

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OF THE GURNEE VILLAGE BOARD**

**GURNEE VILLAGE HALL
AUGUST 26, 2019**

Call to Order

Mayor Kovarik called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Other Officials in Attendance

Patrick Muetz, Village Administrator; David Ziegler, Assistant Village Administrator / Community Development Director; Heather Galan, Village Engineer; Bryan Winter, Village Attorney; Brian Gosnell, Finance Director; Christine Palmieri, Director of Human Resources; John Kavanagh, Fire Chief; Jesse Gonzalez, Deputy Police Chief; Tracy Velkover, Planning Manager; Ellen Dean, Economic Development Director, Jack Linehan, Assistant to the Administrator

Roll Call

PRESENT: 5-Garner, O'Brien, Balmes, Hood, Thorstenson
ABSENT: 1-Ross

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Kovarik led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion of the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act which legalizes the possession and private use of cannabis for Illinois residents over 21 years of age effective January 1, 2020 (Recreational Cannabis sales).

Village Attorney Winter presented the following PowerPoint presentation to the Board:

Recreational Cannabis In Illinois:

**CANNABIS REGULATION AND TAX ACT
410 ILCS 705/7-1 FINDINGS**

(a) In the interest of allowing law enforcement to focus on violent and property crimes, generating revenue for education, substance abuse prevention and treatment, freeing public resources to invest in communities and other public purposes, and individual freedom should be taxed in a manner similar to alcohol.

(b) In the interest of the health and public safety of the residents of Illinois, further finds and declares that cannabis should be regulated in a manner similar to alcohol so that:

- (1) persons will have to show proof of age before purchasing cannabis;
- (2) selling, distributing, or transferring cannabis to minors and other person under 21 years of age shall remain illegal;
- (3) driving under the influence of cannabis shall remain illegal;
- (4) legitimate, taxpaying business people, and not criminal actors, will conduct sales of cannabis;
- (5) cannabis sold in the State will be tested, labeled, and subject to additional regulation to ensure that purchasers are informed and protected; and
- (6) purchasers will be informed of any known health risks associated with the use of cannabis, as concluded by evidence-based, peer-reviewed research.

(c) The General Assembly further finds: it is necessary to ensure consistency and fairness in the application of this Act throughout the State ...

(d) ... this Act shall not diminish that State's duties and commitment to seriously ill patients registered under the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, nor alter the protections granted to them.

(e) ... supports and encourages labor neutrality in the cannabis industry and further finds and declares that employee workplace safety shall not be diminished and employer workplace policies shall be interpreted broadly to protect employee safety.

MUNICIPALITIES MAY ENACT ORDINANCES:

- To prohibit cannabis business establishments located within the Village.
- To reasonably govern the time, place, manor and number of

cannabis business establishments within the Village.

MUNICIPALITIES MAY NOT ENACT ORDINANCES WHICH:

- Prohibits possession of cannabis to residents age 21 and over in the amounts less than 30 grams of raw cannabis, 500 milligrams or less of THC or 5 grams of cannabis in a concentrated form.
- Prohibits home cultivation of plants by medical cannabis patients.

TAX REVENUES - LOCAL

- Sales of legalized cannabis have been projected at 1.6 billion dollars.
- Potential revenue from individual dispensaries to the Village could include:
 - 3% local cannabis tax
 - 1% regular sales tax
 - 1% home rule sales tax

TAX REVENUES - STATE

- 35% to the State General Revenue Fund.
- 25% for social equity programs.
- 25% for identified social equity program.
- 20% to State mental health services and substance abuse programs.
- 10% to pay unpaid state bills.
- 8% to the Local Government Distributive Fund, for prevention and training for law enforcement.
- 2% to public education and safety campaigns.

LAKE COUNTY DISPENSARIES

Current medical dispensaries located in Lake County:

- Mundelein
- Buffalo Grove
- Highland Park
- Deerfield

Other communities are considering the possibility of permitting recreational cannabis dispensaries within the County.

PROJECTED NUMBER OF DISPENSARIES

- End of 2020 73 Dispensaries
- End of 2021 110 Dispensaries
- Future Growth 500 Dispensaries (estimated by 2024)

Section 55-20. Advertising and promotions

* Cannabis businesses prohibited from engaging in advertising or promotion that contains any statement or illustration that:

- Is false or misleading;
- Depicts the actual consumption of cannabis products;
- Makes any health, medicinal or therapeutic claims about cannabis or cannabis-infused products.
- Includes the image of a cannabis leaf or bud; and
- Includes images likely to appeal to minors, including cartoons, toys, animals, etc.

