

Meeting Minutes

Village of Downers Grove
Human Service Ad Hoc Committee

Council Chambers

10/27/20

7:02 PM

I. Call to Order

Village Manager Dave Fieldman called the meeting of the Human Service Ad Hoc Committee of the Village of Downers Grove to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Downers Grove Village Hall.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members Attendance (Present): Samantha Aycock, Becky Campbell, Tom Connolly, Chris Gilmartin, Kimberly Nagi

Absent: Stephanie Williams, Azizi Marshall

Staff: Village Manager David Fieldman, Administrative Secretary II Rosa Berardi

Mr. Fieldman asked for a motion to permit electronic attendance by Samantha Aycock, Becky Campbell, and Chris Gilmartin

Ms. Aycock moved to approve the motion. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion.

Mr. Fieldman declared the motion approved by voice vote.

III. Approval of September 22, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Fieldman asked for a motion to approve the September 22, 2020 minutes.

Ms. Marshall moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Nagy seconded the motion.

Mr. Fieldman declared the minutes approved by voice vote.

IV. Discussion of the 2020 Human Service Ad Hoc Report to Village Council

Mr. Fieldman began by stating this was the sixth and final meeting of the year. It was also the final meeting for the Human Service Ad Hoc Committee (HSAHC) as a whole. Mr. Fieldman went on to state the purpose of this meeting was to review the [2020 Human Service Ad Hoc Committee Report](#). He wanted the Committee to comment on any changes to include in the final report that will be presented to the Village Council members next week. The final report will appear on the November 11, 2020, Village Council meeting agenda.

Mr. Fieldman started the review of the report by stating that the Village Council created the HSAHC in December 2018 and appointed seven members to serve on the Committee. In 2019, the Committee met four times and put together a [2019 Final Report](#) that was presented to the Village Council on August 6 and September 17, 2019. In the report the committee expanded on the following two items:

1. The role the Human Service Commission would serve in the Village.
2. How the Human Service Commission would assist the Village Council in promoting the function and mission of the Village on an on-going basis.

Mr. Fieldman continued by stating the Village Council re-established the HSAHC at the Village Council meeting on December 17, 2019, with tasks for the committee to:

- Develop more specific recommendations on actions and to prioritize the recommended actions;
- Consider presentations by Village departments, Downers Grove Township, DuPage County and Not-For-Profit organizations about the human services currently being provided in and around the Village;
- Submit a report to the Village Council, addressing the issues identified for consideration no later than June 30, 2020;
- Perform any additional duties and tasks as directed by the Village Council from time to time.

The Village council extended the date for the submission of the final report to October 31, 2020, because COVID-19 restrictions prevented the committee from meeting on the originally scheduled dates.

Mr. Fieldman said that eight entities gave presentations about the services they provide in and around the community during the past several HSAHC meetings. After taking into consideration what the committee had learned from these entities, the committee found there are several services available to Village residents in and around the community; however, there is a general lack of awareness by the public that these services are available. With this in mind, the recommendations of the committee to the Village include: increasing awareness of the social services available to the community; connecting individuals in need with service providers; and the Village should hire qualified staff, possibly a licensed social worker, to provide referral services to Village residents.

Mr. Fieldman went on to the next section of the report. In this section, the committee prioritized and further developed the recommendations included in the 2019 HSAHC Final Report. After the last committee meeting on September 22, 2020, Mr. Fieldman asked each member to categorize the recommendations and submit their results to him. Mr. Fieldman then compiled the results and entered them into the 2020 HSAHC Report, with the committee recommendations placed in top, high, and medium priority categories. Mr. Fieldman read aloud the ranked recommendations from the report.

After an in depth discussion of the 2020 HSAHC Report, the group collectively agreed on changes/additions to be made to the report. These changes included:

- Paragraph 2 on page 6 should include the concept that the Human Service Commission should be a permanent commission which meets regularly;
- Paragraph 2 on page 6 should state that the Commission should review and reevaluate recommendations and priorities on an annual basis;
- Paragraph 2 on page 7 should include the concept that the Village Council should balance the social service funding requests with other Village services.
- Paragraph 2, the second sentence on page 7 should be reworded because of adding the concept listed above.
- Paragraph 3 on page 7 should include the word “celebrated” after “welcomed and supported”.

Ms. Aycock commented that the report is robust; it will provide a wealth of information to the community once it's published.

Mr. Fieldman ended the discussion by stating that funds were allocated in the 2021 Village Budget by placing a hold on an open Management Analyst position; to possibly staff a licensed social worker.

Mr. Fieldman asked for a motion to approve the changes to the 2020 HSAHC Report.

Ms. Aycock approved the motion. Mr. Connolly seconded the motion.

Mr. Fieldman declared the motion to approve the changes to the 2020 HSAHC Report approved by voice vote.

Ms. Aycock asked when the Committee could expect to hear if moving forward will be a part of the Village's plan.

Mr. Fieldman said the report will be presented to the Village Council at their November 10th meeting, the same meeting at which the Proposed FY21 Budget will be presented. The Council will consider the report in conjunction with the budget and may take action in November or December.

Mr. Fieldman encouraged the Committee members to follow the Village Council meetings online and to chime in if they would like to express any thoughts or concerns.

V. Public Comment

There was none.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa Berardi
Administrative Secretary II
Village Clerk's Office