

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**  
**REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MARCH 15, 2011 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
ROW Vacation 812 – 820 Randall Street	Resolution ✓ Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	Tom Dabareiner, AICP Community Development Director

**SYNOPSIS**

An ordinance has been prepared vacating a 16-foot wide by 155-foot deep unimproved alley adjacent to the properties at 812 and 820 Randall Street.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

The Strategic Goals for 2011-2018 include *Top Quality Infrastructure*.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Per the Village Council policy, the petitioners should compensate the Village for the vacated property. The fair market value is based on the latest assessment of land adjacent to the right-of-way. The fair market value of the alley to be vacated will be discounted for the entire 2,480 square feet of land encumbered by easements. The table below summarizes the estimated value:

Property Address	Assessed Land Value	Lot Size (Square Feet)	Square Foot Land Value	SF of Alley to be vacated	Estimated Value	Encumbered Value
812 Randall Street	\$ 55,220	8,793	\$ 6.28	1,848	\$ 11,605.43	\$ 3,829.79
820 Randall Street	\$ 59,950	9,342	\$ 6.28	632	\$ 3,968.96	\$ 1,309.76

Staff is recommending payment for the vacation of the right-of-way. Staff estimates the fair market value of the property to be \$5,139.55 for the entire alley to be vacated.

**UPDATE & RECOMMENDATION**

This petition was discussed at the January 18, 2011 Village Council meeting. In response to a Village Council question, staff has provided the attached aerial photograph from 1975 which indicates that the alley was improved with a gravel driveway serving the property at 812 Randall. It appears that the gravel driveway did not extend to the property at 5241 Lyman Avenue. On March 9, 2011, the Village received a letter from the Park District regarding this item. The letter is provided as an attachment. Staff recommends approval of the vacation.

**BACKGROUND**

The property owners of 812 and 820 Randall Street are requesting the 16-foot wide by 155-foot wide alley that runs north and south between their properties be vacated. The alley is also adjacent to 5241 Lyman Avenue. The alley is currently unimproved and maintained by the petitioners.

In the spring of 2010, the two current petitioners and the property owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue, which also abuts the alley, filed a petition to vacate the same alley. The original petition was recommended for approval by the Plan Commission on June 7, 2010. However, at the June 2010 Plan Commission meeting, the property owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue expressed his concerns over vacating the alley because he believed the vacation would eliminate public access from his property to Randall Street. The original petition was withdrawn in November 2010 prior to Village Council consideration. A new vacation request was subsequently submitted by the owners of 812 and 820 Randall Street and did not include the owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue. As proposed, the petitioner at 820 Randall Street would receive half the alley that is adjacent to their property while the 812 Randall Street petitioner would receive the remaining portion of the alley. No portion of the vacated alley would be conveyed to the owner of 5241 Lyman.

At the public hearing, the following concerns were raised and addressed:

1. *Park Connectivity* – The Downers Grove Park District requested to maintain pedestrian access within the alley to connect Randall Park with the Historical Museum citing the connectivity objectives within the Village’s Draft Comprehensive Plan. However, the goal does not exist in any of the Village’s adopted planning documents. The Plan Commission believes the neighborhood’s sidewalk system provides the necessary connectivity and a mid-block connection would only provide a redundant public service. The applicant indicated they are not interested in the vacation with a mid-block connection and path.
2. *5241 Lyman Avenue Objections* – The owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue objected to the proposed vacation stating that the unimproved alley was used a few times in the past to access his property and the vacation would eliminate this access. He indicated the alley was once improved with gravel and a driveway and these improvements constituted a public improvement.

Staff believes the alley was not publicly improved and that the driveway was a private improvement in a public right of way. Further, the vacation will not affect existing access to 5241 Lyman Avenue. As such, no public interest will be harmed if the alley is vacated. More information can be found in the draft minutes attached to this report.

Per the Village’s Right-of-Way Vacation Policy (Resolution #2003-58), staff contacted the utility companies and outside public agencies (including the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, School Districts, Sanitary District and Downers Grove Park District) to determine if any rights to the public right-of-way should be retained. ComEd utility poles are located in the alley while AT&T and Comcast utilities have been buried. There are no other known utilities in the right-of-way. No other objections or concerns were received.

Staff is recommending retaining a public drainage, utility and utility access easement over the entire vacated alley. The easement provisions will provide adequate space for any future utility maintenance and needs. Except for a driveway or fence, future construction within the vacated alley will be prohibited. The petitioners have been informed of this requirement and do not object to it.

The Village’s Right-of-Way Vacation Policy permits the Village to vacate a right-of-way if two property owners provide written consent and if it is determined that public interests would not be harmed if the right-of-way is vacated. In this case, there are two consenting property owners and public utility interests will be addressed through the dedication of a public drainage, utility and utility access easement over the entire vacated alley. The Plan Commission found that these requirements were met by this petition.

The Plan Commission considered the petition at their January 3, 2011 meeting. As mentioned above, the owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue spoke at the meeting and expressed his concerns. As noted above, the Plan Commission found that there were no public interests harmed by the vacation of the alley and recommended approval of the vacation by a vote of 8:0. Staff concurs with the Plan Commission's recommendation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Ordinance

Current Aerial Map

Aerial Map from 1975

Staff Report with attachments dated January 3, 2011

Minutes of the Plan Commission Hearing dated January 3, 2011

Plat of Vacation

Photographs provided by Mr. Olp from the January 3, 2011 Plan Commission meeting

Letter from Park District

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**  
**COUNCIL ACTION SUMMARY**

**INITIATED:** Applicant                      **DATE:** February 8, 2011  
(Name)

**RECOMMENDATION FROM:** Plan Commission                      **FILE REF:** PC-03-11  
(Board or Department)

**NATURE OF ACTION:**

- Ordinance
- Resolution
- Motion
- Other

**STEPS NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT ACTION:**

Motion to Adopt "AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED ADJACENT TO 812 AND 820 RANDALL STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE", as presented.

**SUMMARY OF ITEM:**

Adoption of the attached ordinance will vacate a 155-foot deep by 16-foot wide unimproved alley right-of-way adjacent to the properties located at 812 and 820 Randall Street.

**RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN:**

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**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE  
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 1, 2011 AGENDA**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>TYPE:</b>	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
ROW Vacation 812 – 820 Randall Street	Resolution ✓ Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	Tom Dabareiner, AICP Community Development Director

**SYNOPSIS**

An ordinance has been prepared vacating a 16-foot wide by 155-foot deep unimproved alley adjacent to the properties at 812 and 820 Randall Street.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

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**FISCAL IMPACT**

Per the Village Council policy, the petitioners should compensate the Village for the vacated property. The fair market value is based on the latest assessment of land adjacent to the right-of-way. The fair market value of the alley to be vacated will be discounted for the entire 2,480 square feet of land encumbered by easements. The table below summarizes the estimated value:

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**BACKGROUND**

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In the spring of 2010, the two current petitioners and the property owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue, which also abuts the alley, filed a petition to vacate the same alley. The original petition was recommended for approval by the Plan Commission on June 7, 2010. However, at the June 2010 Plan Commission meeting, the property owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue expressed his concerns over vacating the alley because he believed the vacation would eliminate public access from his property to Randall Street. The original petition was withdrawn in November 2010 prior to Village Council consideration. A new vacation request was subsequently submitted by the owners of 812 and 820 Randall Street and did not include the owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue. As proposed, the petitioner at 820 Randall Street would receive half the alley that is adjacent to their property while the 812 Randall Street petitioner would receive the remaining portion of the alley. No portion of the vacated alley would be conveyed to the owner of 5241 Lyman.

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2. *5241 Lyman Avenue Objections* – The owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue objected to the proposed vacation stating that the unimproved alley was used a few times in the past to access his property and the vacation would eliminate this access. He indicated the alley was once improved with gravel and a driveway and these improvements constituted a public improvement.

Staff believes the alley was not publicly improved and that the driveway was a private improvement in a public right of way. Further, the vacation will not affect existing access to 5241 Lyman Avenue. As such, no public interest will be harmed if the alley is vacated. More information can be found in the draft minutes attached to this report.

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Staff is recommending retaining a public drainage, utility and utility access easement over the entire vacated alley. The easement provisions will provide adequate space for any future utility maintenance and needs. Except for a driveway or fence, future construction within the vacated alley will be prohibited. The petitioners have been informed of this requirement and do not object to it.

The Village’s Right-of-Way Vacation Policy permits the Village to vacate a right-of-way if two property owners provide written consent and if it is determined that public interests would not be harmed if the right-of-way is vacated. In this case, there are two consenting property owners and public utility interests will be addressed through the dedication of a public drainage, utility and utility access easement over the entire vacated alley. The Plan Commission found that these requirements were met by this petition.

The Plan Commission considered the petition at their January 3, 2011 meeting. As mentioned above, the owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue spoke at the meeting and expressed his concerns. As noted above, the Plan Commission found that there were no public interests harmed by the vacation of the alley and recommended approval of the vacation by a vote of 8:0. Staff concurs with the Plan Commission's recommendation.

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Plat of Vacation

Photographs provided by Mr. Olp from the January 3, 2011 Plan Commission meeting

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE VACATING A CERTAIN PORTION OF A  
RIGHT-OF-WAY LOCATED ADJACENT TO 812 AND 820 RANDALL STREET  
IN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE**

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, that it is in the public interest to vacate a certain portion of a 155-foot deep by 16-foot wide alley right-of-way running north and south adjacent to the properties located at 812 Randall Street, 820 Randall Street, Downers Grove, Illinois, in said Village hereinafter more particularly described; and

WHEREAS, there are certain public service facilities situated in said portion of said right-of-way, and the Village Council has determined that it is necessary and in the public interest to reserve such rights-of-way and easements as are in the judgment of the Council necessary or desirable for continuing public service by means of those facilities and for the maintenance, renewal and reconstruction thereof; and

WHEREAS, the required public notice has been given and a public hearing respecting said vacation has been conducted in accordance with applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council, after due investigation and consideration, has determined that the nature and extent of the public use and the public interest to be served is such as to warrant the vacation of said portion of said right-of-way.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** That the following described property, to wit:

The unimproved 155-foot long by 16-foot wide alleyway right-of-way that runs north and south adjacent to the properties located at 812 Randall Street and 820 Randall Street (PINs 09-08-316-009; 09-08-316-008, respectively)

Described as:

Lot 7 in C.B. Blodgett Homestead Subdivision, being a subdivision of part of Lot 4 of the assessor's subdivision of Section 8, Township 38 North, Range 11 east of the third principal meridian, according to the plat of said C.B. Blodgett Homestead Subdivision recorded October 16, 1923 as document 170563, in DuPage County, Illinois, commonly known as 812 Randall Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515 (PIN 09-08-316-009), and Lot 10 and the south half of Lot 9 in Block 1 in Lyman's Addition to Downers Grove, a subdivision in the southeast quarter and the southwest quarter of Section 8, Township 38 North, Range 11, east of the third principal meridian, in DuPage County, Illinois, commonly known as 820 Randall Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515 (PIN 09-08-316-008).

(hereinafter referred to as the "Vacated Right-of-Way"), is hereby vacated, and that it is hereby declared that the same is no longer required for public use and that the public interest will be served by such vacation.

**SECTION 2.** Easements are hereby reserved for and granted to the Village of Downers Grove, County of DuPage, and to utility companies operating under franchise from the said Village including, but not limited to, AT&T, Commonwealth Edison Company, Comcast, the Downers Grove Sanitary District and their respective successors and assigns jointly and severally, over all of the areas marked "Public Drainage Utility and/or Access Easement" on the plat of vacation of the Vacated Right-of-Way as described herein for the

perpetual right, privilege and authority to construct, reconstruct, repair, inspect, maintain and operate various utility transmission and distribution systems and community antenna televisions systems and all necessary connections, appliances and other structures and appurtenances as may be deemed necessary by said Village and for any and all municipal purposes, over, upon, along, under and through said indicated easements, together with right of access across the property to do any of the above work. The right is also granted to cut down, trim or remove any trees, shrubs or other plants that interfere with the operation of the utilities. No permanent buildings or structures shall be placed on said easements, but same may be used for gardens, shrubs, landscaping, driveways, fences and other purposes that do not then or later interfere with the aforesaid uses and rights. All installations shall be subject to the ordinances of the Village of Downers Grove. Easements are hereby reserved for and granted to the Village of Downers Grove and other governmental authorities having jurisdiction of the land over the entire easement area for ingress, egress and the performance of any and all municipal and other governmental services.

SECTION 3. This vacation shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. The vacation shall substantially conform to the staff report dated January 3, 2011.
2. Prior to final Village Council consideration, a Mylar copy of the Final Plat of Vacation indicating a sixteen-foot public drainage, utility and utility access easement along the entire length and width of the alley to be vacated.
3. Prior to execution of the plat, the petitioner at 812 Randall Street shall pay the Village a total of \$3,829.79 and the petitioner at 820 Randall Street shall pay the Village a total of \$1,309.76.
4. The building permit for the proposed new house at 812 Randall Street may not be issued until the Plat of Vacation has been recorded and three copies of the recorded plat have been submitted to the Village.

SECTION 4. That the Mayor and Clerk of the Village of Downers Grove are hereby authorized to sign the plat of vacation of the Vacated Right-of-Way described herein.

SECTION 5. That a certified copy of this ordinance and an accurate Plat of the Vacated Right-of-Way, which specifically includes the easement language contained in Section 2 of this ordinance, shall be filed for record by the Clerk of the Village of Downers Grove in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds, DuPage County, Illinois, at the Petitioner's expense.

SECTION 6. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Passed:

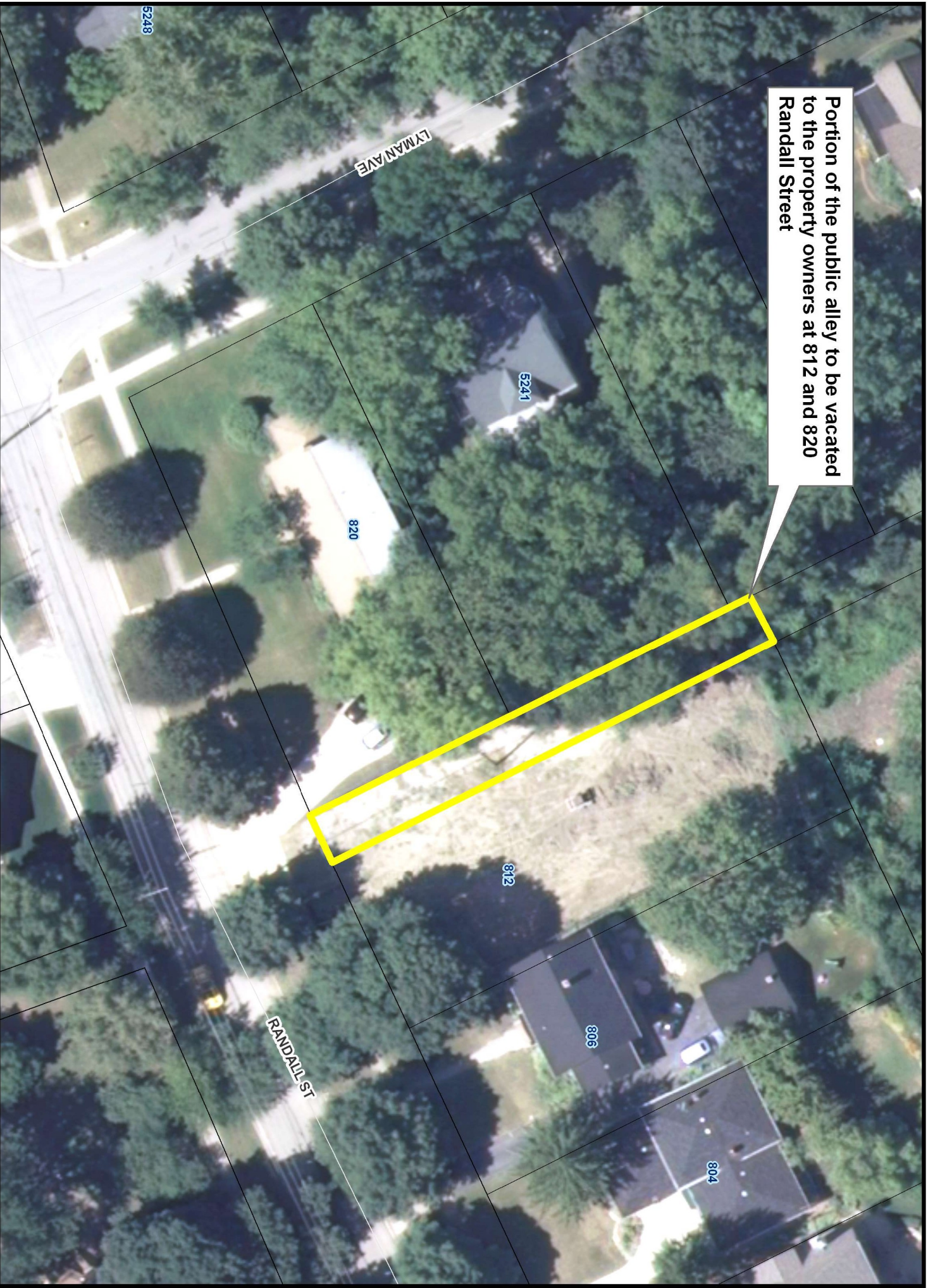
Published:

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Village Clerk



Portion of the public alley to be vacated  
to the property owners at 812 and 820  
Randall Street



0 10 20 30 40  
Feet

# 812 & 820 Randall Street Location Map





**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE  
REPORT FOR THE PLAN COMMISSION  
JANUARY 3, 2011 AGENDA**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>TYPE:</b>	<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>
PC-03-11 812 and 820 Randall Street	Alley Vacation	Stan Popovich, AICP Planner

**REQUEST**

The petitioners are requesting a vacation of a 16-foot wide by 155-foot deep alley adjacent to the properties at 812 and 820 Randall Street.

