



Minutes
Village of Glen Ellyn
Special Village Board Workshop Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026
5:45 PM
Glen Ellyn Civic Center, Galligan Board Room

A. Call to Order – 5:47 P.M.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Upon roll call by Economic Development & Communications Director Hannah, President Burket and Trustees Bhagwakar, Christiansen, Duncan, Simon, and Thompson answered “Present.” The Board allowed Trustee Kalinich to join the meeting via phone.

Also in attendance: Village Manager Franz, Village Attorney Stephanides, Assistant Public Works Director Ross, Community Development Director Henaghan, Professional Engineer Daubert, Forestry Superintendent Brown, and Fire Chief Clark.

D. Audience Participation

There was no off-agenda audience participation.

E. Presentation

- 1) Review of the Construction of a Sidewalk on the South Side of Cottage Avenue between Main Street and Forest Avenue as part of the 2026 Utility and Roadway Improvements Project (Public Works Professional Engineer Daubert) (Tentative Timeframe: 5:45-6:00 pm)

Professional Engineer Daubert presented the proposed sidewalk construction.

Trustee Thompson asked about traffic queues at First Presbyterian Church. Professional Engineer Daubert replied. Trustee Thompson followed up by asking about the possibility of traffic queuing in the church parking lot. Professional Engineer Daubert replied.

Trustee Bhagwakar asked if the current situation caused traffic backup on Main Street. Professional Engineer Daubert replied.

Trustee Christiansen asked if parking signs were needed to help with enforcement of parking regulations. Professional Engineer Daubert replied. Trustee Christiansen followed up by asking if the Church has tried to alleviate these concerns about traffic backups during school pick-ups and drop-offs. Public Works Professional Engineer Daubert replied.

Trustee Thompson asked if there was any consideration in making Cottage Avenue east of Main Street one-way or whether the flow should be otherwise changed. Professional Engineer Daubert replied. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Bhagwakar asked whether there were negative impacts that would result from the proposal. Professional Engineer Daubert replied. Trustee Bhagwakar followed up by asking how parents feel about the pick-up/drop-off situation. Professional Engineer Daubert replied.

Trustee Simon felt that the proposal solves the issue at hand.

President Burket asked about the exact location of the no parking signs. Professional Engineer Daubert replied. He added that the parties involved need to cooperate to solve this issue.

Mary McDonald, resident, spoke about the parking situation and methods to relieve the problem. Trustee Thompson asked if cars were queuing down Anthony Street. Ms. McDonald replied.

DJ LaChapelle, resident, spoke about the parking situation and the items that need to be addressed to alleviate the problem.

Trustee Bhagwakar spoke about the challenges of being a parent who needs to drop off more than one child at different locations. Professional Engineer Daubert spoke on this in response.

- 2) Review of the Construction of a Parking Lane on the South Side of Cottage Avenue between Pleasant Avenue and Main Street as part of the 2026 Utility and Roadway Improvements Project (Public Works Professional Engineer Daubert) (Tentative Timeline: 6:00-7:00 pm)

Professional Engineer Daubert presented the scope of work for the proposed sidewalk construction.

Trustee Christiansen asked about the environmental impact of chemical treatments already given, or those that would be given, to the trees of concern. Forestry Superintendent Brown replied. Trustee Christiansen followed up with the concern of chemicals getting into the water supply. Forestry Superintendent Brown replied.

Trustee Simon, liaison to the Capital Improvements Commission, said her concern was that the streets ordinance and tree ordinance conflict with each other. She felt the Trustees need to consider all ordinances, but in this case the sidewalk in question does not add to the safety of residents. President Burket agreed with Trustee Simon about the safety issue.

Trustee Simon read selected passages of a message from Mr. Thorton, resident, as she had promised him, she would do.

Trustee Thompson asked about a tree in question and a nearby driveway excavated in 1993. Professional Engineer Daubert replied. Trustee Thompson then offered an alternative to the proposal.

Trustee Bhagwakar asked about which ordinance this proposal would violate. Trustee Christiansen replied, adding there are competing interests in this proposal. Forestry Superintendent Brown explained that the tree in question does not need to be removed but is under stress. Discussion continued.

Trustee Duncan gave his thoughts on the safety of the proposed sidewalk. He gave an example of the sidewalk and its proximity to the street.

Jay Dirkmant, resident, gave a PowerPoint presentation advocating against the proposed sidewalk. President Burket asked which trees would need to be removed. Professional Engineer Daubert replied with additional input from Mr. Dirkmant.

Christy Truitt, Environmental Commission Chair, gave an environmental perspective on the impact of this sidewalk on the two heritage oak trees, the impact on storm water in this location, and other issues.

Bob Moore, resident, pointed out the stress that sidewalk installation will have on the health of the trees.

Kristen Freund, resident, gave her thoughts on the necessity of the proposed sidewalk.

Karin Daly, resident, called out the residents that came to the meeting, but did not formally speak, in support of the trees over the sidewalk. Those residents included: Penn French, Heidi Dirkmant, Karin Dusz, Karen Moyles, Maria McCormick, Maureen Petfit, John Toth, Renae Frigo, and Mark Freund.

Trustee Kalinich commented about the placement of the sidewalk so close to the road. She continued by saying that there are many streets in the community that have a sidewalk on only one side of the street.

Trustee Christiansen added that oak trees communicate underground through a fungus. She felt that removing a tree could put the other trees into stress mode.

Trustee Thompson reminded everyone that the Village budget includes funds to plant trees in the Village, showing that the Village and its Trustees support trees.

F. Adjourn – 7:23 P.M.

Mover: Trustee Christiansen; Second: Trustee Bhagwakar. Unanimous vote to adjourn.