

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
April 28th, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on April 28th 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 7:07 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Johnson, Brennan, Bachner, Vazquez(virtual), O'Connell(virtual), and Village Clerk Keller

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Also Present: Village Attorney Lance Malina, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, Police Chief James O'Shea, Fire Chief Tom Gaertner, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Bochenek, Deputy Police Chief James Greenwood, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Human Resource Manager Trish Ivansek, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Police Commander Michael Swierczynski, Deputy Fire Chief David Bochenek, and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

MOTION by Trustee Bachner to allow Trustees Vazquez and O'Connell to participate via Zoom due to work. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Bachner, Brennan, Johnson, and President Adduci

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- a. Recognition of Retiring Chief of Police James O'Shea
 - i. Proclamation Honoring Police Chief James O'Shea on His Retirement

President Adduci read a proclamation honoring Police Chief Jim O'Shea and thanked him for his dedicated service to the Village of River Forest. She also presented Senate Resolution SR021, an Illinois Senate resolution congratulating Chief O'Shea on his retirement.

Chief O'Shea acknowledged and thanked several Village staff members and the Village Board for their support throughout his career. He also recognized family members and friends in the audience, expressing gratitude for their continued support.

President Adduci thanked Chief O'Shea for his contributions to the Village and acknowledged his role in helping her gain a deeper understanding of the police profession.

Trustee Johnson shared a brief story about Chief O'Shea and thanked him for his service.

Trustee Vazquez highlighted Chief O'Shea's many contributions to the community and expressed appreciation for his dedication.

Trustee O'Connell thanked Chief O'Shea for his service to the Village.

Trustee Bachner recognized Chief O'Shea's impact on the community and commended his openness to diverse perspectives on policing.

Trustee Brennan thanked Chief O'Shea and noted their collaboration on the ABLE training program.

Clerk Keller shared a personal story about Chief O'Shea and thanked him for his service to the Village.

The meeting recessed for cake, coffee, and photos at 7:29pm.

The meeting returned from recess at 7:48pm.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

5. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell expressed his condolences to Trustee Gillis and her family. He also reported attending the Thrive Counseling Spring Fundraiser.

Trustee Johnson had no comments.

Trustee Brennan reminded everyone about the upcoming River Forest Juneteenth Flag Raising event and noted that volunteers are still needed. She also highlighted the One Earth Film Festival.

Village Clerk Keller had no additional comments for the record.

Trustee Vazquez reminded attendees about the upcoming Memorial Day Parade.

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a land acknowledgment and followed by reminding everyone about the Memorial Day Honor Roll.

President Adduci acknowledged the quality of the events attended by the Trustees, reminded everyone to complete the poll regarding the Memorial Day Parade, and highlighted the post-parade events.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – April 14th, 2025
- b. Administration Department Report
- c. Consideration of 2025 & 2026 Compensation Plan for Approval
- d. Consideration of Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget for Approval
- e. Consideration of Employee Handbook for Approval
- f. Award of Contract – 2025 Water Main Improvement Project
Construction – Mauro Sewer Construction, Inc. – \$427,630.50

- g. Authorization to Sell Surplus Property – Public Works 2015 Ford F-350
– Ordinance

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to approve Consent Agenda Items A through G. Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, O’Connell, Bachner, Brennan and Johnson

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None.

8. RECCOMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

- a. Development Review Board
 - i. River Forest Park District – Constitution Park Improvements –
Ordinance

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance granting the Planned Development Permit for general improvements at the River Forest Park District, Constitution Park (7715 Greenfield Street.) Seconded by Bachner.

Park District Executive Director Mike Sletten and Park Board President Mike Grant presented the proposed changes to Constitution Park and answered questions from the Village Board.

Trustee Brennan inquired whether District 90 had initiated the project.

Director Sletten clarified that the Park District had approached District 90 with the proposal.

Trustee Bachner asked how the new fields would function when accommodating both baseball and soccer.

Director Sletten explained that the two fields would not be used simultaneously.

Trustee Brennan asked for clarification on which areas of the proposed new structure would be enclosed.

Director Sletten explained that the enclosed portions would include restrooms and a small utility closet.

Trustee Brennan then inquired about the location of the defibrillator.

Director Sletten responded that it would be placed near the restrooms.

Trustee Bachner asked who would have access to the defibrillator.

Director Sletten confirmed that it would be accessible to the public.

Fire Chief Tom Gaertner explained how defibrillators work.

Trustee Bachner noted that there could be issues with people messing with the defibrillator.

Trustee Brennan asked Chief Gaertner if training should be provided to Park District staff on how to use the defibrillator.

Director Sletten noted that their staff is already trained by the Fire Department.

Trustee Brennan asked Director Sletten to respond to some of the requests made by the Development Review Board.

Village Administrator Walsh clarified that the Development Review Board's comments were simply suggestions for the Park District to consider.

Trustee Brennan asked whether it was within the Development Review Board's authority to make recommendations regarding the building's orientation/design.

Administrator Walsh responded that it was not, but the suggestions were included as considerations.

Director Sletten noted that the Park District does not agree with the Development Review Board's recommendations.

Administrator Walsh added that Village staff supports the Park District's position.

Trustee Bachner requested an explanation of the setback requirements and any applicable allowances.

Administrator Walsh provided an overview of the current setback standards and identified areas of the project that fall within those limits. He also stated that Village staff does not anticipate any negative impacts from the Park District's proposal.

Trustee Bachner then asked how the setback guidelines were originally determined in the Village Code.

Administrator Walsh explained that the zoning codes were designed with the intention of preserving spacious, open front yards to reflect the Village's character and aesthetic.

Trustee Johnson requested a timeline for the project.

Director Sletten responded that they hope to begin work soon.

President Adduci expressed support for the project.

Park Board President Grant provided background on how the proposed park design reflects resident feedback on accessibility.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, O'Connell, Bachner, Brennan and Johnson

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Zoning Board of Appeals

- i. Variation Request – 633 William – Secondary Front Yard Setback – Ordinance

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variation to Section 10-9-7 of the Zoning Code at 633 William Street. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer provided background information on the agenda item.

Trustee Brennan inquired whether the percentage of impervious surface would be increasing.

Assistant Village Administrator Spencer clarified that there would be no increase in the impervious surface area.

Trustee O'Connell requested that the Village ensure there are no issues related to stormwater runoff.

Clerk Keller asked how the project avoids increasing impervious surface.

Assistant Village Administrator Spencer explained that the garage would be built on existing concrete.

Administrator Walsh added that the Village could consult engineering firms for additional review of the stormwater impacts if problems arise in the future.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, O'Connell, Bachner, Brennan and Johnson

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Johnson. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustee Vazquez, O'Connell, Bachner, Brennan and Johnson

Absent: Trustee Gillis

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Jonathan Kellor, Village Clerk

Date: 05/12/25