**NOTICE**

The application has been filed in conformance with applicable procedural and public notice requirements.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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**OWNER:** Village of Downers Grove  
801 Burlington Road  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

**APPLICANTS:** Ed Stukas  
Zivile Chirban  
812 Randall Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Emily Farley  
820 Randall Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

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**EXISTING ZONING:** R-4 Single Family Residence District (adjacent properties)  
**EXISTING LAND USE:** Unimproved Right-of-Way  
**PROPERTY SIZE:** 2,480 square feet  
**PINS:** 09-08-316-009 (812 Randall Street) and 09-08-316-008 (820 Randall Street)

**SURROUNDING ZONING AND LAND USES**

	<b>ZONING</b>	<b>FUTURE LAND USE</b>
<b>NORTH:</b>	R-4 Single Family Residence District	Residential 0-6 DU/Acre
<b>SOUTH:</b>	R-4 Single Family Residence District	Residential 0-6 DU/Acre
<b>EAST:</b>	R-4 Single Family Residence District	Residential 0-6 DU/Acre
<b>WEST:</b>	R-4 Single Family Residence District	Residential 0-6 DU/Acre

## ANALYSIS

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### SUBMITTALS

This report is based on the following documents, which are on file with the Department of Community Development:

1. Application/Petition for Public Hearing
2. Project Narrative
3. Petitioner Letters
4. Plats of Survey
5. Village alley vacation policy (Resolution #2003-58)

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The property owners at 812 and 820 Randall Street are requesting the Village vacate the 16-foot wide by 155-foot long alley that runs north and south between their properties to each of them. The alley is currently unimproved and covered in turf. This same alley was subject to a petition that was presented to the Plan Commission at their June 7, 2010 meeting. Prior to the June 2010 meeting, the three property owners of 812 and 820 Randall Streets and 5241 Lyman Avenue were in agreement with regard to vacating the property. At the June 7, 2010 meeting, the property owner of 5241 Lyman Avenue, Mr. Robert Olp, expressed his objection over vacating the alley because he believed the vacation would eliminate public access from his property to Randall Street. The Plan Commission recommended approval of the petition with the understanding that all three parties come to terms with regard to the outstanding access issue. Subsequently, the three property owners explored options to maintain Mr. Olp's access. However, they were unable to come to an agreement and the original petition was withdrawn in November 2010 prior to Village Council consideration. The two property owners of the 812 and 820 Randall Street properties have since filed a new petition seeking to vacate the entire 2,480 square foot alley.

The current petition envisions the alley being vacated to the two petitioners. The western eight feet of the alley adjacent to the 820 Randall Street property would be vacated to that owner and the remaining portion of the alley would be vacated to the property owner at 812 Randall Street. The requested vacation is shown in the attached drawings and is summarized in the table below:

Property Address	Requested Width	Requested Length	Approximate Increase in Area
812 Randall Street	8 ft	79 ft	632 sq ft
812 Randall Street	16 ft	76 ft	1216 sq ft
820 Randall Street	8 ft	79 ft	632 sq ft

Per the right-of-way vacation policy, staff contacted the utility companies and outside public agencies (including the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, School Districts, Sanitary District and Downers Grove Park District) to determine if any rights to the public right-of-way should be retained. Currently, ComEd has utility poles within the alley which provide service to ComEd. Utility services for AT&T and Comcast have been relocated from the utility poles to underground within the alley. There are no other known utilities in the right-of-way. The utility providers and the Village do not have an objection to the vacation of the right-of-way as long as a public drainage, utility and utility access easement is retained along the entire width and length of the alley. The easement will provide adequate space for any future utility needs.

The Downers Grove Park District requested to maintain pedestrian access within the alley to connect Randall Park to the Historical Museum located on Maple Avenue. The Park District cites the Village's Draft Comprehensive Plan which includes objectives to link parks and open space and calls for neighborhood connectivity through the use of sidewalks. Staff believes there are existing pedestrian connections between the two parks via the neighborhood's extensive sidewalk system. There are connecting sidewalks on Randall Street and Fairmount, Lyman and Maple Avenues that provide good access between both Park District sites. Staff does not believe that a mid-block access point, located approximately 140 feet from an existing Lyman Avenue sidewalk, would provide safer or better connectivity than the existing sidewalk system. Therefore, the need for a pedestrian access easement is not essential and is likely redundant.

If the Plan Commission finds the petition meets the right-of-way vacation policy, staff recommends a public drainage, utility and utility access easement be placed over the entire alley length and width. The easement will restrict any construction within the vacated right-of-way except for a driveway or fence. The petitioners have been informed of this requirement and restrictions and do not object to the easement.

If the Plan Commission finds that the alley serves a public interest and should not be vacated, the alley will remain open space with no future improvements.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH FUTURE LAND USE PLAN**

The subject right-of-way is unimproved and covered in turf. According to the Future Land Use Plan, the neighboring properties and all surrounding properties are designated as Residential (0-6 DU/Acre). The use of the alley will not be significantly altered as the Village is requiring that an easement be retained. The vacation of this alley would not alter the future uses of the surrounding properties. Staff believes the proposed vacation is consistent with the Future Land Use Plan.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING ORDINANCE**

The two adjacent properties, 812 and 820 Randall, are zoned R-4 single family residence district. The alley vacation will increase the 820 Randall Street property by 632 square feet and 812 Randall Street by 1,848 square feet. The additional property will create a 64-foot wide lot at 812 Randall Street resulting in a new side yard setback of 6.4 feet along the east property line. The west setback of 812 Randall Street will follow the current western property line due to the location of the utility easement. The 20-foot rear yard setback of 820 Randall Street will now be measured from the center of the vacated alley and provide an additional eight linear feet of buildable area in their rear yard.

The 812 Randall Street applicant is proposing to construct a new single family home on the vacant lot. The applicant at 820 Randall Street is not proposing any construction at this time. Because an easement is being placed on the entire alley, no new buildings or structures, other than a fence, could be constructed on the vacated alley. Staff believes the proposed vacation is consistent with the Zoning Ordinance.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

The Fire Department and the Police Department have reviewed the plans for the vacation and noted no objections to the vacation of the right-of-way.

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENT**

Since the June 7, 2010 Plan Commission meeting, staff has spoken with Mr. Olp many times. Mr. Olp asserts that there was a public use of the alley and that if the alley is vacated, the public use will be eliminated. Mr. Olp's basis for stating the alley is public in use is based on the previous owners of 812 Randall Street permitting him to park his personal vehicle on their driveway during isolated weather events. Staff disagrees with the contention that the alley had a public use and believes the private driveway on a public alleyway did not constitute a public use. The Village believes Mr. Olp never had

public access to Randall Street. In essence, Mr. Olp parked his vehicle on a neighbor's driveway which had access to Randall Street not Lyman Avenue. It is staff's belief that the private driveway within the public alley is purely a private use, not a public use.

Staff has had discussions with the Park District regarding their request. Staff has received no other comments from the surrounding neighborhood.

#### **FINDINGS OF FACT**

##### ***Compliance with the Procedure to be followed in the Vacation of Streets, Alleys, and Public Rights-of-Way (Resolution #2003-58)***

The Village's alley vacation policy asks two key questions when it comes to determining if an alley can be vacated. These questions and staff's findings are listed below:

- Is there written consent of at least two property owners who abut the proposed parcel to be vacated?
  - The two petitioners, who abut the alley, have provided written consent to vacate the alley.
  
- Are there any known public interests served the parcel?
  - As noted above, staff contacted the utility companies and outside public agencies to determine the extent of public interest. Based on their replies, staff has determined the public interests can be addressed by retaining a public drainage, utility and utility access easement over the entire alley length and width. As such, the petitioners will not be able to construct any permanent structure, other than a driveway or fence, within this easement. The petitioners have been informed of the easement requirements and do not object to them.

In addition to these two vacation policy questions, specific questions regarding the vacation of this alley have arisen from Mr. Olp and the Park District. The questions and staff's findings are listed below:

- Was public access to Mr. Olp's property provided in the past and should it be maintained?
  - Staff believes no public access was ever provided to Mr. Olp's property via the alley. The former driveway located on the public alley was private in nature serving only a detached garage at 812 Randall Street. The fact Mr. Olp parked a private vehicle on a private driveway during inclement weather does not constitute a public use. Because there was not public access in the past and based on current Village policies and practices, staff does not believe public access is necessary within this alley.
  
- Would public access connecting Randall Park and the Historical Museum within the vacated alley serve a public interest that is not being currently served?
  - Staff believes the extensive sidewalk system serves the public interest of connecting the park and museum. Therefore, a mid-block connection would be a redundant public service that is already provided by the extensive sidewalk system in the neighborhood.

Based on these findings, staff believes the request complies with the Village policy outlined in Resolution #2003-58 and recommends vacating the entire 16-foot by 155-foot alley to the petitioners with a public drainage, utility and utility access easement placed over the entire length and width of the alley to be vacated.

Staff recommends that the petitioners provide the Village with compensation for the alley to be vacated. Staff believes the petitioners should compensate the Village fair market value of the vacated property. The fair market value is based on the latest assessment of land adjacent to the right-of-way. When land will be encumbered with an easement, land is generally valued at one-third (1/3) of the value of the same property

that does not have an easement. As such, the fair market value of the entire alley to be vacated will be discounted as outlined on the attached right-of-way division map.

The table below summarizes the estimated value:

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Based on the land value assessment model, the petitioners would be required to pay the Village a total of \$5,139.55.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Staff believes the proposed alley vacation is consistent with the Village's alley vacation policy and surrounding zoning and land use. Based on the findings listed above, staff recommends that the Plan Commission make a motion recommending approval of a right-of-way vacation associated with PC-03-11 to the Village Council subject to the conditions below:

1. The vacation shall substantially conform to the staff report dated January 3, 2011.
2. Prior to final Village Council consideration, a Mylar copy of the Final Plat of Vacation indicating a sixteen-foot public drainage, utility and utility access easement along the entire length and width of the alley to be vacated.
3. Prior to execution of the plat, the petitioner at 812 Randall Street shall pay the Village a total of \$3,829.79 and the petitioner at 820 Randall Street shall pay the Village a total of \$1,309.76.
4. The building permit for the proposed new house at 812 Randall Street may not be issued until the Plat of Vacation has been recorded and three copies of the recorded plat have been submitted to the Village.

Staff Report Approved By:

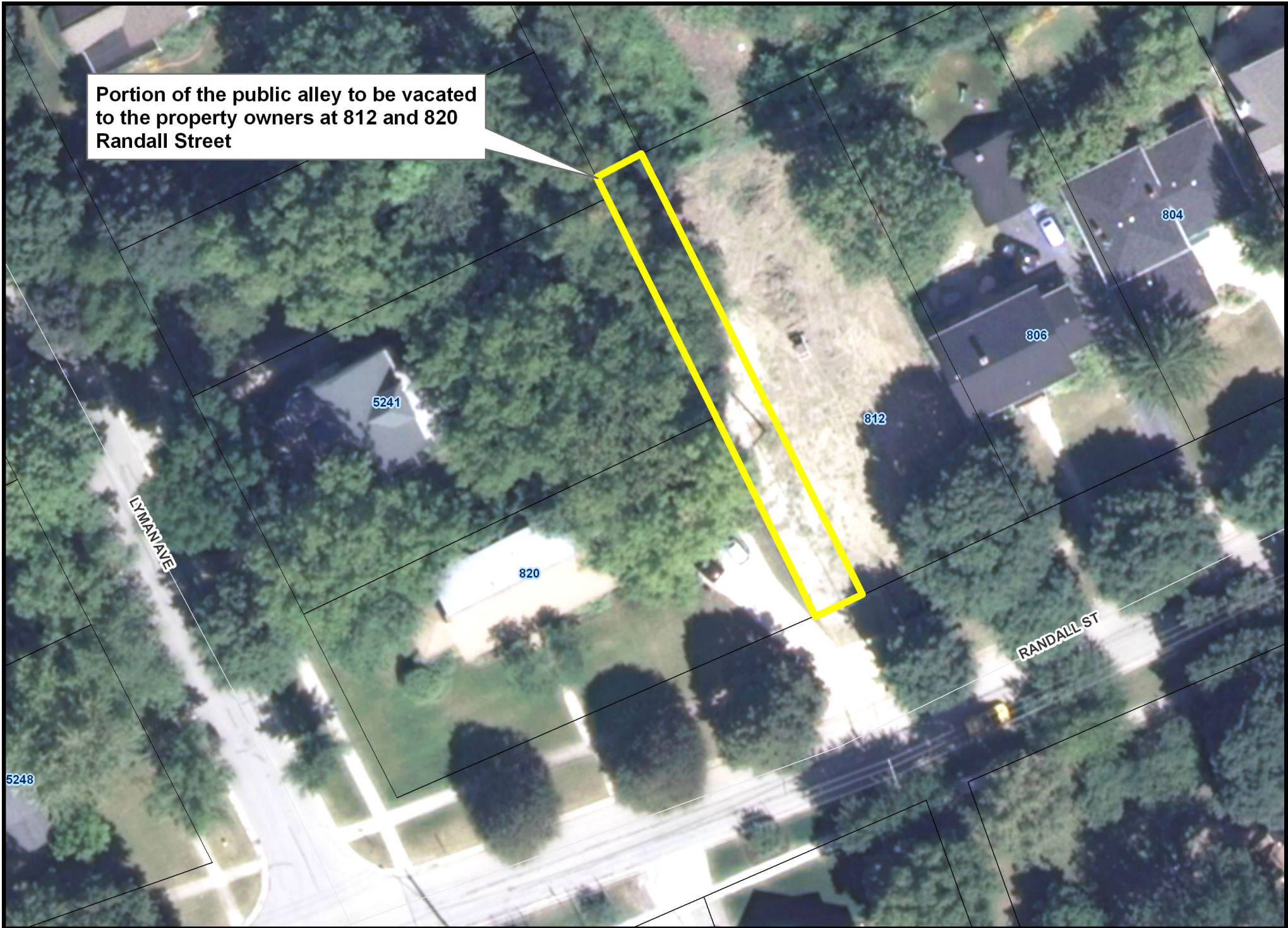
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Tom Dabareiner, AICP  
Director of Community Development

TD:sp  
-att

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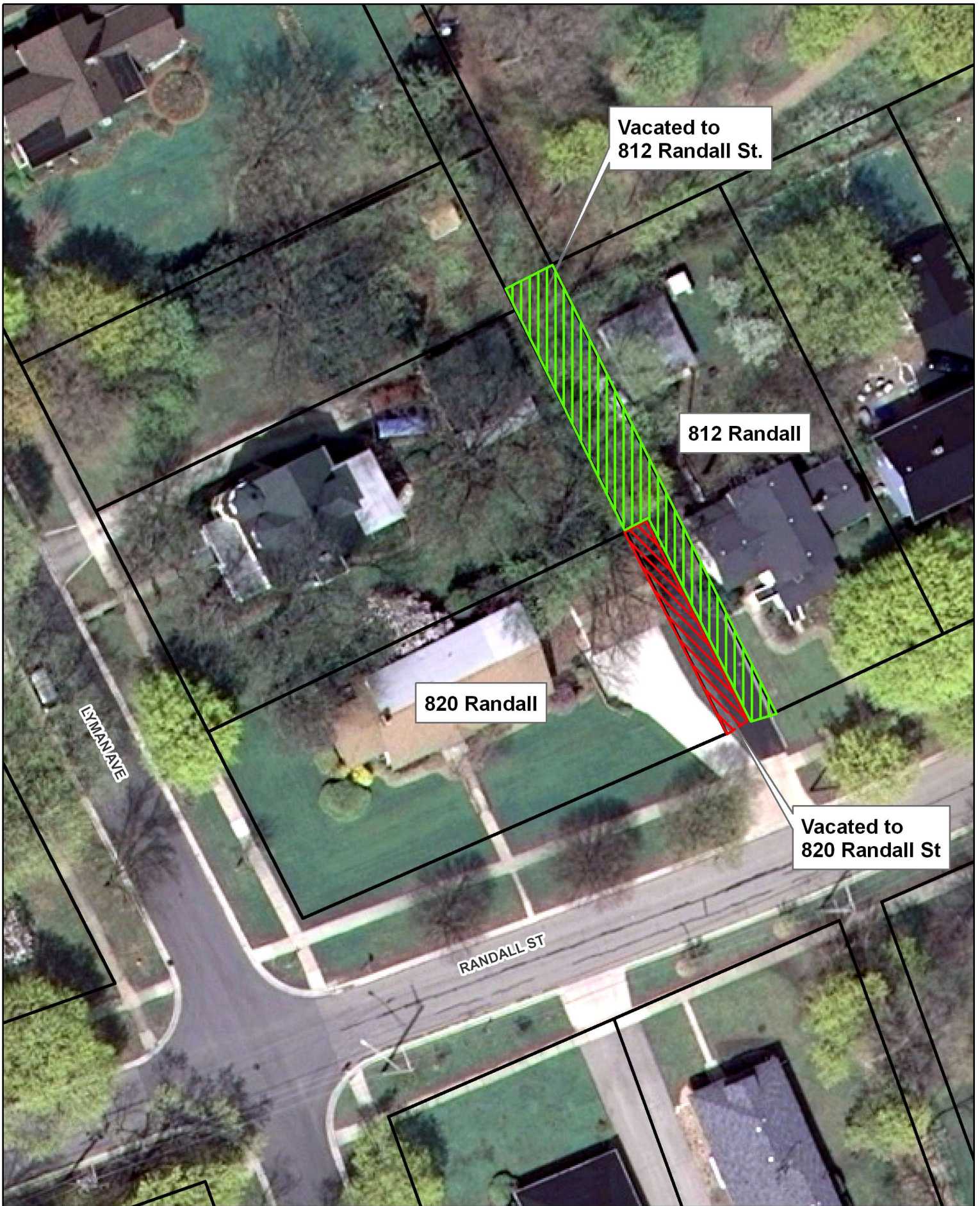
Portion of the public alley to be vacated to the property owners at 812 and 820 Randall Street



0 10 20 30 40 Feet

812 & 820 Randall Street Location Map





Vacated to  
812 Randall St.

