



Village of Itasca  
Joint Village Board of Trustees and Plan Commission Special Meeting  
Tuesday, May 25, 2021  
7:00 p.m.  
Itasca Municipal Complex, Board of Trustees Room

---

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Pruyn called to order the Joint Village Board of Trustees and Plan Commission Special Meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**Roll Call**

PRESENT: Mayor Jeff Pruyn, Trustee Dino Gavanis, Trustee Ellen Leahy, Trustee Jeff Aiani, Trustee Kathy Linsner, Trustee Patrick Powers, Commissioner Frank Carello, Commissioner Lori Drummond, Commissioner Jeffrey Holmes, Commissioner Eric Swets.

VIA ZOOM: Commissioner Anthony Russo, Commissioner Krista Ray.

ABSENT: Trustee Frank Madaras, Commissioner Brendan Daly.

Others Present: Director of Police Bob O'Connor, Village Planner Mo Khan, Public Works Director Mike Subers, Village Administrator Carie Anne Ergo, Deputy Clerk Deanne Curelo, Village Attorney Chuck Hervas, Village Clerk Jody Conidi.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Pruyn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Audience Participation**

No Audience Participation.

**4. Downtown Plan Update**

Michael Horsting, Manager, Local Planning at Regional Transportation Authority of Northeastern Illinois (RTA), presented an update on the Downtown Itasca Strategic Plan. Community engagement has been a project website, [www.itascadowntownplan.com](http://www.itascadowntownplan.com), social media announcements, stakeholder interviews on April 2021, steering committee meetings, and a community survey.

An existing conditions analysis showed there are development opportunities for vacant properties, under-developed properties, and properties that could be development differently with improvements ranging from landscaping to new buildings. Transportation improvements include pedestrian traffic to and around the Metra Station, improving pedestrian safety with more visible crossings, and designating and improving bicycle pathways with "connected and protected" lanes on existing roadways.

Improvements can connect parks, open spaces, Metra parking lots, and the Salt Creek Trail to the downtown area. Mayor Pruyn requested promoting the Itasca Metra Station as the closest station to Busse Woods to attract bicycle riders from other communities to the downtown area.

Summary takeaways are Itasca has a large amount of recreation, parks, and open spaces to generate activities and there is a market for small local-niche retail in the downtown

area. Irving Park Road is both a barrier and connector to the downtown area and larger sites on Irving Park Road could be developed into larger, mixed-use projects with retail on the ground floor and residential on the upper floors.

The next steps are drafting a state of downtown report, a Steering Committee review meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2021, posting information online for public review and comment, a final state of downtown report due mid-June 2021, a public workshop in August 2021, and looking at specific sites for redevelopment during phase 2 from July to September 2021.

Trustee Madaras arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Discussion after the presentation covered there are no plans for condemnation of properties, requests for multi-family and downsizing housing, preparing "shove-ready" site plans now for developers, offering free public Wi-Fi in public areas, updating broadband infrastructure, looking at government-owned properties for redevelopment opportunities, encouraging existing property owners to invest into property improvements, and promoting the Historical Commission matching grants program.

**5. Old Business**

No Old Business.

**6. New Business**

No New Business.

**7. Closed Session**

No Closed Session.

**8. Adjournment**

Trustee Powers moved to adjourn the Joint Village Board of Trustees and Plan Commission Special Meeting at 7:36 p.m. Trustee Linsner seconded.

**Roll Call:**

Aye – Trustees Aiani, Gavanis, Leahy, Linsner, Madaras, Powers, Commissioner Carello, Commissioner Drummond, Commissioner Holmes, Commissioner Swets, Commissioner Russo, Commissioner Ray.

No – None.

Absent – Commissioner Daly.

**MOTION APPROVED.**

Submitted this 25th day of May 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jody A. Conidi, Village Clerk