



Village of Lombard

Village Hall
255 East Wilson Ave.
Lombard, IL 60148
villageoflombard.org

Minutes

Community Promotion & Tourism

*Trustee Patrick Egan, Chairperson,
Bernie Dudek, Alternate Chairperson,
Joe Orsolini, Kimberly Messina, Umar Haque,
Kathleen Rodak, Marshon Balthazar, Junaid Ali,
Alexa Ardia, Sanah Abdelfattah and Jim Grillo
Ex-Officio Members: Rick Galfano - Lombard Chamber of
Commerce; Beth Marchetti - DuPage Convention & Visitors'
Bureau; Yorktown Centre - Josh Dean; Embassy Suites - Mike
Hansen; Sure Stay Plus - Randy Cline; Extended Stay America
(22nd) - Dolores Serrano; Comfort Suites - Rushil Patel;
Extended Stay America (Technology) - Nelly Figueroa; Fairfield
Inn & Suites - Tamara Rodgers; Hyatt Place - Arvyda Mikalainis;
Towne Place Suites - Rebekah Burton; The Westin - Torrez
Watson
Staff Liaison Nicole Aranas*

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

7:00 PM

Lorraine G. Gerhardt Community Room

1.0 Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patrick Egan at 7 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2.0 Roll Call

Present 9 - Patrick Egan, Joe Orsolini, Kimberly Messina, Kathleen Rodak, Marshon Balthazar, Junaid Ali, Alexa Ardia, Sanah Abdelfattah, and Jim Grillo

Absent 1 - Umar Haque

Also present: Nicole Aranas, Staff Liaison, Laura Sasinka, Lombard Lilac Festival Parade Committee, Sharon Rakowski, Lombard Garden Club, Rick Galfano, Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce.

3.0 Public Participation

4.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Marshon Balthazar, seconded by Joe Orsolini, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved by all.

5.0 Unfinished Business

[260011](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2026 - Lombard Lilac Parade**

Grant request from the Lombard Lilac Festival Parade Committee in the amount of \$25,000, plus the cost of Village Services (estimated \$35,400) from Hotel/Motel funds to support all expenses of the parade, honorariums paid to participants, and recognition expenses. The parade will take place on May 17, 2026.

Presentation by Lilac Festival Parade Committee Chair Laura Sasinka. The Committee is requesting the same grant amount as previous years, despite not using the full amount last year. This is to ensure that the parade can proceed if fundraising efforts fall short, especially since the primary fundraiser is unavailable this year. The requested funds are used to pay honorariums for parade units, which are not free to participate.

recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval

[260012](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2026 - Lilac Sale**

Grant request from the Lombard Garden Club in the amount of \$2,000 from Hotel/Motel funds to cover the cost of the purchase of lilacs and associated items such as pots, potting soil, labels, and containers. The event will take place May 7, 2026.

Presentation by Sharon Rakowski, Vice President of the Lombard Garden Club. The grant request defrays the cost of the Lilac sale and allows the fundraising event to support other organizations and projects within the community including the butterfly garden at Lilacia Park, vegetable gardens at schools, and the Lombard Historical Society gardens. The Lombard Garden Club also had a booth at the Farmers Market and participated in the Senior Fair. The event sold out of lilac bushes in 59 minutes last year with only 430 shrubs available. This year, the amount of lilac bushes increased to 500 which will cover more demand. The Garden Club could easily sell more plants, but there is a limited amount of capacity for storage and it is a lot of work for the members.

A motion was made by Joe Orsolini, seconded by Junaid Ali, to approve the grant request in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was approved by all.

[260013](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2026 - Lilac Princess Program**

Grant request from the Lombard Junior Women's Club in the amount of \$7,500 from Hotel/Motel funds to cover the cost of scholarships awarded to the Lilac Court members. The program begins in March and runs through June 24, 2026.

continued to February Committee Meeting

[260014](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2026 - Lilac Times Arts and Craft Fair**

Grant request from the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$6,500 from Hotel/Motel funds to cover the cost of Village services (Public Works, Police, Fire). The fair is scheduled for May 3, 2026.

Presentation by Rick Galfano, President of the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce. The grant request is higher this year due to the increasing cost of village services in previous years. The Arts and Crafts Fair is one of the largest events of Lilac Times and features between 125-150 vendors. Last year was the largest to date with almost 150 vendors and this year may be bigger with the addition of more inflatables to the children's area which is expected to attract more families.

A motion was made by Alexa Ardia, seconded by Sanah Abdelfattah, to approve the grant request in the amount fo \$6,500 for village services. The motion was approved by all.

[260015](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2026 - Lombard Farmers Market**

Grant request from the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$3,300 from Hotel/Motel funds to cover the cost of Village services (Public works overtime to install barricades to block access to South Park from 1pm to 8pm) and the cost of advertising. The Farmer's Market will run from May 19, 2026 through October 6, 2026.

Presentation by Rick Galfano, President of the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce. The grant request is village services and advertising which has been effective in reaching communities beyond Lombard. Last year's addition of non-food vendors was successful, helping diversify the market with food and community services. A challenge remains with produce suppliers whose space exceeds with what is currently available. The Chamber is exploring a secondary supplier and potential market expansion. The market continues to receive strong community support where live music and increased foot traffic benefit downtown businesses.

A motion was made by Joe Orsolini, seconded by Jim Grillo, to approve the grant in the amount of \$3,300 including village services to be used towards advertising expenses. The motion was approved by all.

[260016](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2026 - Lombard Outdoor Vintage Days**

Grant request from the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$1,000 from Hotel/Motel funds to cover the cost of Village services. The event will take place on March 29, June 28, and September 27, 2026.

Presentation by Rick Galfano, President of the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce. The grant request is for village services only. Last year the Chamber planned one day for the event, but added a second due to high demand. The event attracted a new audience as it was a different type of demographic than other events. This year, there will be three dates to include the Spring, Summer, and Fall. The stores in the area did well and community feedback was very good. Vendors were supportive and eager to come back.

A motion was made by Kathleen, seconded by Jim, to approve the grant request in the amount of \$1,000 for village services only. The motion was approved by all.

7.0 Other Business

8.0 Information Only

Nicole Aranas, Staff Liaison, spoke about the February meeting to review the remaining grant applications and the possible need for a special meeting related to an upcoming request from local hotels.

9.0 Adjournment

A motion was made by Sanah Abdelfattah, seconded by Joe Orsolini, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. The motion was approved by all.