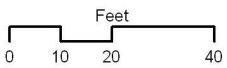
812 Randall

820 Randall

Vacated to  
820 Randall St

LYMAN AVE

RANDALL ST



**Alley Right of Way Vacation  
812 & 820 Randall Street**

**PROJECT SUMMARY / NARRATIVE LETTER**

The petitioners are requesting the Village to vacate the 16-foot wide by 155-foot long alley that runs north and south located between their properties at 812 and 820 Randall Street and 5241 Lyman Avenue. The alley is currently unimproved. The requested vacation is summarized in the table as follows:

<b><u>Property Address</u></b>	<b><u>Requested Width</u></b>	<b><u>Requested Length</u></b>	<b><u>Approx. Increase in Area</u></b>
812 Randall Street	8 ft.	155 ft.	1,240 square feet <i>09-08-316-009</i>
812 Randall Street	8 ft.	76 ft.	608 square feet
820 Randall Street	8 ft.	79 ft.	632 square feet <i>09-08-316-008</i>

These strips of land are indicated in the attached Plat of Survey for the Alley Vacation (Attachment 1).

An earlier vacation proposal had requested that the 8 ft. x 76 ft. strip (608 square feet) be allocated to the owners of 5241 Lyman Avenue. The owners of 5241 Lyman do not want to participate in this alley vacation unless it includes a contract that is included in the deed that would allow unconditional vehicular access to the aforementioned strip of land from Randall Street. The owner of 5241 Lyman wishes to park his vehicle on this strip of land behind his residence, by driving over the property being vacated by either the owner of 812 Randall Street or 820 Randall Street. The owner also wishes that the contract be in perpetuity for future owners of 5241 Lyman. At the time of the original Plan Commission Meeting on June 7, 2010, the Commission requested that the three owners reach a personal agreement regarding vehicular access to the subject land, however this agreement was never reached.

The owner of 812 Randall has spent countless hours over more than three months discussing this situation with the owner of 5241 Lyman, presenting several versions of agreements that had been signed by the Randall Street parties, while trying to negotiate a reasonable agreement. During this time, we believe that the owner of 5241 Lyman has not been negotiating in good faith with regards to the agreements that had been submitted. The owner of 5241 Lyman has not been motivated to maintain the negotiating process, unless it includes the aforementioned negotiating points. (Letter to Mr. Jeff O'Brien dated September 15, 2010 from Zivile Chirban and Ed Stukas includes a synopsis of the activities during the last three months from June 7 through September 15, 2010).

September 15, 2010

Mr. Jeff O'Brien

Downers Grove Village Planning Manager

Subject: Alley Vacation at 812 Randall Street.

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

During the Village Plan Commission meeting on June 7, 2010, it was recommended that the subject alley be vacated in accordance with PC-03-10. During this meeting, Mr. Olp had raised a concern that he would no longer be able to retain access to and have the ability to park his vehicle behind his garage at 5241 Lyman "as he had over the past 40 years". He explained the reason for needing to park his vehicle in this location is that the approach to his driveway from Lyman Street is too steep for him to enter during a snow or ice event. He had also previously stated that the last time he had parked his vehicle in this location was in 1985, and the other two times were during snow storms in 1978 and 1979. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was determined that the three neighboring parties should reach a personal agreement regarding this matter and only then could we proceed with the alley vacation process.

Since this meeting on June 7, 2010, Emily Farley, Jim Farley, Zivile Chirban and Ed Stukas have tried diligently, but are unsuccessful in negotiating an agreement with Mr. Bob Olp regarding his rights to the vacated alleyway that is located between the properties at 812 Randall, 820 Randall, and 5241 Lyman.

During the past three months, the Farley's and we had drafted three different personal agreements that would allow Mr. Olp limited access to his 8 foot strip of land by driving over the Farley's newly purchased land (after alley vacation) , however Mr. Olp would not agree with any of them. Instead Mr. Olp had his attorney draft a contract that would provide unlimited access for him and for whoever lives at 5241 Lyman in the future in perpetuity. In addition, Mr. Olp wanted this contract to be included as a covenant and added to the deeds of the land during the vacation process. The Farley's and we did not believe that such an agreement was reasonable or acceptable.

In parallel, Mr. Olp had requested all of the relevant Village documents that were filed during the time when the 812 Randall "Blodgett House" was being moved to the Downers Grove Historical Museum. Mr. Olp is currently in the process of reviewing these documents with his attorney, and claims to want the Village to reopen the alleyway for his personal use. While he is in the process of pursuing this approach, he will not share our latest 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt of a signed agreement with his attorney in order to come to a negotiated agreement.

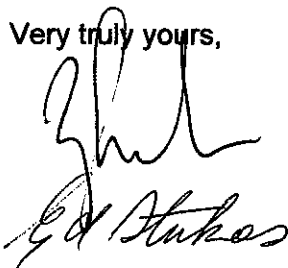
As you recall, I had asked for your help to meet with the three parties to try to facilitate some reason behind an acceptable agreement. You had agreed to meet with all of us on August 6, 2010, however Mr. Olp refused to participate at the last minute.

In the meantime, after our purchase of the 812 Randall Street lot, we have gone ahead with our house plans with McCloud and Associates and are ready for permit submittal. We had assumed that we would be successful in negotiating an agreement with Mr. Olp and would have been able to purchase the 8 feet of additional land from the Village by this time and would be ready for construction this fall. Instead the process has been stalled by Mr. Olp who continues to claim he needs more time to discuss the matter with his attorney, or to certain people within the Village.

We believe that Mr. Olp has been stalling the process and has not been negotiating in good faith regarding the agreements that we have submitted. We are therefore not able to submit our plans and apply for a building permit until this is resolved. Our builder currently believes that we have lost the fall building window it is unlikely that we will be able to start our project before spring of 2011. We have been running out of time and patience, and we do not see any positive signs for an agreement with Mr. Olp.

As you know, I have tried to stay in contact with you, almost on a weekly basis to keep you informed about our process regarding an agreement with Mr. Olp. We believe that he is not very motivated to keep the process moving along, unless it has the aforementioned negotiating points. At this time, we are not clear about what direction we should be taking. Any thoughts on this matter would be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Stukas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Zivile Chirban

Ed Stukas

September 20, 2010

Mr. Jeff O'Brien

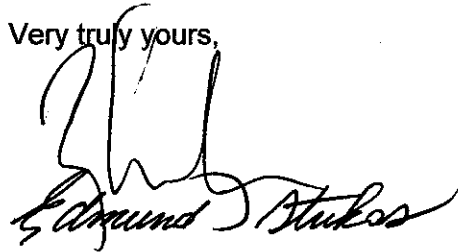
Downers Grove Village Planning Manager

Subject: Alley Vacation at 812 Randall Street.

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

This letter is to communicate our intent to purchase 50% of the alley located adjacent to the West end of our lot at 812 Randall that is East of 820 Randall Street. We also intend to purchase 100% of the alley located adjacent to the West end of our lot at 812 Randall that is East of 5241 Lyman Street.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund Stukas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Zivile Chirban

Ed Stukas

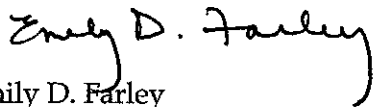
Emily D. Farley • 820 Randall Street • Downers Grove, IL 60515 • (630) 960-0487

*Date:* 12/17/10

*Attention:* Mr. Jeff O'Brien

This letter is to confirm my intent to purchase and acquire 50% of the alley located adjacent to the east end of my lot located at 820 Randall Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515. This request is in response to the Plan Commission Application Packet, which is being submitted on January 3 by Ed Stukas, the petitioner.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily D. Farley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Emily D. Farley



745 E. Algonquin Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005  
Phone: 708-228-0668  
Fax: 708-228-0358



# PLAT OF SURVEY

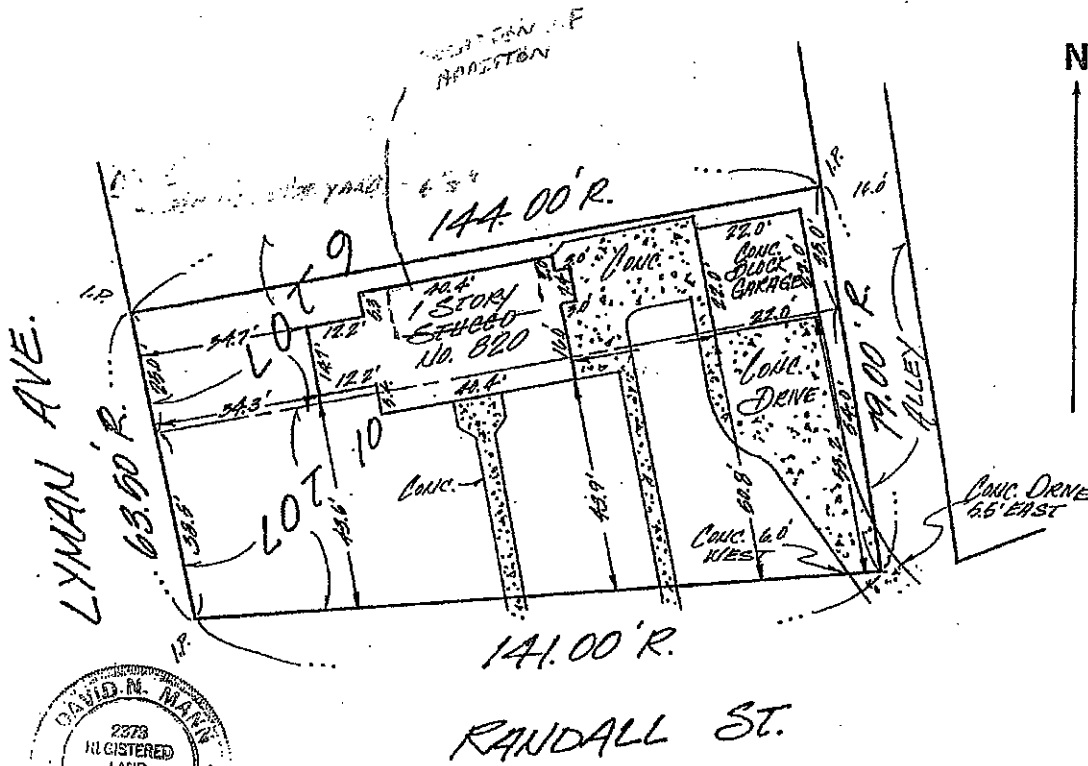
218 N. County Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085  
Phone: 708-336-2473  
Fax: 708-336-2113

3800 S. Roberts Road  
Palos Hills, IL 60465  
Phone: 708-430-4077  
Fax: 708-598-6580

373 S. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
Phone: 708-690-3783  
Fax: 708-690-6985

LOT 10 AND THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 9 IN BLOCK 1 IN LYMAN'S ADDITON TO DOWNERS GROVE, A SUBDIVISION IN THE SOUTH EAST QUARTER AND THE SOUTH WEST QUARTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 38 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

*JAMES FARLEY* 630-960-0487  
*600 RANDALL ST*



**BLOCK 1**

STATE OF ILLINOIS) S.S.  
COUNTY OF LAKE)

On behalf of MID AMERICA SURVEY COMPANY, I hereby certify that the building(s) on property shown are within the property lines as monumented and that the adjoining improvements do not encroach unless shown. Dated: 10/18/91 19 91

By D. Mann  
Registered Illinois Land Surveyor

Distances shown are in feet & decimal parts unless the description ordered contains a proper description of the required Building Lines or Easements. Compare your description and site markings with this plat and at once report any discrepancies which you may find.

Scale: 1" = 30'  
No. 208270  
Prepared By WILLIAM A. BEAN & ASSO.



# Village of Downers Grove

## Official Village Policy Approved by Village Council

Description:	<b>Procedure to be Followed in the Vacation of Streets, Alleys, and Public Rights-of-Way</b>	
Res. or Ord. #:	<b>Res. 2003-58</b>	Effective Date: <b>7/1/03</b>
Category:	<b>Planning and Community Development</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Council Policy	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Previous Policy Dated:	<b>6/24/74, 8/11/80, 10/21/91, 7/6/93, and 4/5/99</b>
	Description of Previous Policy (if different from above):	
	<u>Vacation of Streets or Alleys or Portions Thereof</u>	

### RESOLUTION 2003-58

#### **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE VACATION OF STREETS, ALLEYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY IN THE VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to applicable law, the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove has the power and authority to vacate streets, alleys and public rights-of-way within the jurisdiction of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Downers Grove has determined that it is in the best interests of the Village to establish a procedure to be followed in determining whether a particular street, alley or right-of-way should be vacated, the method by which such vacation should be accomplished, and the compensation, if any, to be paid with respect thereto,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Downers Grove, in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows:

1. That the following procedure shall, in all events, be followed in processing, considering and acting upon requests for the vacation of streets, alleys and public rights-of-way located within the corporate limits of the Village of Downers Grove:
  - a. The person or persons desiring the vacation of a particular street, alley or public right-of-way (the "Petitioner"), shall file with the Village a written petition on a prescribed form requesting such vacation, which petition shall contain the following information:
    - (i) name and address of the Petitioner;

- (ii) the location, and if possible, the legal description of the street, alley or public right-of-way to be vacated (the "Parcel");
  - (iii) names and addresses of all owners of record of property abutting upon the Parcel, and a statement as to the frontage in terms of lineal feet of each parcel of property so abutting the Parcel;
  - (iv) a statement as to the type of any known public service facilities over, under or upon the Parcel, and the name of the public utility owning the same.
  - (v) the written consent of at least two property owners who abut the proposed parcel to be vacated.
  - (vi) a fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be paid to the Village, provided that no such fee shall be required if the Petitioner is a public body. This fee shall be used to pay for Staff processing of the petition, hearing notice publication and plat recordation costs. This fee does not include the cost of the plat preparation or the appraisal(s) of the fair market value of the Parcel (as outlined in section 1(g)).
- b. Staff shall cause written notice of the proposed vacation of the Parcel to be mailed to all public utilities with a request that such utilities inform the Village of any easements over, under, or upon the Parcel which must be retained at the time of vacation, and to units of local government having an interest in the Parcel. Failure of any such owner of record or public utility to receive such notice shall not invalidate, impair or otherwise affect the validity of any vacation that may thereafter occur.
- c. Staff shall evaluate the request and prepare a staff report, taking into consideration the nature of the request, including known public interests, if any, served by the Parcel. In doing so, Staff shall verify the information contained in the petition in order to assure that all required owners of property abutting the Parcel are named and that all existing public service facilities have been disclosed, if any, to the Village to affect such vacation. The following informational items shall be included in the staff report:
- (i) A map showing the location of the proposed street, alley or public right-of-way to be vacated.
  - (ii) Information as to current and future use of the street, alley or public right-of-way including:
    - (a) watermains
    - (b) storm sewers or storm drainage conveyance or storage facilities
    - (c) sanitary sewers
    - (d) electric utilities
    - (e) natural gas utilities
    - (f) telephone utilities
    - (g) vehicular access, public or private
    - (h) pedestrian access, public or private
    - (i) public open space
  - (iii) A recommendation with regard to retention of easements, if any, within the Parcel for the benefit of public utilities, potential use of the parcel for public walkways or bike trails and access of adjacent property owners.

- (iv) A recommendation regarding the vesting of title to the property upon vacation of the street, alley or public right-of-way. The instrument dedicating the street, alley or public right-of-way must be examined to determine if the specific devolution of the title upon vacation thereof is provided for in the document. If no specific devolution of title is provided for, then a recommendation regarding the vesting rights of the abutting property owners must be made. The Village, in its discretion, may grant title to the entire vacated street, alley or public right-of-way to only one abutting property owner.
- d. Staff shall forward the petition to the Village Traffic Engineer who shall be responsible for reviewing the request to determine the potential future need for the Parcel, the potential for increased traffic associated with the vacation of the Parcel, and an estimate of future costs to the Village associated with the vacation. This information shall be incorporated into the staff report.
- e. Upon completion of the staff report, the staff report and the petition shall be referred to the Plan Commission for public hearing. Notice of the time and place of such hearing shall be given not more than thirty (30) nor less than fifteen (15) days before the date thereof, by publishing such notice at least once in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the Village. In addition, copies of such notice shall be sent by the Village to the owners of record of property abutting the Parcel.
- f. The Plan Commission shall forward its recommendation regarding vacation of the Parcel to the Village Council for its consideration.
- g. Prior to the petition being considered by the Village Council, the Petitioner must submit an appraisal conducted by a certified appraiser. The Village, in its sole discretion, may consider an alternate assessment of the current market value of the Parcel in lieu of an appraisal.
  - i) If the appraisal submitted by the Petitioner is disputed by the Village, the Village in its sole discretion may obtain a second independent appraisal, at Village expense.
  - ii) If the Petitioner disputes the second appraisal, the Village will contact a third independent appraiser to perform a review appraisal, the cost of which shall be paid by the Petitioner. The Village Council shall then make a final determination of market value which shall be binding on all parties.
- h. The Village Council shall determine:
  - (i) Whether the Parcel or portion thereof, is no longer necessary for public use and whether the public interest will be served by such vacation request.
  - (ii) Whether the Parcel or portion thereof, should be vacated and whether public utility easements and any ingress-egress easements are to be maintained.
  - (iii) The amount and type of compensation, if any, to be required as a condition to the effectiveness of the vacation of the parcel.
- i. The Petitioner shall be notified of the decision of the Village Council, and of any conditions placed on the vacation. If the Petitioner desires to proceed with such vacation, the Petitioner shall provide a plat of vacation with reservation of required easements, if any, in a form as prescribed by the Village.

- j. After a statement by the Village Manager that the plat has been prepared and submitted, the Village Council shall consider the ordinance. If the Village Council determines to adopt such ordinance, it shall do so by a 3/4 vote of its members.
  - k. Upon passage of the ordinance, the Village Clerk shall record the ordinance and the plat in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of DuPage County and file such documents with the DuPage County Clerk. Copies of the recorded documents shall be sent by the Village Clerk to the office of the assessor for the township in which the Parcel is located and notice of the effectiveness of the vacation shall be sent to the owners of record of the property abutting the Parcel.
2. The validity of any vacation otherwise carried out in accordance with applicable law shall not be invalidated, impaired or otherwise affected by noncompliance with any part of the procedure set forth herein.
3. That Resolutions 74-34, 80-45, 91-43, 99-22 and all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed.
4. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

Brian J. Krajewski, Mayor

Passed: July 1, 2003

Attest: April Holden, Village Clerk

1\mw\res.03\vacation-policy



VIEW (EAST) FROM BACK PORCH STAIRS  
OF CONCRETE SIDEWALK TO CENTER OF  
ALLY AT 5241 LYMAN AVE



VIEW OF SIDEWALK ALONG SOUTH  
SIDE OF GARAGE AT 5241 LYMAN AVE  
TO CENTER OF BACK ALLEY



VIEW LOOKING WEST FROM CENTER  
OF ALLEY TO BACK PORCH STAIRS AT END OF  
CONCRETE SIDEWALK AT 5241 LYMAN AVE

**File PC-03-11** A petition seeking an alley vacation of a 16-foot wide by 155-foot long alley running north and south adjacent to the properties commonly known as 812 and 820 Randall Street, Downers Grove, Illinois (PIN's 09-08-316-009, -008); Ed Stukas and Zivile Chirban, Emily Farley, Petitioners; Village of Downers Grove, Owner

Chairman Jirik swore in those individuals who would be speaking on File PC-03-11.

Village Planner, Mr. Stan Popovich reviewed the proposal that was to vacate a 16-foot wide by 155 foot long alley adjacent to the properties known as 812 and 820 Randall Street. This petition was before the commission on June 7, 2010. At that time, three property owners wanted to vacate the alley. During the June public hearing, the property owner for 5241 Lyman Avenue objected to his loss of perceived public access. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission approved the vacation with the condition that all three parties work out the access agreement. Due to the three property owners not coming to an agreement, the petition was withdrawn in November 2010.

To date, Mr. Popovich indicated that the property owners for 812 and 820 have submitted a petition to vacate the alley. The 8 feet that is adjacent to the 820 Randall Street property would be vacated to 820 Randall Street adding approximately 632 square feet to their property. The alley adjacent to the 812 Randall Street property would be vacated and then the 8 feet adjacent to the 5241 Lyman Avenue property would be vacated to the 812 Randall Street property owner as well, adding approximately 1,848 square feet to that property. The utility companies do not have any objections as long as there is an easement maintained over the entire parcel. No permanent structure can be constructed on that easement, other than a driveway or fence.

Mr. Popovich reported the Park District has requested the maintenance of a pedestrian access to connect Randall Park to the museum campus along Maple Avenue. Staff feels the current sidewalk system connects the two parks very well and a mid-block connection would be a redundant public service.

Staff recommended that if the Commission found the proposal met the vacation policy, it should forward a positive recommendation to the Village Council with the condition to include a public utility and drainage easement over the entire alleyway. Should the petition not meet the vacation policy, the alley right-of-way would remain as open space with no improvements on the alley.

Staff summarized that the proposal meets the Future Land Use Map and is consistent with the zoning ordinance. Mr. Popovich noted the 812 Randall Street property would become a 64 foot wide lot which would require a 6.4 foot setback on the east while the setback on the west would be the eastern line of the alley. The police and fire departments had no objections to the petition.

Mr. Popovich said staff spoke with both Mr. Olp and Mr. Stukas since June of 2010. Mr. Olp conveyed his concerns that if the alley was to be vacated, he would lose his right to access to Randall Street. He indicated he was permitted to park his vehicle on the

driveway during isolated weather conditions prior to 1980 by the previous owners at 812 Randall Street. Staff believes that use of the private driveway in a public alley did not constitute a public use. Staff also believes that 5241 Lyman does not public access to Randall Street through the alley. The access was from the alley was for the 812 Randall Street property.

Mr. Popovich reviewed the two requirements of the Village's vacation policy as it satisfies the petitioner: 1) must have written consent by a minimum of two property owners abutting an alley; and 2) whether public interests are served by the alley. With regard to the first requirement, two abutting property owners have consented to the vacation request. To the second requirement, staff believes a utility easement over the entire alley would maintain the public interest that would be served by the utilities currently located within the alley. Regarding the request from the Park District, staff believes the existing sidewalk system already served that public interest and a mid-block connection would be redundant. Assessed values of the land and compensation requirements were referenced in staff's report.

Overall, staff recommended that the Plan Commission make a positive recommendation to the Village Council approving a right-of-way vacation for the petitioners, subject to the conditions listed in its staff report.

Asked why Mr. Olp was not requesting the portion of alleyway that adjoins his property, Mr. Popovich explained that at the last meeting Mr. Olp was requesting permanent access through the vacated alleyway and the 820 and 812 Randall property owners did not wish to grant him permanent access. However, it was staff's understanding they were willing to allow Mr. Olp access during the time that he owns the property but did not want the access to stay in perpetuity. Since all three property owners could not come to an agreement, the two property owners decided to request a vacation for their own properties. A question was raised as to the reason for a minimum of two property owners to vacate. Staff noted the requirement does not require preclude more than two property owners from requesting a vacation.

Mr. Al McCloud, with McCloud Associates, architect and representing Mr. Ed Stukas and Ms. Zivile Chirban, summarized that the 16-foot wide alleyway is currently being maintained as green space. The inclement weather event referenced by Mr. Olp would require the new owners of the property to plow their grass in order for him to get access to the rear of his property, which he has not done since 1985.

Chairman Jirik opened up the matter to public comment.

Mr. Robert Olp, 5241 Lyman Avenue, Downers Grove, spoke about his use of the driveway during past inclement weather conditions. He specifically asked how could he be deprived of the use of property and the rights to that property that he purchased and used and then find out he is denied that part of the property that was available under the terms of an agreement when he purchased his home 50 years ago. He noted he occasionally needed to use the alley and did as did his other neighbors. He lamented how

he explored vacating the alley many years ago before the Park District purchased the Historical Museum site. Mr. Olp provided the Chairman with pictures of his sidewalk, which was constructed approximately 100 years ago, leading from his home's back porch stairs to the alley. He indicated the sidewalk was proof that he had a right to access the alley. He asked if there could be a review of the decision because he stated he lost the use of the alley with no notice to him and asked to see documentation regarding that decision. He wanted to pursue an administrative review of how his use of the alley was eliminated. He reviewed materials through the FOIA process but has yet to find documentation regarding how the decision was made to eliminate his use of the alley. This is important to him because of his hip replacement.

Chairman Jirik reminded Mr. Olp that the alley was currently the property of the Village and no decision has been made about its ownership. He indicated the request was to take public land and put it in private ownership, making it subject to taxes. He asked Mr. Olp to show on the overhead how he travelled to his property from the alley. Mr. Olp noted the driveway to the garage has access from Lyman Avenue and does not circle around the garage. Mr. Olp indicated that he used the alley right-of-way for parking in 1967, 1968, 1978 and 1979. Some years ago, the Village changed the parking availability on Lyman Avenue so that only the west side of Lyman Avenue was available for on-street parking, which made parking difficult for him and his guests. He stated he let family use the alley in question when visiting and due to health reasons today, he preferred to have access to the alley because the driveway north of his house tends to be icy during the winter.

Chairman Jirik pointed out that Mr. Olp had not accessed his property with his car from the alley, but instead, had accessed a public alley which he had illegally parked in. He noted the bushes that existed currently. Staff confirmed same. Chairman Jirik noted Mr. Olp's vehicle has not accessed his property from the alley, he merely parked in the alley. He noted the bushes would not allow Mr. Olp to access his property.

Chairman Jirik asked for additional public comments. There being no further public comment, the Chairman closed public participation.

Petitioner had no closing statements.

Mr. Beggs stated the issue is pretty clear given the evidence. He went on to say he agrees with staff's opinion that use of the alley as a private drive was not a public use.

**WITH RESPECT OF FILE PC-03-11, MR. BEGGS MADE A MOTION THAT THE PLAN COMMISSION FORWARD A POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION TO THE VILLAGE COUNCIL APPROVING A RIGHT-OF-WAY VACATION FOR THE PETITIONERS, SUBJECT TO THE FOUR (4) CONDITIONS LISTED BELOW:**

- 1. THE VACATION SHALL SUBSTANTIALLY CONFORM TO THE STAFF REPORT DATED JANUARY 3, 2011.**

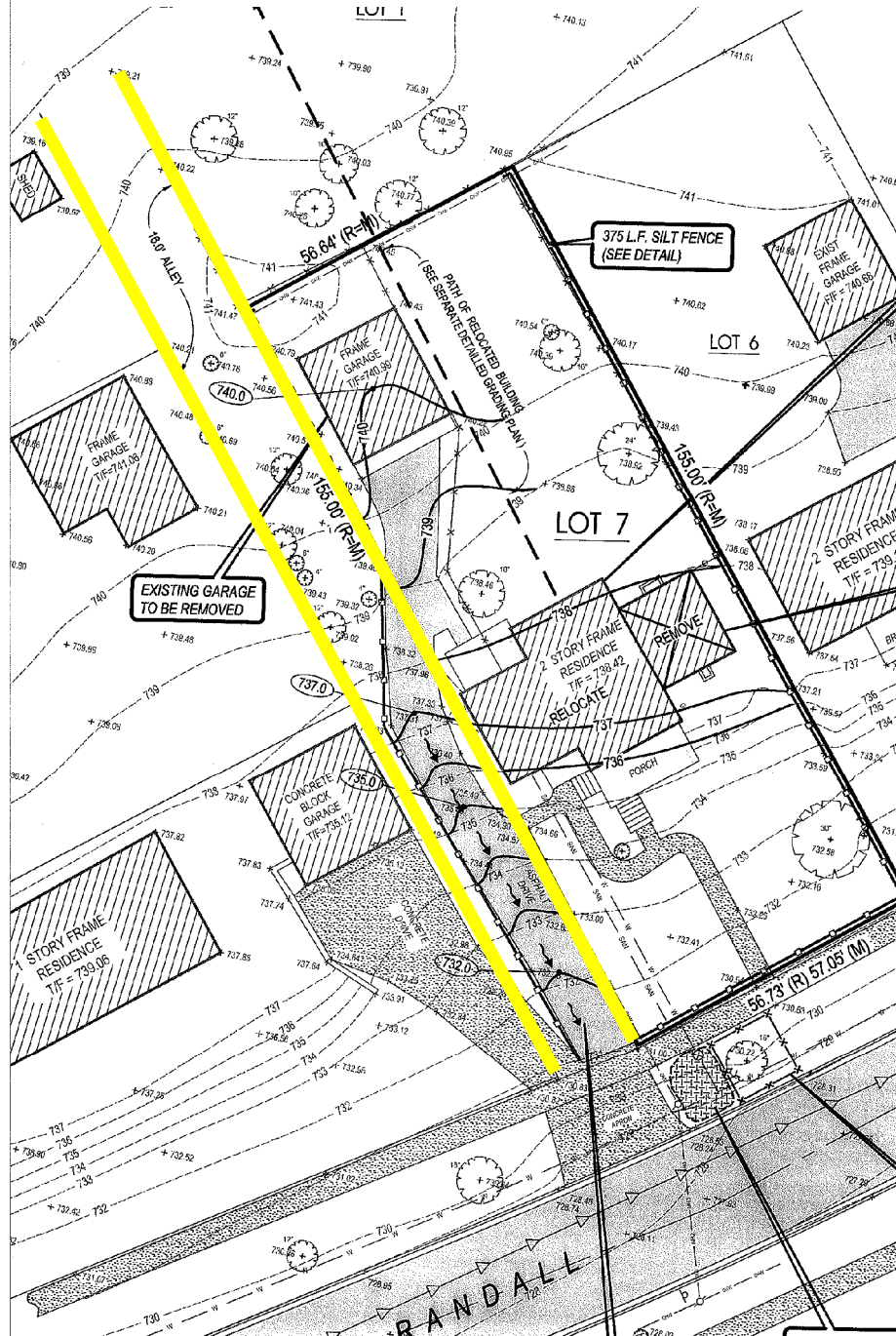
2. **PRIOR TO FINAL VILLAGE COUNCIL CONSIDERATION, A MYLAR COPY OF THE FINAL PLAT OF VACATION INDICATING A SIXTEEN-FOOT PUBLIC DRAINAGE, UTILITY AND UTILITY ACCESS EASEMENT ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH AND WIDTH OF THE ALLEY TO BE VACATED.**
3. **PRIOR TO EXECUTION OF THE PLAT, THE PETITIONER AT 812 RANDALL STREET SHALL PAY THE VILLAGE A TOTAL OF \$3,829.79 AND THE PETITIONER AT 820 RANDALL STREET SHALL PAY THE VILLAGE A TOTAL OF \$1,309.76.**
4. **THE BUILDING PERMIT FOR THE PROPOSED NEW HOUSE AT 812 RANDALL STREET MAY NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL THE PLAT OF VACATION HAS BEEN RECORDED AND THREE COPIES OF THE RECORDED PLAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE VILLAGE.**

**SECONDED BY MRS. HAMERNIK. ROLL CALL:**

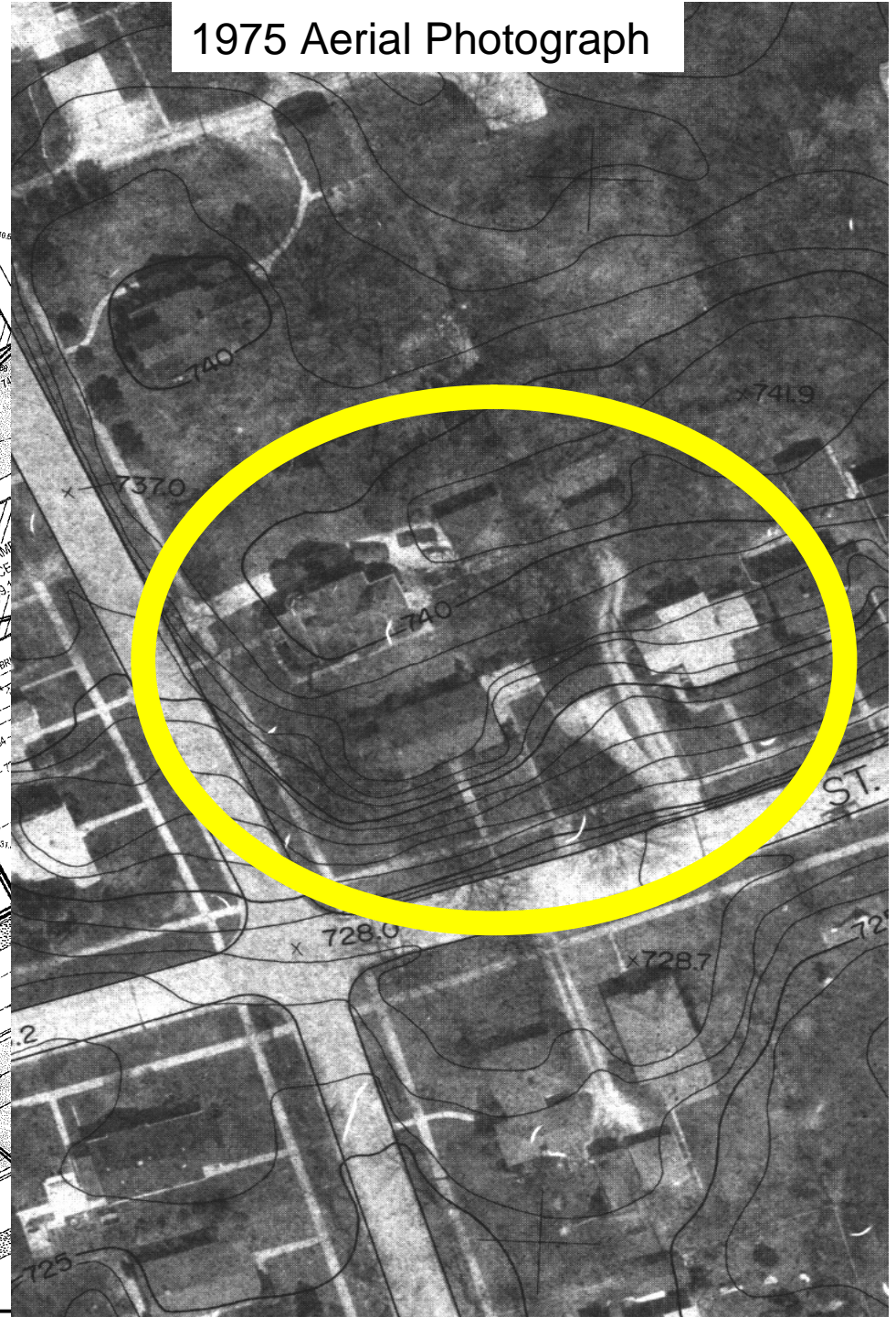
**AYE: MR. BEGGS, MRS. HAMERNICK, MR.COZZO, MR. MATEJCZYK,  
MR. QUIRK, MRS. RABATAH, MR. WEBSTER, CHAIRMAN JIRIK  
NAY: NONE**

**MOTOIN CARRIED. VOTE: 8-0**

2008 Topographic Survey



1975 Aerial Photograph





March 9, 2011

Mayor Ron Sandack  
Village of Downers Grove  
801 Burlington Avenue  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

RE: ROW Vacation 812 – 820 Randall Street (Item ORD 00-04213)

Dear Mayor Sandack & Council:

On March 3, 2011 the Downers Grove Park District Board of Commissioners discussed the above reference R.O.W. Vacation matter currently pending action before the Village Council.

In reviewing Mr. Dabariener's written Report to the Village Council, dated February 8<sup>th</sup>, the Park Board wanted to suggest a revision/amendment that would provide further clarification to what the District's interests are with respect to this matter as follows:

- Page 2 / Paragraph 4 - In relation to the Village contacting the utility companies and outside public agencies with regard to retaining rights, the Village staff states, "No other objections or concerns were received". The Park Board would suggest the Village amend or clarify that statement by adding "*except as noted in Item #1 and Item #2 above*".

In further discussions, the Board of Park Commissioners thought it would be beneficial to further clarify the District's interests as follows:

- In previous correspondence to the Village, District staff has indicated that there are known uses by persons of the Right-of-Way to and from the Museum property owned by the Park District.
- The District has previously expressed an interest in having the Village preserve openspace and pedestrian access within the subject R.O.W. (the District's interest in this regard has not changed).
- The District's preference is that the Village **not vacate** the subject R.O.W.
- If the Village moves to vacate, the District's preference is that an access easement be placed over the property
- If the Village moves to grant the Vacation Request without consideration to granting an access easement over the property; the District's preference is that the Village lease the property to the Park District to facilitate public access.

Sincerely,

Dan A. Cermak  
Administrator

c: Board of Park Commissioners

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