

**Village of Downers Grove  
Community Events Commission  
Committee Room  
Downers Grove Village Hall  
November 8, 2018**

**PRESENT: Mr. Dave Humphreys, Mr. Mike Kubes, Ms. Andrea Knudsen, Mr. John Aguzino, Ms. Nicole Szydlowski. Ms. Soraya Faber, Ms. Erin Venezia**

**STAFF: Ms. Jenny Rizzo, Mr. Daniel Carlsen, Ms. Rosa Berardi**

**ABSENT: Mr. Scott Jacaway**

**GUESTS: None**

Mr. Humphreys called the meeting to order at 5:35pm and noted who was in attendance. New members were introduced: Ms. Faber-Commission Member, Ms. Knudsen- Executive Director of the Downtown Management and Ms. Berardi-Staff Member.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Humphreys asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the minutes as distributed and none were noted.

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Gingerbread Festival**

Ms. Jennifer Rizzo stated that the Gingerbread Festival is scheduled for Friday, November 23, 2018. Staff has no issues with the application as presented. It is sponsored by the Downtown Management Association. Ms. Venezia, indicated that no changes would be made to the Gingerbread Festival this year. This year there are a total of 26 Gingerbread Houses for the Gingerbread House Contest; the biggest turn out in in the history of the event. The Gingerbread Houses will be in the windows of businesses in the downtown area. Breakfast with Santa takes place on Sunday, November 25, 2018 at 3 locations: Pinecone Cottage (sold out), Emmett's Brewing and Another Round Bar and Grill. This year there are 2 additional Breakfasts with Santa taking place on Dec 2, 2018 at: Pinecone Cottage (sold out) and Bally Doyle Pub. The festivities are kicked off on Friday, November 23, 2018 and events include: 3:15 pm- Storytime with the Gingerbread Man at the Downers Grove Library, 4:15 pm- Parade lead by the Downers Grove HS Band and ending with Santa in a firetruck starting at the library and ending at the Main Street Station. At 4:30 pm- The Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Main Street Station is to include singing performances by the students of Avery Coonley Children's Choir and the Junior Women's Choral Society. Mayor Tully will light the Tree and then cookies and cider, funded by the Village of Downers Grove, will be served inside the Main Street Station. Ms. Rizzo discussed the "30 second blurb" that the Village put out regarding the Tree Lighting Ceremony because the set up will be different this year. The stages will be moved this year to allow for more spectators to see the festivities, as last year there was a large turn out and people were too cramped. The stages will now be facing Burlington Ave., so all the people can congregate onto Burlington comfortably. The band will be in the bus turn around, just east of where the tree is, and there will be stages on both sides of the entrance of the courtyard. This is where Avery Coonley and the Choral Society will perform. The new set up will also allow the filming of the event to be at a better angle. The tree has already been put up. Public Works is collecting the ornaments that will be hung. A few Daisy Troops in the area are making and donating the ornaments. The extra ornaments that do not fit on the tree will be on display at the library. Ms. Rizzo and Ms. Berardi will set up the cookies and cider in the Main Street Station early and Commission Members, Mr. Kubes and Ms. Faber, agreed to be present at 4:30 pm to

assist with passing out the cookies and cider. Streets and parking were discussed. Ms. Rizzo stated that traffic is being rerouted for the procession, so Burlington will be closed between Mochel and Main St. Burlington is normally a one way street and it will be rerouted, in the opposite direction, that day to carry traffic away from the station. Commuter lots will be open for the public to park in and parking also available on Washington and at Village Hall. Mr. Kubes made a motion to move to approve the application of Downtown Management for the Gingerbread Festival, Ms. Knudsen seconded the motion. The motion was then approved unanimously.

#### **B. Ice Festival**

Ms. Rizzo indicated that staff has no concerns or issues with the application because there were no changes this year. Ms. Venezia stated that last year the change was made to have the festival only take place on Friday night and Saturday, as the ice sculptures were melting or people bumped into them by Sunday. That will remain the same this year. Ms. Venezia stated that The Downtown Management Association has sponsored the Ice Festival for 10 years. Mr. Humphreys stated that the Village of Downers Grove sponsored it, for what he believed was 5 years, prior to that. Ms. Venezia stated that she is in the process of getting the pricing of the sculptures to present to the businesses next week. Ms. Venezia believes the cost of the sculptures will remain the same as last year. She stated that the festival will include demo carvings on Friday night at 5:30 pm, located at the corner of Main and Curtiss, next to the toy store. On Saturday demo carvings will take place at the Main Street Train Station and at "Pocket Park", next to the wine shop, from 11 am - 3 pm. The sculptures will be up on Sunday, weather permitting but there will not be any demo carvings. Ms. Szydlowski made a motion to move to approve the application of Downtown Management for the Ice Festival and Mr. Aguzino seconded the motion. The motion was then approved unanimously.

### **III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Rizzo explained that the night of the Tree Lighting Ceremony, the Mayor is going to announce that the Main Street Plaza is going to be rededicated to Ms. Linda Kunze. New plaques and a bench will be ordered in her name and the actual dedication will be done next spring, when the weather is warmer. Ms. Rizzo will notify the Commission members when the date has been set. Commission members discussed how fond they were of Ms. Kunze. Committee members wished Ms. Venezia the best of luck moving forward with the Downtown Business Management Association and offered their assistance if she needs it. Ms. Rizzo stated that applications for 2019 will start being submitted in January. The next meeting date was discussed as either January 10 or January 17, 2019 at 5:30 pm. The date will be chosen based on when the applications for 2019 are submitted to Ms. Rizzo.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Humphreys made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Kubes seconded the motion and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.