuance to the legislation that was to be passed by the Governor surrounding Cannabis dispensaries. He suggested that the 1500 feet distance required to separate different dispensaries could be waived. However, if Lincolnwood continues to prohibit dispensaries from doing this then that waiver would not apply in Lincolnwood. However, if Lincolnwood lifted the prohibition but did still mandate a distance requirement then this would survive over the potential 'State waiver'.

Additional information was provided by Mr. Mangum surrounding dispensaries and Video Gaming. 11 of 22 communities allow for Cannabis dispensaries, for example. Most municipalities locate these businesses on arterials.

The point of the presentation, Mr Mangum noted, was to deliberate whether there was interest in allowing Cannabis Dispensaries or Video Gaming Establishments within the Village, and additionally, to discuss the most appropriate zoning approach for such measures. He added that if the Board was interested then staff recommends referral to the Plan Commission alongside any specific direction or policy matters.

Mayor Patel noted that such issues had been discussed regularly by the Board and community, but that times had changed. He noted that there was initially much that was unknown about the impact and function of such institutions. He stated that now the timing was germane due to new legislation and because more was known about potential financial benefits. He then opened the discussion up to the Trustees.

Trustee Klatzco began by asking the Police Chief Jay Parrott about a cannabis dispensary in Skokie, near Niles North High School specifically concerning any reports of crime or other problems. Chief Parrott noted that there had been no reports concerning crime at that specific institution. He stated that he would prefer people buy Cannabis lawfully as opposed to illegally.

Trustee Sargon stated that she was against Cannabis and Gaming in the previous discussion. She said, however, that she would be open to further discussion regarding specifics about the issues. She later asked about potential 'on-site consumption' and expressed concerns about allowing this.

Mayor Patel commented that the Plan Commission needs all possible information in their packet for a Public Hearing.

Mr Elrod assured her that on-site consumption is not currently legal and that if it ever was made legal, then the Village of Lincolnwood could prohibit it in its community.

Trustee Halevi stated that she had qualms with the potential implementation of dispensaries. She noted that members of the community were very against the selling of Cannabis. She stated that although there were potential financial benefits, other elements of the issue should be looked into.

Mayor Patel wanted to speak to the concerns of Village residents. He affirmed that the fact of the matter was that many if not all surrounding communities such as Niles and Evanston have marijuana use allowed. He stated that regardless of Lincolnwood's action, one could go across the street to purchase marijuana. He noted that even if Lincolnwood were to allow for such dispensaries, competition with other, less restrictive communities, would be significant.

Mr Mangum showed on the powerpoint the proposed Cannabis business buffer zones. Mayor Patel asked if there were any comments from the Board surrounding this.

It was noted by Trustee Sargon that a central area off of Touhy and Lincoln, which is a residential area, should be avoided as a potential site of dispensary. It was also noted by Mayor Patel that areas surrounding places of worship should potentially be avoided.

Trustee Saleem noted that location and number were his two principal concerns for dispensaries. Should we look at a cap on the number of locations allowed?

Attorney Elrod clarified defined and prohibited uses.

Trustee Klatzco noted that residents of Lincolnwood smoke marijuana but go to Skokie. He noted that many of the bad things that people said would happen due to the sale of marijuana have not yet happened. He stated that other villages were gaining greater tax revenue due to such stores and that it was time for Lincolnwood to seriously consider joining them.

The conversation turned to Video Gaming, which was noted to be specifically Video Gaming involving gambling which occurs in locations such as casinos.

Trustee Herrera spoke regarding video gaming.

Mayor Patel suggested that the Board take a group trip to see these facilities in other municipalities.. Ms Gaura stated that the Village could coordinate a tour.

Trustee Sargon noted that she would be open to sending it to plan.

President Patel decided to take an informal poll. He stated that the majority of Trustees were open to sending the issue to plan. He stated that he would be against a stand-alone Gaming institution.

### **3. Discussion Concerning Boards and Commissions**

This item was presented by Anna Marie Guara. She began by providing a background for the Boards and Commissions review. She gave an overview of the discussions that the Boards and Commissions would have over the course of the next few months. She noted that several members of the Board had served longer than was mandated and that several openings now existed. She asked for any comments or suggestions regarding the Boards and Commissions.

Trustee Sargon noted that new members of the Board should receive training, either virtually or in-person, to ensure that they were ready to serve to their best ability. She added that they should potentially be asked to sign an ethical clause.

Mayor Patel stated that the various needs of the Village's residents and businesses would be met and fulfilled.

Trustee Halevi expressed appreciation toward the Boards and Commissions for helping the Village carry out its duties.

Trustee Sargon expressed the importance of recording training videos for new board members.

Mrs. Guara noted that Mr Elrod had put together such a video due to the nature of the Coronavirus Pandemic forcing virtual work and training.

Trustee Klatzco implored residents to get involved in the political process and serve their community. Mayor Patel agreed and stated that residents could contact him at JPatel@jwe.org.

#### **Public Forum**

There was none.

#### **Adjournment to Closed Session**

At 7:13 P.M. Trustee Klatzco made a motion to move the meeting into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Collective Bargaining Per Section 2(c)(2.) Seconded by Trustee Sargon.

Upon Roll Call the results were:

AYES: Trustees Herrera, Sargon, Saleem, Klatzco, Mayor Patel

NAYS: None

At 7:27 Clerk Herman moved to adjourn Closed Session and return to Committee of the Whole, seconded by Trustee Sargon.

Upon Roll Call the results were:

AYES: Trustees Sargon, Saleem, Herrera, Klatzco and Halevi.

#### **Reconvention**

At 7:28 P.M. President Patel reconvened Committee of the Whole

#### **Adjournment**

At 7:29 P.M. A motion was made to adjourn the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole,

Upon roll call the results were:

Ayes: Trustees Sargon, Saleem, Herrera, Klatzco and Halevi.

Nays: None

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Beryl Herman*  
Beryl Herman  
Village Clerk