



## **rRemarks Data for January 11th, 2022 Village Council Meeting**

**Agenda Section:** Comments of a General Nature

**Agenda Item:** Comments of a General Nature

**Commenter:** Lousie Kelly, Downers Grove

**Comment:** I would like to request that the Council consider how we can make Downers Grove attractive to pollinators this coming spring of 2022. Pollinator populations are way down in the U.S. City & suburban lawns, like ours, can support pollinator conservation if left unmowed...even if only for a month in Spring. We are inspired by Evanston, Westmont, and many Wisconsin towns, who have instituted "No Mow May" programs. Let's do that in Downers Grove!

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**Commenter:** Don Cassier, Downers Grove

**Comment:** We have not received mail since the 30th of December.

We have tried going in to the Woodridge PO (they service 60516) and they give songs and dances. Our entire subdivision- Deer Creek- along with much of the area, is not receiving anything but lame excuses. We went in to Woodridge PO on Saturday and were told all mail is on truck for delivery. Received nothing. Went back today and were told mail was not sorted. Different day, different story (lie). Daily email digests show the mail they are not delivering, so we know what is not getting to us. How can they not be accountable? Lame excuses include " your regular carrier retired and no one has replaced him". He retired in 2019! Why not tell the truth and plead ineptitude?

Can we get some pressure put on the USPS?

Thanks

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**Commenter:** Irene Hogstrom, Downers Grove

**Comment:** Dear Mayor Barnett, Village Council, and Staff,

I am not originally from Downers Grove, and moved here "kicking and screaming" as my husband says. And yet, here I am fighting again for a redevelopment of a property that

deserves some imagination and innovation to preserve what makes Downers Grove a pleasant place to live. We hear that “citizens don’t like change.” In my time here since 2003, the way I see it, the Village does not like change. “Let’s develop and build the way we did 100 years ago!” It is 2022, and redevelopment of this significant piece of open space is an opportunity for the Village to do something creative that would win the hearts of residents and bring commendable recognition to Downers Grove.

The redevelopment of the Longfellow Center into 12 residential homes is not APA award winning design and innovation. The surrounding community would like to explore ideas for its new purpose. Adaptive reuse would be ideal for the building. Regarding the wooded grounds, we know about climate change, we know the importance of the mature tree canopy in reducing CO2 emissions, and that oaks are a keystone species. It is short-sighted, local decisions like these, allowing--even encouraging--the clear-cutting of 40 mature oak trees, that contribute globally to climate change. We have the tools to develop while preserving the environment, such as conservation design, and constructing net zero energy buildings.

I understand the difficult position School District 58 left the Village Council and staff. Some of you ran on an environmental platform. Now is the time to lead, rather than give up and say we can’t do anything about it, and yet scramble to change the Municipal Code to accommodate the developer. Why not scramble and try to do something innovative that will please the residents who elected you/and or pay your salaries? This isn’t my first rodeo, and the group organized to save the Longfellow Center is larger and more organized than the group fighting the demolition of the Edwards House. If any good will come of this, it will be that a new set of engaged citizens will emerge from this debacle who will lead the Village to the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Irene Hogstrom, ASLA LEED AP BD+C