* Also not permitted to advertise within 1,000 feet of a playground/rec center/childcare center/public park/public library, or in a public transit vehicle or public transit shelter.

Staff is seeking feedback and direction regarding zoning approaches:

- Exercise right to opt out which can be amended at any time.
- Amend zoning code to permit recreational cannabis as a special use within a designated zoning district.
- Exercise right of opt out with *sunset provision*, if not extended.

Crime Prevention Technician Shawn Gaylor presented the following Power Point presentation to the Board:

RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA PUBLIC SAFETY IMPACT

Driving Under the Influence

Colorado

- 76% of the driving under the influence of drugs cases involved marijuana (Colorado State Patrol, 2017).
- Washington
- Drugged driving fatalities has doubled since legalizing marijuana (Johnson, 2016).

Oregon

- 50% of drivers assessed by Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) in 2015 tested positive for THC (Oregon Liquor Control Commission, 2015).
- Significant costs related training officers to become Drug Recognition Experts

Three-phase training that can take up to a year to complete

- Requires a pre-school exam to ensure officer is qualified for the course.
- School teaches officers how to conduct 12-step evaluation of a drugged-impaired driver.
- Certification phase can take up to six months after the classroom training is complete.

Must be re-certified every two years.

Small number of officers available to conduct evaluations on the street.

Proficiency of Officers to Detect Cannabis

- Currently no reliable device to allow officers to test whether drivers are impaired by marijuana.
- Discussions about re-training K9 Officers to disregard the smell (sniff) of cannabis.
- Significant costs related training officers about the regulations of the new law.
- Additional training required for officers to learn how to detect marijuana impairment.

Public Safety

- Increased Crime Rate
 - Crime rates in Colorado have increased since legalizing marijuana (Colorado Bureau of Investigation, 2017).
 - 8.3% increase in property crimes.
 - 18.6% increase in violent crimes.
- Alaska misdemeanor crimes and vehicle thefts have dramatically increased since legalization (Alaska Dept. of Public Safety, 2016).
 - Moved from 16th to 2nd on the national ranking for larceny.
 - Moved from 16th to 5th on the national ranking for vehicle theft.
- Key Points to Consider
 - The density of marijuana dispensaries was linked to increased property crimes and violent crimes.
 - Although “pot is legal” many are unaware public use is not legal.
 - The projected cost to purchase cannabis at a dispensary is estimated to cost more than what people have been paying on the street.
 - Potential for cartels to continue operations in Illinois.
 - Corresponding crimes in other states included robberies, shootings, and other violent crimes.

Assistant Village Administrator David Ziegler presented the following Power Point presentation to the Board:

CANNABIS REGULATION & TAX ACT

Quick Facts:

- Possession Limits
 - Residents
 - 30 grams of cannabis flower
 - 5 grams of cannabis concentrate
 - No more than 500 milligrams of THC contained in a cannabis-infused product
 - Medical cannabis patients can possess more than 30 grams if homegrown under certain conditions.
 - Non-residents
 - 15 grams of cannabis flower.
 - 2.5 grams of cannabis concentrate.
 - No more than 250 milligrams of THC contained in a cannabis-infused product.

License Types:

- (1) Dispensary
- (2) Infuser
- (3) Transporter
- (4) Craft Grower
- (5) Cultivation Center

Licensing Agencies

- Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR)
 - Dispensing Organizations
- Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA)
 - Infusing Organizations
 - Transporting Organizations
 - Craft Grower Organizations
 - Cultivation Centers

2020 Licensing Timeline

- June 25, 2019
 - Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act signed / effective.
- August 2019
 - Applications available for Early Approval Dispensing Organizations and Secondary Sites.
- January 1, 2020
 - Sales to begin for Early Approval Licensees and Secondary Sites if / when approved.
- March 31, 2020
 - Craft Grower, Infuser, and Transporter Application Due.
- May 1, 2020
 - Up to 75 licenses to be awarded for new dispensing organizations.
- July 1, 2020
 - Up to 40 licenses awarded for infusers, craft growers, and transporting organizations.

