



Village of Lombard

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

Minutes

Community Promotion & Tourism

*Trustee Bernie Dudek, Chairperson,
Trustee Andrew Honig, Alternate Chairperson,
Marguerite Micken, Joe Orsolini, Nancy Schukat,
Nicholas Piron and Gayle Kankovsky, Kimberly Messina,
Umar Haque and Kayla Harger
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; Sonesta ES Suites -
Alan Gagnon; Extended Stay America (22nd) - Iverliss
Hernandez; Comfort Suites - Frank Balisteri; Extended Stay
America (Technology) - Adriana DeHoyos; Fairfield Inn &
Suites - Tamara Rodgers; Hyatt Place - Arvyda Mikalainis;
Towne Place Suites - Rebekah Burton; The Westin - Kym Myers
Staff Liaison Nicole Aranas*

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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 Bernie Dudek at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Bernie Dudek.

2.0 Roll Call

Present 6 - Bernie Dudek, Joe Orsolini, Nancy Schukat, Nicholas Piron, Kimberly Messina, and Umar Haque
Absent 3 - Marguerite Micken, Gayle Kankovsky, and Kayla Harger

Also present: Nicole Aranas, Staff Liaison, Alison Costanza, Lombard Historical Society, Beth Marchetti, DuPage Convention and Visitors' Bureau, Laura Sasinska, Lombard Lilac Festival Parade, Sharon Rakowski, Lombard Garden Club, Rick Galfano, Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce, Cassie Hartness, Lombard Junior Women's Club.

3.0 Public Participation

4.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Joe Orsolini, seconded by Nancy Schukat, to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024 meeting. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

5.0 Old Business

6.0 New Business

[250011](#)

Local Tourism Grant Application 2025 - Lombard Lilac Parade

Grant request from the Lombard Lilac Festival Parade Committee in the amount of \$25,000, plus the cost of Village Services from Hotel/Motel funds to support all expenses of the parade, honorariums paid to participants, advertising, and recognition expenses. The parade will take place on May 18, 2025.

Presentation by Lombard Lilac Festival Parade Committee Chair Laura Sasinka. The grant request this year was increased due to increased gas prices and a decrease in the success of fundraisers. The top fundraisers are the Wine Walk and Adult Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, but more volunteers and fundraisers are needed. Participation is increasing and three new organizations have inquired about the parade. The increase in grant funds would allow the parade committee to increase honorariums.

A motion was made by Joe Orsolini, seconded by Umar Haque, to approve the Lombard Lilac grant request for increased funding in the amount of \$25,000 plus Village services. The motion was approved by all.

[250012](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2025 - 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 8, 2025.

Presentation by Vice President of the Lombard Garden Club Sharon Rakowski. The Lombard Garden Club has been in existence for 99 years and the Lilac Sale is their only fundraiser. The fundraiser is used to support other organizations and projects within the community such as the Prairie Garden, Peck Homestead, Lilac Princess families, and schools. The sale is a popular event which attracts buyers from the Lombard community as well as neighboring states. Last year there were 500 lilac shrubs for sale and they sold out within 6 hours despite inclement weather. In previous years, the lilac shrubs sold out in as little as 3 hours. 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 Kimberly Messina, to approve the grant request in the amount of \$2,000. The motion was approved by all.

[250014](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2025 - Lilac Times Arts and Craft Fair**

Grant request from the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$5,000 from Hotel/Motel funds to cover the cost of Village services (Public Works, Police, Fire) and Waste Management. The fair is scheduled for May 4, 2025.

Presentation by President of the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce Rick Galfano. Various craft, food, and beverage vendors as well as entertainment made the event very successful with a total of 139 vendors last year. This year the Chamber is looking to increase the scope and size of the fair and is asking for an increase in grant funding to cover the costs of Waste Management so that more can be spent on advertising downtown businesses.

A motion was made by Nicholas Piron, seconded by Umar Haque, to approve the Lilac Times Arts and Craft Fair in the amount of \$5,000 including Village services. The motion was approved by all.

[250015](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2025 - Lombard Farmers Market**

Grant request from the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$5,000 from Hotel/Motel funds to cover the cost of Village services (Public works overtime to install barricades to block access to South Park from 5am to 8pm). The Farmer's Market will run from May 20, 2025 through October 7, 2025.

Presentation by President of the Lombard Area Chamber of Commerce Rick Galfano. This will be the 5th year of the event and the 2nd year at the South Park location. The community has shown great support for the Farmer's Market. Last year there were 17 vendors, but the largest challenge is that the market is limited in terms of growth. The Chamber is requesting additional funds this year to take advantage of advertising opportunities.

A motion was made by Umar Haque, seconded by Nicholas Piron, to approve the Farmer's Market grant in the amount of \$5,000 including Village services.

[250013](#)**Local Tourism Grant Application 2025 - Lilac Princess Program**

Grant request from the Lombard Junior Women's Club in the amount of \$10,000 from Hotel/Motel funds for expenses supporting the Lilac Princess Program. The grant will support expenses related to the scholarships awarded to the Lilac Court and to support the cost of the 95th Lilac Court Reunion. The program begins in March and runs through June 18, 2025.

Presentation by Cassie Hartness on behalf of President of the Lombard Junior Women's Club (LJWC) Brittney Conway. The LJWC is requesting extra grant funds to host a reunion party for the 95th reunion year of the Lilac Court for princesses and families and a second float for the past Lilac Court. The remainder of the grant funds would go toward the cost of scholarships as in previous years. The committee was in favor of the additional funds with the condition that the grant would not be used for the direct purchase of alcohol.

Motion made by Joe Orsolini, seconded by Umar Haque, to approve the Lilac Princess grant request in the amount of \$10,000. The motion was approved by all.

7.0 Other Business

8.0 Information Only

Beth Marchetti of the DuPage Convention and Visitors' Bureau reported that DuPage County hotels have generated 400 million in revenues which is up since 2019. The increase in revenue is not due to an occupancy increase, but a rate increase. DuPage County has held various events recently including the National Championship of Wheelchair Curling which generated 100 hotel room stays of which 50 were in Lombard.

9.0 Adjournment

A motion was made by Nicholas Piron, seconded by Umar Haque to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The motion was approved by all.