

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
February 23rd, 2026**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on February 23rd, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Bachner, Gillis, Keskitalo, Vazquez, and Village Clerk Castellano

Absent: Trustees Brennan and O’Connell

Also Present: Village Attorney Lance Malina, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Bochenek, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Deputy Police Chief Michael Swierczynski, Police Commander Martin Grill, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, HR Manager Trish Ivansek, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella, and Assistant to the Director of Public Works Seth Jansen.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Local resident Jack Drury spoke during public comment to request that a little library be placed in front of Village Hall. The Village Board expressed support for the idea and directed staff to research the request and move forward with installation.

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

a. State of the Village – 2026

Village President Cathy Adduci delivered the 2026 State of the Village address, highlighting key accomplishments and priorities for the year ahead.

5. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Keskitalo gave a Land Acknowledgement.

Clerk Castellano noted being happy about the days getting longer.

Trustee Vazquez highlighted the upcoming Madison Street development and Washington Boulevard improvement open house events.

Trustee Gillis highlighted the communication efforts the Village has made to promote these meetings. She also noted the upcoming Lakeshore Recycling e-waste collection event.

Trustee Bachner thanked Village President Adduci for her State of the Village address and also highlighted an additional local event, the River Forest Inclusion and Pride Walk, noting the positive impact the event has on the community.

President Adduci apologized for not including the Pride Walk in her speech and noted the event is a great community celebration.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – February 9th, 2026
- b. Administration Department Report
- c. January 2026 Financial Report
- d. Fire Department 2025 Annual Report
- e. Washington Boulevard Invest in Cook Funding Commitment – Resolution
- f. Proclamation Honoring Laurel and Dennis McMahon as 2026 Heart of Our Villages Award Recipients

President Adduci asked that agenda item F. be pulled for separate consideration.

MOTION by Trustee Gillis to approve consent agenda items A through E.
Seconded by Trustee Bachner

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, Gillis, Bachner, and Keskitalo

Absent: Trustees Brennan and O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- f. Proclamation Honoring Laurel and Dennis McMahon as 2026 Heart of Our Villages Award Recipients

MOTION by Trustee Keskitalo to approve consent agenda item F. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

President Adduci read the proclamation aloud.

The McMahons gave a brief speech, reflecting on the neighborhood and encouraging the Village to continue safeguarding the character of its historic homes.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, Gillis, Bachner, and Keskitalo

Absent: Trustees Brennan and O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

None.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11.EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Vazquez, Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, Gillis, Bachner, and Keskitalo

Absent: Trustees O'Connell and Brennan

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



Rosa Castellano, Village Clerk

Date: 03/9/26