

Exhibit A – from Trustee Peggy Keylin

Objections to New Business item Motion to Approve COVID-19 Rules for Dooley Park and Exhibit “A” Park Petition:

The following objections refer to the Motion to Approve COVID-19 Rules for Dooley Park from our June 4, 2020 board meeting and Exhibit “A” Park Petition presented to the board at our July 2, 2020 meeting.

The document that instigated the motion was not available to the board during the June 4th meeting. We were not able to refer to its content before or during our discussion. We were not aware of the specific requests in the document for changes it sought to the safety rules posted in Dooley Park at the start of Stage 3 COVID-19 Recovery. The first time I was able to view the document was on June 9th. Yet the motion was put to a vote at the June 4th meeting.

Though the document is referenced as a petition to Parks, it is addressed to taxpayers and makes no discernable concrete requests concerning the changes it would like made to the safety rules posted in the park at the start of Stage 3 COVID-19 Recovery. The list of 274 people supporting the views expressed in the document contains only 51 names that, since no addresses were given, can be assumed are Downs residents. The remaining 123 names listed came from other towns in Illinois, other states and other countries. The first time I was able to access this list of names was June 30th.

The handling of this motion has created dangerous precedents. The board voted on an issue without being able to consider or even see the documents supporting it. We were asked to vote on approving COVID-19 Rules for Dooley Park that did not exist at the time of the vote. The document that underlay the reason for the motion was presented as a petition yet it did not state any specific changes it wanted made to the safety rules already in place. Support for the document was in the form of signatures, the majority of which were not Downs residents. Every petition I’ve seen or signed in person and on the internet has required not only my name but my address. The board is asked to act in the best interests of Downs residents. In this case we have in effect allowed people from all over Illinois, from several other states and from other countries to influence our decision on a local matter.

I submit these objections to be added to the minutes of the July 2, 2020 Downs Village Board meeting.

Margaret Keylin, Downs Village Trustee