

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:03 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 7:03 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Gillis, O'Connell Vazquez, Johnson, Brennan, Bachner, Village Clerk Keller

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O'Shea, Deputy Police Chief James Greenwood, Police Commander Michael Swierczynski, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Village Attorney Lance Malina, HR Manager Trish Ivansek, Public Works Director Jeff Loster, Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

President Adduci invited Lewis Rieck up to the podium to give public comment regarding the Lake and Lathrop Property.

Mr. Rieck asked for any updates on the Lake and Lathrop development project.

President Adduci invited Denise Mehos up to the podium to give public comment regarding the Lake and Lathrop Property.

Ms. Mehos reported that the Lake and Lathrop development has been disruptive to traffic around the site. She also reported that it is difficult to walk around the site.

President Adduci invited Sheila Radford Hill up to the podium to give public comment regarding the Juneteenth holiday.

Ms. Radford Hill gave background on the Juneteenth Holiday.

Ms. Radford Hill gave thanks to the Village Board and Village staff for their help in putting on the Juneteenth event at the library.

#### **4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a land acknowledgement. Trustee Bachner noted attending the Juneteenth event at the River Forest Library. She gave thanks to the various parties involved in the event and noted the positive impact the event had on her.

Trustee Bachner reminded everyone that June is Pride month and she reported attending and enjoying the following pride events: The Oak Park River Forest Chamber of Commerce Pride event, Forest Park Library Pride, and the Forest Park Pride Celebration.

Trustee Gillis reported attending the Greentown Conference and noted the great job Village Staff and President Adduci did at the event. She gave thanks to Triton College for letting the event be hosted in their space.

Trustee Vazquez reminded everyone that the next Board meeting will not be until July 10<sup>th</sup>, thus he wished everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Trustee Brennan gave thanks for the parties involved in the Pride Flag Raising at Village Hall. She also gave thanks for the parties involved in creating the Juneteenth event. Trustee Brennan also commented on her work with the Traveling Juneteenth Museum.

Trustee Brennan asked Village Administrator Walsh if staff had invited the Lake and Lathrop developers to attend a board meeting.

Village Administrator Walsh reported that yes, staff has invited them.

Trustee Brennan emphasized the importance of specifically inviting them to the board meeting.

Trustee Johnson reported attending both the Juneteenth Flag Raising event and the Pride Flag Raising event.

Trustee O'Connell apologized for missing the last meeting. He gave thanks to the organizers of the Memorial Day Parade and gave a shoutout to Village Administrator Walsh on the progress being made at the Madison Street demolition site. Finally, he reminded residents to head into Village Hall for their vehicle sticker renewal.

Trustee Bachner thanked everyone who was involved with the River Forest Pride Flag Raising event.

President Adduci noted being honored and privileged for being involved with the Juneteenth event. She gave thanks to Village Board members who were involved in the event. She also gave thanks to Ms. Radford Hill for her involvement in the event.

President Adduci also reported attending the Greentown event.

President Adduci noted accepting an award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors to the C4 group on behalf of River Forest. She also reported attending a Leadership Lab event.

Finally, President Adduci gave thanks to Village staff for their work on the Memorial Day Parade and the Madison Street demolition.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - May 22nd, 2023
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Minutes - May 22nd, 2023
- c. Financial Report - May 2023
- d. Accounts Payable - May 2023 - \$2,487,070.06
- e. Administration Department Report
- f. Monthly Department Reports
- g. Water Main Design Contract - Gewalt Hamilton Associates - \$24,436.00
- h. Intergovernmental Agreement – IDOT (North Ave Improvements)
- i. Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operating and Capital Budget Amendment - Ordinance
- j. Approval of a Contract Amendment with Verra Mobility

**MOTION** by Trustee Johnson to approve items a through j. Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

Roll call:

Ayes: Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, O'Connell

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

- a. Zoning Board of Appeals - Approval of Zoning Variation Request for 7616 Vine Street – Side Yard Setback and Floor Area Ratio – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variations to Sections 10-8-7, 10-9-5 and 10-9-7 of the Zoning Code at 7616 Vine Street. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell

President Adduci invited the architect for the project, Mark Zinni, up to the podium to answer any questions.

Trustee Gillis asked if there will be any water mitigation methods utilized due to the increase of the footprint of the property.

Mr. Zinni responded that the footprint of the home is not being changed and does not currently exceed the footprint limit for the property.

Roll call:

Ayes: Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, O'Connell

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- b. Zoning Board of Appeals - Approval of Zoning Variation Request for 7960 Chicago Avenue – Lot Coverage, Height of an Accessory Building, and Rear Yard Setback for an Accessory Building – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee Johnson to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variations to Sections 10-9-7, 10-9-5 and 10-9-6 of the Zoning Code at 7960 Chicago Avenue. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

President Adduci invited the owner of 7960 Chicago Avenue up to the podium, Frank Lesniak, to answer any potential questions from the Board.

Trustee Brennan asked Mr. Lesniak if he had spoken to any of his neighbors surrounding the property.

Mr. Lesniak reported that he has and has taken their input in his designs, such as the back brick wall of the garage. Mr. Lesniak noted the downspouts will drain to the front of the property through new storm sewer infrastructure being installed.

Trustee Brennan noted that the Zoning Board of Appeals voted on all three variations with one vote and asked Village Administrator Walsh about any additional information he had surrounding the vote.

Village Administrator Walsh noted that some of the Zoning Board members thought the rear garage was too close to the rear property.

Trustee Bachner noted being concerned about rear setback as well. She asked Fire

Chief Tom Gaertner his thoughts on the small rear yard setback between two structures.

Fire Chief Gaertner stated that he had no worries surrounding the two structures and fire risk.

Trustee Brennan noted that she is supportive of two of three aspects the ZBA voted on but the rear setback she would vote no on.

Village Attorney Malina commented that since the motion is related to all three variances, Trustee Brennan can only cast a single vote.

President Adduci asked if the northern neighbors made a public comment or were present at the Zoning Board meeting.

Village Administrator Walsh reported that they did not attend or make public comments.

Roll call:

Ayes: Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Gillis, O'Connell

Absent: None

Nays: Brennan

Motion Passes.

- c. Zoning Board of Appeals - Approval of Zoning Variation Request 559 Ashland – Side Yard Setback and Roof Height for an Accessory Building – Ordinance

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variation to Section 10-9-6 and 10-9-7 of the Zoning Ordinance at 559 Ashland. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

Ayes: Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, O'Connell

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- d. Sustainability Commission - Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 58 and Polystyrene Foodware Legislation

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve a