

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
May 14, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 14, 2018 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 7:09 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Cargie, Conti, Vazquez, Henek, Gibbs, and Corsini,

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White, Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Police Chief James O'Shea, Deputy Police Chief Dan Dhooghe, Finance Director Joan Rock, Public Works Director John Anderson, Management Analyst Jon Pape, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS

None.

4. ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Corsini said she hoped everyone had a nice Mother's Day. She reported that the Finance and Administration committee met to review the pension funding policy updates and the Committee has recommended that the Board adopt the new policies. She said that she and Trustee Conti participated in the Economic Development Commission work group meeting and reported they hope to have information for the Board within the next thirty days. She announced that she will not seek another term for the Oak Park River Forest High School (OPRFHS) Community Council and encouraged other trustees and community members to apply. In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Trustee Corsini described the term and purpose of the Committee. She stated that applications are due June 1st and described the application review process.

Trustee Cargie said his thoughts and prayers go out to Howard Wax and his family. In response to a request from Trustee Cargie, Management Analyst Pape explained the status of the consultant's work in the process of developing the Community Calendar website. Trustee Cargie stated that one of the challenges the Collaboration Committee has is working around the capabilities of each agency's existing calendar. He said the goal is to launch it and allow certain agencies to implement improvements to their own calendars in order to utilize the community calendar. Management Analyst Pape noted that not all the agencies have a calendar but they are making strides.

Trustee Vazquez reported that District 200 Imagine Work Group offered tours of the building and reviewed facility design ideas. He noted that Trustee Henek attended. He said there were a lot of comments and concerns regarding the cost. He explained that the group has not gotten to the point to discuss costs and are presently reviewing ideas in regard to academics, athletics, performing arts, and the facility itself. Trustee Vazquez announced upcoming meetings (May 19 and May 21) and said the designs are being refined. He said they will not be ready to produce cost estimates at these meetings but will be showing the latest designs based on the feedback received. He noted that the design information will be posted online.

Trustee Henek said her thoughts and prayers are with Howard Wax and his family. She announced that she attended the North Avenue TIF meeting. She commended Administrator Palm on fielding questions and described the benefit to residents in attending those meetings. She reported that she attended the crime prevention meeting and commended Chief O'Shea and the rest of his team on their presentations. Trustee Henek said she also attended a resident meeting regarding the proposed assisted living project at Chicago and Harlem and was pleased to hear that the developer was interested in working with the neighboring residents.

Trustee Gibbs wished the moms a Happy Mother's Day.

President Adduci announced that she attended both the Illinois Municipal League (IML) and the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC) events in Springfield. She reported that the biggest issue is the state legislators' efforts to pass a balanced budget. She provided Village Administrator Palm with documents that the IML and the WCMC put together regarding proposed legislation and state mandates. She stated that these mandates and legislation will either cost municipalities more or will reduce municipal revenue. President Adduci discussed the ProtectMyTown.us website and encouraged residents to visit the site. She indicated that these proposals are key to the Village budget and that the potential impact is a loss of basic Fire, Police, and Public Works services. She encouraged all residents and trustees to send a letter through the website. President Adduci reported that she and Village Administrator Palm met with representatives of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). She said the MWRD representatives gave them some ideas that the Sustainability Commission would approve of and informed them of grant funds for green alleys and other projects for which the Village could apply. She discussed the free Oak Tree and their building buyback programs. President Adduci announced that Cook County Commissioner Pete Silvestri helped the Village secure a \$40,000 grant from the County to prepare a bike plan. She asked that everyone thank Commissioner Silvestri for his efforts. Village Administrator Palm explained that this grant will weave into the Comprehensive Plan and will allow the Village to further develop the bike plan. In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm stated these funds are for River Forest and are not tied into the Forest Preserve's bike path.

Trustee Corsini requested that Staff advertise the availability of the Safe Walking Routes to School and Bicycle Master Plan Study Questionnaire online. Village Administrator Palm said it would be announced again on social media.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2018
- b. Executive Session Meeting Minutes – April 23, 2018
- c. Right-of-Way License Encroachment Waiver and License Agreement for an Irrigation

-
- System Located at 1102 Franklin Avenue
- d. Waiver of Formal Bid and Award of Contract to KLOA, Inc. for Traffic Signal Engineering Services for Signal Modifications at Thatcher & Chicago and Thatcher & Lake for a not-to-exceed cost of \$27,000
 - e. Award of Bid and Contract for the 2018 Water Main Improvements to Cerniglia Company for \$274,640
 - f. Waiver for Formal Bid and Award of Contract for the 2018 Water Main Improvement Construction Engineering Services to Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. for a not-to-exceed cost of \$35,066
 - g. Award of Bid and Contract for 2018 Pavement Preservation to Denler, Inc. for \$43,760
 - h. Award of Bid and Contract for 2018 Sewer Lining Project to Kenny Construction for \$171,439
 - i. Intergovernmental Agreement with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) for Partial Funding for the Gale Street Alley Reconstruction
 - j. FY2018 Budget Amendment – Ordinance
 - k. Monthly Department Reports
 - l. Monthly Performance Measurement Report
 - m. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Village Administrator Palm noted that item J needs to be removed from the Consent Agenda due to a potential conflict of interest on the part of Trustee Vazquez.

Trustee Corsini amended her motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to approve the Consent Agenda Items a. through i. and k. through m.

Trustee Cargie congratulated Staff for grants awarded to the Village.

In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Village Administrator Palm stated the Right-of-Way License Encroachment Waivers have to be approved individually. In response to a question from Village Administrator Palm, Village Attorney Smith stated that Staff could approve waivers pursuant to Village Code if the Board would like to delegate that authority and added that most communities put them on their consent agendas. He said that because a waiver is an interest in property it deserves an approval by the Board but he is aware of some communities that delegate it to the chief appointed officer. After a brief discussion Trustee Corsini and Village Administrator Palm stated that they prefer that these items be approved by the Village Board. Village Administrator Palm noted that the waivers are recorded on property.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Henek, Vazquez, Gibbs, and Corsini

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Corsini made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve the Consent Agenda Item j.

Trustee Vazquez stated that he has a common law conflict of interest and recused himself. He asked that the Village Clerk not call his name for a vote.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Henek, Gibbs, and Corsini

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

President Adduci asked that the Board take the next agenda items out of order.

b. Finance & Administration Committee – Update of Public Safety Funding Policies

Trustee Gibbs made a motion, seconded by Trustee Conti, to concur with the recommendation of the Finance and Administration Committee to approve the Actuarial Funding Policy Statements for the Village of River Forest Police and Firefighter Pension Funds.

Trustee Corsini stated that this is the culmination of a six- to seven-month process. She thanked Finance Director Rock for coordinating these efforts. She stated that the Committee was reviewing / renewing its policies after the 2015 policy implementation. She said they met with the Police and Fire pension boards and noted they were mostly on board with the policy with a few exceptions on the Police side. Trustee Corsini stated the Village will be consistent with both funds in regard to funding investment activity. She announced that Todd Schroeder of Lauterbach and Amen is here to answer any questions.

In response to a question from President Adduci, Trustee Corsini explained the process of reviewing the pension fund policy that was followed to date. She said that last year some of the assumptions had changed that made the funding gap larger than what was anticipated, so they decided to review it now. She recommended that this be examined every three to five years.

President Adduci and Trustee Corsini thanked Finance Director Rock and Mr. Schroeder for their diligent work on these policies.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Henek, Vazquez, Gibbs, and Corsini

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

a. Sustainability Commission – Update on Recycling Extravaganza and 2018 Green Block Parties

Katie Brennan, Chair of the Sustainability Commission, presented slides documenting the events that were held on Earth Day including the Recycling Extravaganza and the Des Plaines River Clean-up. She noted that Julie Moller put the presentation together and was responsible for a

major part of organizing the event. Chair Brennan stated that the Citizens Corp and Police Department participated in the Recycling Extravaganza and noted that there were 365 loads dropped off totaling 2.5 pounds of recycled goods for every River Forest resident. She announced that Strom collected 27,460 pounds of electronic waste. She noted that Strom did not charge extra for tube televisions, George Strom worked the entire event, and at 10:30 a.m. they had reached capacity but Strom brought additional containers. Chair Brennan described other types of items that were collected and discussed the partnerships formed for specific reusable items and other special items. She recognized the various volunteer groups and charitable groups that were on site during the events. She also thanked the Village for funding the acceptance of electronic waste.

Trustee Corsini thanked the Commission for their efforts and said she was sorry she missed it.

President Adduci stated that many of the participants thanked the Village for hosting the event. She commended the Commission and thanked them for their efforts.

Trustee Cargie thanked the Commission for their efforts. He asked about the possibility of recycling items such as a refrigerator or washer. Chair Brennan stated that usually when you purchase a new appliance the vendor will pick up the old one. Trustee Cargie explained that there used to be a bulk pick-up day when residents could dispose of large items and said some residents were asking about it. Trustee Corsini noted there are some large items that would be difficult to cart to another location. Trustee Gibbs discussed the changing market for certain recycled materials.

Trustee Conti said many people cannot wait all year to get rid of some of these items. She asked if the Commission could post a list of where certain items such as lightbulbs, batteries, corks, etc. can be recycled. Village Administrator Palm noted the Burr Ridge recycling location is available to residents and the Village accepts batteries and medications. In response to a question from Trustee Conti, Chair Brennan stated there will be finished compost pickup days twice per year.

Chair Brennan discussed the 11-question survey that is available online.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Assistant Village Administrator Scheiner stated that the Village has issued less than a half dozen beekeeping permits.

At the urging of a few trustees, Chair Brennan stated there will be a community garden near Trinity where residents and non-residents can rent plots. She noted that eight of the twenty-five plots have been rented. In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Chair Brennan stated that plots that have not been rented by residents will be available to non-residents. Sue Crothers-Gee, Sustainability Commissioner, stated she is not certain that the plots will be available to non-residents. She noted that the garden has been a great collaborative effort among the Village, Public Works, River Forest Park District, and the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Crothers-Gee announced that the Commission is partnering with the Deep Roots Project, a non-profit group whose mission is to convert conventional lawn into bountiful, edible, and native gardens and create toxic-free lawns and landscapes. She stated that the Project was a recent contestant in the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation Big Idea \$50,000 grant competition. She said while they did not win the grant, the judges were so impressed with them that they offered them a \$10,000 grant which has grown to \$16,000. She described the

partnership with the Project and reported they are committed to creating six “inspirational, edible gardens” in River Forest. Commissioner Crothers-Gee stated one of those gardens will be located at Dominican University and the Commission is in discussions with Grace Lutheran and First Presbyterian. She noted that not only will the Deep Roots Project build the garden but it will also maintain the garden and educate residents regarding upkeep for two years in order to ensure the garden’s success. She announced that three gardens will be available to residents and it will be through the Green Block Party application that residents will be able to apply. She stated that in addition to the edible gardens part of the grant will be used for pollinator gardens which they are calling “Parkways for Pollinators”. Commissioner Crothers-Gee said these gardens will consist of native plants that attract pollinators such as butterflies and humming birds and the plants will assist with water run-off and control soil erosion. She said when a resident fills out a Block Party application and chooses to have a Green Block Party, the Deep Roots Project will contact the organizer to arrange a free pollinator garden and will meet with the organizer to choose the spot and provide education. She explained that the planting of the garden will be a Green Block Party activity with family participation. She noted that initially the garden will require watering but once established it will require less watering than grass or other types of gardens.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Administrator Palm said there were no restrictions regarding plantings in the parkway as long as there are no line-of-sight issues. Commissioner Crothers-Gee explained that low growing plants were selected to avoid blockage of sight lines and that no corner locations will be used. She also explained that this is on public property therefore if the Village needs to perform maintenance the garden could be removed and replaced with sod.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Commissioner Crothers-Gee stated there could be one garden per block party. She noted the average number of block parties per year has been thirty-three but she doesn’t expect all block parties to plant a garden.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Commissioner Crothers-Gee stated Grace Lutheran backs up to Concordia University so they do not plan to locate a garden on Concordia property. She noted that Grace Lutheran is bringing Concordia into the conversation and they chose Grace Lutheran so children could be involved with it.

Commissioner Crothers-Gee emphasized that 25% of the produce from the edible gardens must be donated to the food insecure.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. An Ordinance calling for a public hearing and a joint review board meeting to consider the designation of a redevelopment project area and the approval of a redevelopment plan and project for the Village of River Forest (North Avenue Tax Increment Financing District) – Ordinance

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Gibbs, to pass an ordinance calling for a public hearing and a joint review board meeting to consider the designation of a redevelopment

project area and the approval of a redevelopment plan and project for the Village of River Forest (North Avenue Tax Increment Financing District).

Trustee Vazquez stated that he is recusing himself from the vote for reasons stated earlier and asked the Clerk not to call him for a vote.

Village Administrator Palm stated that by ordinance the Village is required to set the date of both the public hearing (set for July 9th) and Joint Review Board (set for May 31st). He noted that notification has been sent out.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Henek, Gibbs, and Corsini

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Authorization of Two Police Officer Pre-Hires

Trustee Gibbs made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to authorize the hiring of two police officers.

President Adduci stated that Village Administrator Palm did a good job explaining why the Village needs to hire another two police officers.

Village Administrator Palm noted that there was a retirement and a natural separation this year within the Police Department and the Police Department has gone through the two pre-hires already. He stated that one is back and in field-training and one is back from the academy. He said there is an anticipation of future retirements and other employees that would become eligible for retirement in the near future have been identified. Village Administrator Palm explained the value of pre-hiring given the long lead time until officers are on-boarded and trained and said having trained officers counter-balances the overtime. He noted that the Board is not authorizing an increase of employees.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm affirmed that the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners has already created an eligibility list and the Village would hire off the list prior to an opening. In response to a follow-up question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm stated that there is an employee that is retiring within the next twelve months but a date has not been set. In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm clarified that an officer is not considered part of the authorized strength until they're operating on the street by themselves.

In response to a question from Trustee Corsini, Village Administrator Palm stated that the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners (BFPC) recently held a test for firefighters and eleven passed the test and the police list is into its final year. Police Chief O'Shea stated that the BFPC is half way through the year and one of the issues the Police Department faces is it loses people at the top of the list to other agencies.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Village Administrator Palm stated that if a new officer completes training prior to another officer retiring there is an extra officer and noted that

there are workers' compensation injuries and officers going on family medical leave. He added that there is the assumption that the officer will complete the academy and training steps and pointed out there is a high attrition rate with police recruits.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Henek, Vazquez, Gibbs, and Corsini

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:20 p.m. Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Corsini, to go into Executive Session to discuss purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Village, including whether a particular parcel should be acquired, for litigation involving the Village that is pending, and to discuss the performance and compensation of a Village employee.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Henek, Conti, Cargie, Gibbs, Vazquez, and Corsini

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board returned to regular session at 8:55 p.m. with the following members present:

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Cargie, Conti, Henek, Vazquez, Corsini, and Gibbs

Absent: None

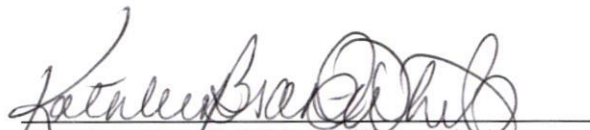
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There was a brief discussion regarding the upcoming Village Board Meeting schedule and an anticipated agenda item for the May 29, 2018 meeting. There was also a reminder regarding the Memorial Day parade.

Trustee Cargie made a motion seconded by Trustee Corsini, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:57 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote.


Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk