

Village of La Grange Park
SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
Strategic Planning Workshop
March 20, 2019

A Special Village Board Meeting- Strategic Planning Workshop of the Village Board of the Village of La Grange Park, Illinois was held in the Village Hall Community Room of the La Grange Park Municipal Building on Wednesday, March 20, 2019.

President Discipio called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm. Deputy Clerk Sandy Bakalich called the roll.

Board Members in attendance were:

Trustees:
Scott Mesick
Patricia Rocco
Michael Sheehan
James Kucera
Robert Lautner
Jamie Zaura

Village President:

James Discipio

Also in Attendance were:

Village Manager:	Julia Cedillo
Assistant Village Manager:	Emily Rodman
Police Chief:	Ed Rompa
Director of Building/Fire:	Dean Maggos
Public Works:	Rick Radde
Finance Director	Larry Noller
Building Official	Patrick Boyle
Deputy Village Clerk	Sandy Bakalich
Police Commander	Tim Contois

Public Comment

There was none.

Village President Opening Comments

President Discipio thanked the Village Board and Staff for coming out and complimented the Board and Staff on their hard work and efforts in moving the Village forward. He mentioned that the last Strategic Planning Meeting focusing on goals took place in 2014. The work accomplished this meeting was to position us to meet the needs of the community.

Introduction & Purpose

Village Manager Cedillo discussed the reason for the evenings Strategic Planning Session as Goal Setting. The focus was to list goals for the Village without getting into specifics or solutions. In thinking of goals it was suggested to think of: where we've been, where we are now, current environment, and where do we want to go. Ms. Cedillo utilized a PowerPoint Presentation to guide the Board of Trustees and Staff through the evening. The meeting's purpose was is to identify the most important things we need to

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accomplish by utilizing a SWOT analysis to recognize the Village's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

Topic Area: Village Goals and Priorities

Recent Accomplishments

The Village Board was asked to brainstorm recent accomplishments listed below:

- Repaving of Roads
- Emergency Equipment
- Tax Increment Financing Districts
- Business Development Districts
- Refuse Hauler Change
- New Website
- Renovated Public Works Building
- Village Hall Lobby Renovations
- AA+ Credit Rating
- Establishment of LTACC
- New Back-Up Generator at Village Hall
- Updated Building Code
- New Executive Secretary
- New Building Official
- Youth Commission
- Stable Property Values
- Industry Recognitions
- New Businesses
- Fire Department in Top 14%
- New Fire Truck
- Jack Williams Award (Village Manager)
- Water Infrastructure
- Sustainability Award
- Green Energy Award
- EPA Recognition
- Formalizing of Village Policies & Procedures
- Veterans Memorial
- Veteran's Memorial Day Event
- National Night Out Attendance
- Increased E-Brief Enrollment
- Paperless Agenda Process
- Intergovernmental Partnerships (e.g. LTACC, WCCA, IPBC, IRMA, CPD, Library, Cook County)
- Police Programs & Outreach
- General Community Outreach
- State of the Village
- Village Representation on the IML Board
- State Recognitions
- New Public Works Director, Finance Director, Police Chief
- Budget in the Black
- Downspout Disconnection Program
- LTACC Grant (\$880,000)
- Plymouth Place and Congregation of St. Joseph Redevelopment/Reinvestment
- 125th Anniversary Celebration

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- Support of Community Park District
- New Subdivision (Heatherdale)

Review of Current Focus/Priorities

The Village Board was asked to brainstorm Village Focus or Priorities. The results follow:

- Infrastructure (water/roads)
- Economic Development
- Property Maintenance
- Fiscal Responsibility/Budget
- Recreational Cannabis Legislation
- Resident Communication (Facebook/Social Media)
- State Legislation/County Commissioner/Tax Climate
- Transparency
- Overcoming Distrust in Government
- Branding
- Grant Work
- CODE Red/Emergency Communication
- Continued Strong Leadership in the Police Department
- Administrative Adjudication
- Police Department Records Software (MSI)
- New Financial Software (ERP)
- Fire Department & State Mandates/Challenges of POC Department (e.g. Continuing Education)
- Planning for the “What If’s”/Disasters
- Demographic Shift
- Equipment Replacement
- Police Pension
- Unfunded State Mandates
- Reallocation of Revenues
- Gambling/OTB
- Local Video Gaming
- Protection of Community Values (e.g. Property Tax)
- Lead Service Line Replacement

Strengths/Weakness/Opportunities/Threats (SWOT) Analysis

The Board then analyzed Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Listed below in the four categories:

1. Strengths

- Strong and experienced administration
- Good communication
- Delivery of Services
- Financial clarity
- Great location
- Strong Board
- Residents
- Stable village
- Good access to roads and transportation
- Ability to work with other governmental agencies (state, county, federal)
- Partnerships with neighboring communities
- Lobbyist

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- Demographics
- Focus on environmental sustainability
- Youth Commission
- Strong department heads, village attorney and engineer
- Community pride
- Jewel and Ace
- Maintenance of Village
- Library
- Nice homes
- Diversity of housing, residents' ages, and occupations
- Humble community
- Low crime
- Park District

2. Weaknesses

- Roads
- Infrastructure, keeping up with capital needs
- Fear of change
- Budgetary constraints
- Fragmented representation on state and federal levels
- No downtown or central town center
- Lack of control over Village Market and 31st Street commercial areas
- Freight train (IHB) bisecting village
- Lack of resident participation (fear, unwillingness)
- Large senior community (3 health facilities)
- Hidden Jewel – lack of signage
- Lack of freestanding pharmacy
- Limited retail growth
- No replacement for pancake house
- Industrial area underdeveloped.
- 6 different school districts (2 Jr. community college, 2 grammar school, 2 high school districts)

3. Opportunities

- Village Market / Pancake House Space
- Passion of stakeholders
- Barnsdale Industrial corridor
- 31st and LaGrange Road BP redevelopment
- Shared Services with LaGrange and Western Springs
- Grant Opportunities (e.g., Brainard funding)
- Budget
- Website
- 31st Street (7-11) strip mall
- YMCA
- New residents
- Continued improvements / additions to homes
- Teardowns
- Identity – Re-branding of Village

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4. Threats

- State, county and federal government’s demands and curtailment of resources
- Landlords
- Losing Jewel
- Pension funding
- Lack of control over private property owners
- Pending retirement of village employees
- Raising taxes
- IHB train tracks
- Liability because of poor street condition
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Salt shortage / extreme weather
- Coyotes and rodents
- Flooding
- Economy downturn
- Aging capital equipment
- Crime
- RMS – outdated system
- Poor condition of Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning System in Village Hall
- Unhappy residents because of street conditions
- Brainard – community discord
- Status Quo

The Board then privately listed their 5 most important priorities they felt that the Village should focus on going forward. All of these priorities were then sorted and grouped into six main categories that were given a summary heading by the Board. The results of those groups follow:

Attract, Retain and Expand Business

- Expand Business Development
- Increase Businesses
- Get Businesses in Vacant Spaces
- Clean Up Business Districts
- Branding/Business Development/Attraction
- Continue Economic Development Efforts
- Create More Nodes – Places People Want to Come, Draw Them In
- Spur Economic Development
- Business Retention & Development

Improve and Maintain Existing Infrastructure & Roads

- New Water Infrastructure
- Infrastructure Water
- Invest in Infrastructure
- Replace Aging Infrastructure
- Improve Infrastructure
- Infrastructure Improvement

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Broaden Communication Practices, Methods & Outreach

- Further Enhance Communication
- Improve Trust from Residents
- Be Transparent
- Social Media/Branding/Education/Correct Message/Feedback
- Expand Community Communication/Outreach

Maintain Fiscal Responsibility with Sound Budget Practices

- Financial Stability
- Maintain Fiscal Stability
- Stable Revenue Sources
- Work with Other Local Village to Save Money
- Continued Conservative Budgeting

Leverage Staff, Equipment and Technology Resources to Maintain & Enhance Services

- Maintain Services
- Future Equipment Needs/Large Purchases
- Replace Capital Equipment
- Update Technology
- Staff Retention & Development
- Hire Police Chief

Pro-Actively Plan for Our Future While Honoring our Community History, Character & Quality of Life

- Maintain Character of Town
- Affordability
- Keep Moving La Grange Park Forward
- Sustained Focus on Forward Thinking & Planning

The Board members then ranked each of the 6 categories by priority level by attaching a sticker indicating importance.

Wrap Up & Closing Comments

Staff will follow up with an analysis and report of the final results of the evening's session detailing the rank of each of the six categories. Village Manager Cedillo and President Discipio congratulated the Board on a job well done and commented on the value of the session.

Adjourn

Since there was no further business to be brought before the Village Board Strategic Planning Meeting, President Discipio said he would entertain a motion to adjourn. *Trustee Lautner made a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Trustee Mesick and passed unanimously by roll call vote.*

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Bakalich
Deputy Village Clerk