

Downtown Algonquin Association
February 02, 2026 9:11 am
Bella's Woodfire Pizzeria, Algonquin, IL 60102



CALL TO ORDER

The Monday February 02, 2026 meeting of the Downtown Algonquin Association was called to order by Colatorti at 9:11 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Christie Gabriel, Bill Hellyer, Tony Colatorti and Mark Bidinger
Knapp (joined at 9:18am) Absent: Bob Novak
Others in attendance: Jen Chanda, Greg Geigel, Paul Kopetsky

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Geigel shared that he has attended a few meetings of various surrounding towns regarding their downtown support practices, as well as speaking with other small business developers from those towns. He noted that there is a stark difference in how those towns support and facilitate the growth of their downtown sectors, compared to what Algonquin small business owners and Algonquin residents see here.

Geigel also mentioned that the surrounding towns that are seeing such great success in recent years have received support/approval from their local governing board allowing a social district. This is paramount to alleviating the substantial expense required to block off the street for community events. The cost of street closure has been a hurdle for the DAA, killing many of their great event ideas on the spot. Approving a Social District would be a solution to that.

AGENDA

Election for the open board seat has been tabled until the next DAA board meeting in an effort to give more DAA members a chance to apply for the seat first. Currently there are just two interested parties.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report:

In Novak's absence, a statement was furnished by Kopetsky.
Account statement balance and payment of bills December 31st-January 31st
balance beginning at \$22238.69 and ending at 22888.69 with deposits and credits of \$650.00
(new members and membership renewals).
The current balance in the DAA account is \$22,888.69 as of 1/31.

President's Report:

Colatorti mentioned that the DAA could use a commitment from the village that they will work in a more collaborative manner with the DAA on events, which is a typical practice in other towns. For example, in Galena the village foots the bill for any additional security cost and street closure expenses while their local downtown association handles the event planning and supplies the volunteers for the operations. Colatorti believes that without this support from our village, the DAA, and downtown in general, stands little to no chance of growth. Knapp stated this may be a hurdle as the funds for such support would be coming out of the community development budget.

Marketing and Membership Committees

It was mentioned that updates to the event schedule will be added to the website calendar and members are also encouraged to request use of this calendar as well to give notice of their events.

Members are also encouraged to renew their memberships if they have not done so already. Once dues are in good standing, members will be added to the member directory on the DAA website.

A full count of active members is TBD at the moment given that we were in the renewal window. On top of the current DAA event roster, Colatorti suggested that there be one big event to highlight Downtown Algonquin every year, perhaps with a Downtown Faire theme. It was also suggested that the DAA continues to participate and add to the events hosted by other organizations in town.

Other Business:

Village Update: Knapp shared that the village is requesting a change to the bylaws so that their DAA board member representative doesn't have voting rights. This will be added to the agenda for March.

Bidinger asked how we may approach the village for monetary support to continue with our mission and growth. Christie Gabriel filled him in on how this was done last year and all were in agreement to repeat the process this year. A 2025 Annual review will be presented to the Algonquin Village Board at a TBD date.

Marlaina of Throw Pottery will be reaching out to local businesses for crossmarketing opportunities.

Christie Gabriel (Gabriel Group, KW) is also doing a gift card giveaway raffle for several local businesses within the downtown footprint as well as outside it. Locals can enter by scanning the qr code on the flyers at Riverbottom Ice Cream, Whiskey and Wine, and Odeo or via social media posts from Bold, and Chick and the Pig. Scorched Earth will be participating by sharing the code at an upcoming trivia night. Christie can also be contacted directly by anyone wishing to participate in the raffle or just looking for more info. The drawing will be February 28th.

Adjournment

Hellyer motioned to Adjourn the meeting at 9:53 am, Bidinger seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Christie Gabriel
Downtown Algonquin Association Secretary