2021 Licensing Timeline

- December 21, 2021
 - IDFPR awards up to 110 licenses for new dispensing organizations.
- December 21, 2021
 - IDOA awards up to 60 additional licenses for craft growers, up to 60 licenses for infusers, and licenses for transporting organizations.

Zoning Elements

Local governments may:

- Enact reasonable zoning regulations related to the zoning of cannabis business establishments.
 - Time, place, manner, and number of cannabis business establishment operations.
 - The minimum distance limitations between cannabis business establishments and locations it deems sensitive.
 - May use conditional or special use permits, however the conditions must be reasonable.
- Prohibit or significantly limit a cannabis business establishment's location.
- May regulate on-site consumption at cannabis establishments.

However, no regulations may be more restrictive than state regulations.

Buffering

- The Act allows the jurisdiction to establish minimum distance limitations between cannabis business establishments and locations it deems sensitive, including colleges and universities.
- The Act identifies the following sensitive uses as part of its restrictions on advertising.
 - Schools including childcare center and primary/secondary school.
 - Any public property including public parks and public library.
 - Recreation center and arcades - with no age restriction.
- Sensitive locations identified by jurisdictions in other states
 - Residential zoning districts.

- Smoke shops/hookah bars/other dispensaries.
- Places where alcohol is served/can be bought.
- Places of worship.
- Transitional housing (for adults or juveniles).

Gurnee's Medical Marijuana Regulations

- Special Use Permit in C-2, C-3, C-6, I-1, I-2 and I-3
- State Required Buffer
 - 1000 feet from:
 - Educational Facility
 - Day Care Center
- Village Required Buffer
 - 1000 feet from Forest Preserve or State/Local Park
 - 500 feet from Residential District

Required Signage

- The dispensing organization's license and hours of operation.
- Health warnings
 - "Cannabis consumption can impair cognition and driving, is for adult use only, may be habit forming, and should not be used by pregnant or breastfeeding women."
 - "Edible cannabis-infused products were produced in a kitchen that may also process common food allergens"
 - "The effects of cannabis products can vary from person to person, and it can take as long as two hours to feel the effects of some cannabis-infused products. Carefully review the portion size information and warnings contained on the product packaging before consuming."
- Age Restrictions
 - No minors permitted on the premises.
 - Distribution to persons under the age of 21 is prohibited.
- Transportation across state lines
 - Transportation of cannabis or cannabis products across state lines is prohibited.

Advertising

- No cannabis business establishment nor any other person or entity shall engage in advertising that contains any statement or illustration that:
 - Contains false or misleading information.
 - Promotes excessive consumption.
 - Depicts actual consumption.
 - Contains images of someone under 21
 - Makes health claims about the positive effects of the use of cannabis.
 - Contains images that depict leaves or buds or that may appeal to minors.
- No cannabis business, person or entity shall place or maintain an advertisement of cannabis or a cannabis-infused product in **any form or through any medium:**
 - Within 1,000 feet from the *perimeter* of
 - School grounds, playgrounds, recreation centers, childcare centers, public parks or libraries, or game arcades open to persons under 21 years of age.
 - On Public transportation
 - On Publicly owned or operated property
- These restrictions do not apply to educational messaging

Team members from Catalyst (Stevenson High School) presented the following Power Point presentation the Board:

CANNABIS WILL BE LEGAL IN ILLINOIS JAN 2020 BUT COMMUNITIES CAN LIMIT THE LOCAL IMPACT

*Data and local options we ask community leaders to consider.
We ask that you not rush into allowing this drug in our town.*

Why Be The Guinea Pig?

"We have a great, safe community here in Naperville. We've got a great brand. It's a very family-oriented place." Naperville City Councilman

Kevin Coyne said. "And a lot of the experts in this arena have raised a lot of concerns that are very troubling. That if you allow retail sale of marijuana you simply expand marijuana use, that leads to teenage delinquencies, car accidents, a host of other social problems that I don't want to see come to Naperville and certainly don't want to be the guinea pig testing whether these concerns prove out or not." Source: news.wttw.com.

Illinois communities that have already taken a stand against legalization

Illinois towns that said "it's not worth it" by opting out:
Morton, Wilmington

Illinois towns that are considering opting out:
Lake Villa, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Mokena

Towns that passed a moratorium: Grayslake, Lake Villa

Towns Holding Off/Waiting: Highland Park

Towns currently weighing options: Naperville, Lake Zurich

MOST COMMUNITIES IN STATES THAT LEGALIZED CANNABIS OPTED OUT

- Colorado: 70% opt-out
- Michigan: 74% opt-out
- California: 78% opt-out

Reasons WHY communities opted out:

- Marijuana IS ADDICTIVE and NOT harmless.
- Normalization of marijuana use impacts use rates, school and workplace performance.
- Decreases community and public safety
- Illegal market still thrives
- Economic realities
- It wasn't their community "brand"

WE MUST ASK OURSELVES

Are the predictable negative consequences of promoting cannabis in our town compatible with the "brand" of our family-friendly community?
(We think they are not)

We get it. There might be a chance to make **money** from tax revenue. However, there are more negatives than potential positives.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES CREATED BY MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

- Increased use among residents
- Increased calls to poison control
- Increased ER visits
- Increased crime, including violent crime
- Increased marijuana-related traffic accidents, DUIs, and crashes that resulted in fatalities and injuries
- Increased illegal markets
- Increased school infractions

EXPERIENCES FROM PEOPLE WHO WERE IMPACTED BY CANNABIS IN THEIR TOWN

"In November 2017, at least seven armed robbers attacked a medical marijuana growing facility in Greenleaf Township. That time, three people ended up dead and the FBI got involved. Authorities believe the suspects were hoping to sell the stolen marijuana on the black market as part of a bigger drug ring.

"Because Marijuana is legal in Washington, it is more readily available to a higher percentage of kids. I know a lot of good, athletic, and academic kids that would never buy marijuana from a drug dealer, but would buy it, or ask their older friend to buy it, from a dispensary." Estella, 17

CANNABIS AND INCREASED USE

In 2017, past month marijuana use among youth aged 12-17 was higher than the National Average in these states:

- 7 % higher in California
- 40 % higher in Colorado
- 60 % higher in Oregon
- 39 % higher in Washington

THE IMPACT OF DISPENSARY DENSITY

Marijuana dispensary density has been linked to more use among youth, with 16% of 11th graders reporting marijuana use in areas with less dispensary density compared to 24.3% of the same age group reporting use in more retail-dense areas (Oregon 2017).

“For young adults in Los Angeles County, living near more medical marijuana dispensaries (MMDs) is positively associated with more frequent use of marijuana within the past month and greater expectations of marijuana’s positive benefits. MMDs with signage show stronger associations with number of times used each day and positive expectancies” (Regina A. Shih et al., 2019)

CANNABIS AND ADDICTION

9% of marijuana users will become addicted
BUT

1-in-6 teens who use marijuana will become addicted

CANNABIS AND PSYCHOSIS

ER Visits for Psychosis Increase

At University of Colorado Health Emergency Department in Denver, 2,567 ER visits were attributed to marijuana from 2012 to 2016. Of those, 12% of the patients were for acute psychosis, where people without a history of mental disorders lose touch with reality. That was more frequently seen with edibles. *Annals of Internal Medicine, April 2019.*

Impact on Law Enforcement

Denver Police Department Unlawful Public Display / Consumption of Marijuana.

Number of Arrests / Citations

2012 = 8
2013 = 184
2014 = 770
2015 = 762
2016 = 590

Source: Denver Police Dep., Traffic Operations Bureau / Vice / Drug Bureau via Data Analysis Unit.

OTHER PROBLEMS WE MAY FACE WITH CANNABIS IN OUR TOWN

Loss of Control in the Future

Dr. Andrew A. Monte, a medical toxicologist and emergency medicine physician at UHealth University of Colorado Hospital recommends that "States moving to liberalize cannabis policy should consider keeping edibles out of the recreational marketplace," Source: CNN.com

Once communities allow dispensaries, towns can lose control. When the Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board announces their plans to discontinue production of cannabis-infused gummies and candy to protect children, the regulators reversed their decision because of fierce opposition from the marijuana industry.” (Source: Marijuana Business Daily)

DO WE KNOW FOR SURE HOW MUCH \$ TOWNS CAN EXPECT?

(AND, IS IT WORTH IT?)

Estimated tax “revenue” for towns is difficult to assess but we know...

1 million dollars in pot would have to pass through our town in order to collect \$30,000 in taxes at 3%.

Is \$30,000 worth selling 1 million dollars of pot?

**We can't just consider the potential revenue.
We must consider the costs.**

According to the CDC, for every \$1 raised from alcohol or tobacco taxation, we spend \$10 in societal costs associated with these substances. Expect marijuana to be no different.

Colorado is already seeing the impact:
For every \$1 gained in tax revenue, Coloradans spent approximately \$4.50 to mitigate the effects of legalization.*

*The Centennial Institute at Colorado Christian University 11/2018.

**OPTIONS THAT LIMIT THE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
OTHER THAN OPT-OUT (BEST OPTION)**

- Consider a moratorium until we better understand the impact to our town. The social harms will be great (DUIs, youth adult use increases, crime, hospitalizations) so we need to be sure.
- Limit recreational marijuana dispensaries to only existing medical marijuana dispensaries within your community.
- Limit recreational marijuana dispensaries to industrial zones only
- Allow a maximum of one recreational marijuana dispensary in your community.
- Impose strict limitations such as time, place, and manner, to decrease impact.

We have an opportunity to limit the local damage by opting out.
We have an opportunity to send a message to our community, and especially our youth and young adults, about whether we promote getting high as “recreation”.

We have an opportunity to put people over profits: let's continue to keep our community safe, healthy, and productive.

We have an opportunity to OPT OUT of retail sales in Gurnee

**Paul Gilman
Aeriz
National Cannabis
Distributor
330 N. Wabash
Chicago, IL**

Mr. Paul Gilman from Aeriz, a national cannabis distributor, made an oral presentation to the Board.

Mr. Gilman stated Illinois is now expanding the medical cannabis program to include recreational usage and sales. He then reviewed the issuance of licenses and stated Illinois is expected to have the strictest regulations in the Nation. He continued to say medical cannabis dispensaries do not stand out in communities as they blend in with surrounding businesses, he expects recreational dispensaries to be the same. Mr. Gilman stated communities do have the opportunity to opt-out within one year of the effective date of the Act. He believes communities should not opt-out. He stated Aeriz is working to develop plans for an 8,000 square foot standalone facility it hopes to locate in Gurnee. It will employ 30 to 40 employees. He expects a significant economic impact to the community, including consumer spending and additional jobs. Mr. Gilman then discussed packaging and advertising restrictions. The medical cannabis industry in Illinois continues to mature and as a result local revenues have increased. He mentioned that recreational cannabis will be in Illinois regardless of what Gurnee decides to do and therefore Gurnee will incur some costs. As such, he is hopeful Gurnee will welcome recreational cannabis dispensaries.

Questions:

Trustee Balmes asked for clarification on the number of licenses that will be issued.

Attorney Winter stated his understanding is 73 will be issued initially, with an additional 110 after that.

Trustee Balmes then asked the representatives from Catalyst what other communities they have presented to and the result. She then asked if Catalyst has a relationship with Warren Township High School.

The representative stated the other communities they have presented before are still considering options but he believes they are leaning towards opting-out. He continued to state they do not have a direct relationship with students at Warren but believes they have another student group that focuses on prevention efforts.

Trustee Hood asked what opting-in and out-opting out entails and how difficult it is to switch positions in the future.

Attorney Winter stated if the Village opted-out and wanted to change that, it would simply involve rescinding the ordinance. If the Village opted-in and wanted to opt-out later it would require a referendum. He continued to state that if the Village instituted a moratorium he would recommend the timeframe be short.

Trustee Balmes asked for clarification on where medical dispensaries are current allowed.

Community Development Director Ziegler reviewed a map that indicates current locations where a medical dispensary could be located in Gurnee based on zoning and established buffers.

Trustee Thorstensen stated she has heard some ingredients in edibles may impact the ability of manufacturers to test THC levels. She stated this is concerning to her.

Trustee Garner asked for clarification on current regulations related to a medical dispensary's ability to locate in Gurnee today.

Attorney Winter discussed the regulations and that the medical dispensaries will be granted licenses first and will most likely want to initiate recreational sales.

Trustee Garner stated he supports medical cannabis, but is very concerned about recreational cannabis. He stated parents have a very difficult job today raising kids and teaching them to make intelligent choices. Increasing the availability of cannabis will further add to this challenge.

Mayor Kovarik stated taking no action would not be good as it would allow sales with minimal regulations. She stated the two options in her opinion is to opt-out or treat it similar to medical cannabis.

Mayor Kovarik then opened the floor to Public Comment.

Tim Garrity
1535 Yew Ct
Gurnee, IL

Mr. Garrity read a prepared statement expressing his concerns with allowing recreational cannabis sales in Gurnee and its impact on tourism and its reputation. He concluded by stating he believes the Village should opt-out.

Geoff Olsen
All Good, LLC
2530 Bluewater Dr
Wauconda, IL

Mr. Olsen stated he represents All Good, LLC and would like to open a recreational cannabis facility in Gurnee. He stated he has heard a lot of unknowns in tonight's comments and would like to help educate people. Mr. Olsen stated cannabis is already present in communities and the recently approved legislation now allows cannabis to be regulated. He then reiterated he is a Lake County resident and believes that keeping the revenue from any sales local is important. Mr. Olsen then introduced Mark Delia, President of Embassy Security Group.

Mark Delia
President
Embassy Security

Mr. Delia discussed his company's experience with cannabis facilities and security measures that are implemented. Mr. Olsen concluded by thanking the Board for allowing him to speak.

Kim Callaghan
1351 Deer Run
Gurnee, IL

Ms. Callaghan stated she has experienced some injuries that have resulted in chronic pain. Despite these accidents and the resulting pain, she is opposed to recreational sales in Gurnee.

Paul Bunnell
2149 Maplewood Dr
Gurnee, IL

Mr. Bunnell asked what happens if the Village does not opt-out and do the buffers still apply.

Attorney Winter stated there is not much buffering included in the State legislation, so that should be addressed locally if desired.

Mr. Bunnell stated that costs related to public safety will occur regardless of whether Gurnee allows sales or not. He stated the Village is not isolated in this situation, therefore there should be an attempt to keep this revenue in Gurnee. He stated there are stigmas associated to cannabis that have not been substantiated. He then discussed safety limits. Mr. Bunnell concluded by stating he supports recreational sales with appropriate regulations.

**Marcia Smith
Smokes N' Such
3567 Grand Ave
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Smith stated she believes the revenue should remain in the community. She stated cannabis will be in the community regardless, therefore there should be safe and secure facilities related to it. She encouraged the Board to gather more information from the community. She then shared her experience visiting a dispensary in Las Vegas and the security measures in place. She concluded by stating waiting to opt-in could result in missing out on an opportunity to secure a facility.

Mayor Kovarik stated the Village does have a survey online that residents can use to express concerns.

**Pete Drobniowski
5905 Hancock Ln
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Drobniowski stated he chose to raise his family in Gurnee because of its family values. He stated the tax revenue is enticing, but Gurnee does not need it. He continued to state cannabis will result in issues that will not be offset by revenue. Mr. Drobniowski stated the less cannabis in the Village, the better.

**Jenny Selle
37444 N. Delany Rd
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Selle stated she works at the Lake County Health Department as a registered nurse and a certified drug counselor but is speaking as a resident. She stated the Village needs to opt-out and the Board needs much more information before it can make such a large decision.

**Norm Balliet
5078 Glendale Dr
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Balliet expressed concerns about the processing of cash resulting from cannabis sales and Federal regulations. Mr. Gilman provided some information on the issue. Mr. Balliet then questioned how monitoring dispensaries would occur and if it would be similar to alcohol and tobacco sales. He then expressed concerns about all the training needed in the Police Department. He concluded by stating he opposes dispensaries.

**Resident
Gurnee, IL**

The resident asked about current regulations related to medical dispensaries.

Attorney Winter provided clarification on the differences between it and recreational.

The resident stated she believes having control and implementing restrictions is what is important.

**Hannah Auten
State Rep. Joyce
Mason
36100 Brookside Dr.
Suite LL 60
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Auten thanked the Village Board for the discussion tonight.

**Liz Nelson
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Nelson supports opting-out and stated distancing children from cannabis as much as possible is a good thing.

Mayor Kovarik discussed how the Village has advertised the survey. She then stated staff will work to increase efforts to inform the public of the topic.

**Audrey Benz
4925 Carriage Drive
Gurnee, IL**

Ms. Benz stated that she supports medical cannabis, but does not support recreational cannabis. She stated cannabis is addictive and has impacted her family directly. She requests that the Village opt-out of recreational sales

**Norm Balliet
5078 Glendale Dr.
Gurnee, IL**

Mr. Balliet asked for clarification on where medical dispensaries can be located and if recreational can automatically locate there.

Staff responded that recreational zoning regulations have not yet been determined.

Ken Roscher
1912 Pine Meadow
Gurnee, IL

Mr. Roscher stated he is against recreational dispensaries. He then referenced the number of licenses that will be issued and the possibilities of Lake County having a dispensary. He stated the Village should opt-out similar to what it did for video gambling. He stated gambling does not affect a community, it affects households. Cannabis affects both. He then asked if the Village has talked to its larger entertainment and shopping attractions.

The Mayor responded she has.

Mr. Roscher then asked where each Trustee stands on this issue currently.

Mayor Kovarik stated it does not fit our image but it will be in the community regardless due to the state law and will result in additional enforcement. She stated she would like to see the medical map modified to include additional buffers.

Trustee O'Brien asked if the legislation included regulations on limiting the size of the dispensary.

Staff responded it was not aware of any size limit included in the Act.

Trustee O'Brien suggested the Village consider regulating the size. He continued to state he was initially against allowing recreational sales in the Village, but has since realized the Governor made the decision about allowing recreational marijuana throughout the State. He continued to say Gurnee attracts many visitors and the Police Department will likely have to deal with an increase in cannabis-related offenses, this results in additional costs. Trustee O'Brien stated the action of surrounding communities might also result in additional costs to Gurnee. He then asked about how long THC remains in the body.

A brief discussion followed.

Trustee O'Brien continued to state that Gurnee's image is very important and does not want to harm that, on the other hand there will be more expenses and, while very preliminary, early survey responses show support for recreational sales in the Village. He concluded by stating the discussion this evening was very informative.

Pete Drobniowski
5905 Hancock Ln
Gurnee, IL

Mr. Drobniowski asked about putting a question on an upcoming ballot. Mayor Kovarik stated questions have been placed on ballots in the past, but local election results are unfortunately very low.

Audrey Benz
4925 Carriage Drive
Gurnee, IL

Ms. Benz stated publicizing the survey and reaching more residents would be beneficial.

George Millhouse
Waukegan, IL

Mr. Millhouse stated he read that nationwide more people support cannabis than oppose.

Trustee Thorstenson stated more resident input is needed. She stated a referendum may be useful if people turned out to vote.

Mayor Kovarik stated the timing of the next election does not coincide with state timeline.

Trustee Thorstenson stated based on what she knows tonight she would opt-out.

Trustee Garner stated the dispensary owners need to step-up and help offset the expenses recreational cannabis sales will create.

Mayor Kovarik reviewed some of the taxation that is included in the Act and warned about singling out an individual business.

Trustee Garner reiterated his point.

Mr. Millhouse read an excerpt related to alcohol verses cannabis impairment as it relates to driving, as well as the statement that it is a

gateway drug.

Geoff Olsen
All Good, LLC
2530 Bluewater Dr
Wauconda, IL

Mr. Olsen stated he would have a vested interest in Gurnee if he located a business here.

Tim Garrity
1535 Yew Ct
Gurnee, IL

Mr. Garrity shared a story about accidental nicotine addiction that impacted his family directly. He concluded by stating revenue does not out-weigh expenses and creates a bad image for Gurnee.

Trustee Hood stated he has learned that he does not know a lot about cannabis and when he does not know about a subject, he does not move forward with it. He stated there is not enough information about the impacts and costs and therefore he is hesitant requesting staff spend more time researching the subject.

Trustee Balmes stated this is a very difficult topic. She stated additional information and community input would be beneficial, but at this point she is leaning towards opting-out.

Mayor Kovarik concluded by stating the Village would work on improving survey participation and modified maps. She stated it could then be placed on a regular Village Board meeting for further discussion.

Trustee Balmes stated including information in the next Keeping Posted newsletter would be useful.

Mayor concluded by thanking everyone for attending and speaking.

Adjournment

It was moved by Trustee Balmes, seconded by Trustee O'Brien to adjourn the meeting.

Voice Vote: ALL AYE: Motion Carried.

Mayor Kovarik adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Andrew Harris,
Village Clerk