

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
June 24, 2019**

A Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 24, 2019 at 5:00 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 5:02 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell and Vazquez

Absent: Village Clerk Brand-White

Also Present: Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Deputy Clerk Sara Phyfer, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. ZONING TRAINING

Village Attorney Greg Smith of Klein, Thorpe, & Jenkins, Ltd. presented a zoning training session regarding zoning roles, procedures, principles, hardships, voting and related issues.

4. DEER AND WILDLIFE PRESENTATION

Tim Preuss of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) presented on deer and other wildlife. The audience posed questions after the presentation.

In response to a question from President Adduci, Mr. Preuss stated that in an urban setting, the most effective population control permit through IDNR is a sharpshooter program. He stated these programs run from December to the end of March and require that the meat is donated to food pantries. He affirmed that locations are selected based on their safety for the discharge of firearms.

Administrator Palm emphasized that one challenge of implementing a deer maintenance program in the Village is that there is no municipal property on which to conduct the program (such as a municipal golf course). He noted that this would require a partnership with the Cook County Forest Preserve to use their property, and that they have identified the area between Chicago and North Avenues as having the biggest impact. He reported that the Village and County would need to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement and that the Village would contribute financially. Preliminary estimates, he stated, are approximately \$1,000 per deer for professionals who would exercise safety in an urban area. Finally, he stated that this would be a multi-year program to sustain population control.

In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Preuss discussed various non-lethal deer control options but emphasized that they are not promoted by the IDNR. He explained that

translocating deer is extremely costly and not currently allowed due to concerns about spreading chronic wasting disease. He identified fertility control as another option but stated that is equally costly, presents logistical challenges, and would have to be done under a research permit as the DNR does not permit this type of program.

In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Preuss stated that deer move based upon changes in their habitats, such as flooding. He acknowledged that deer may migrate if the forest preserve floods, but that it serves as a way to control flooding in residential areas. He stated this would be a conversation to have with the County.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Mr. Preuss stated that the entity implementing the program selects which pantries to make the meat donation to, and that chronic wasting disease has not been identified in deer in Cook County.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell, Mr. Preuss estimated that approximately 400 deer have been euthanized in Cook County.

In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Preuss stated that if a resident suspects a deer has chronic wasting disease, they should contact him. He noted that law enforcement has the authority to euthanize the deer or they could contact the IDNR to have conservation officers dispatched.

In response to a question from the audience about data collection, Mr. Preuss maintained that it is up to the municipality to determine if they have a deer problem, then to submit the application and the IDNR will determine if removal is warranted. Assistant to the Village Administrator Pape stated the County will submit the application with the Village's support, along with resident complaints and the County's data that they are currently collecting.

In response to a question from the audience, Mr. Preuss stated it would be difficult to determine if hunting elsewhere would have any effect on the Village's deer population. Administrator Palm maintained it would be solving a different municipality's problem.

A member of the audience expressed his concerns about bacteria and parasites spreading illnesses to humans.

In polling the audience, President Adduci stated a majority of those present were in favor of pursuing a deer population control program.

In response to a question from the audience, Administrator Palm stated there was no knowledge of the Village previously implementing a program, but stated the Forest Preserve may have done something in the past.

In response to a question from the audience about fawns being ready to be motherless, Mr. Preuss answered affirmatively.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Mr. Preuss stated it is unlikely to see an influx of outside deer migrating to the area set to be culled.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk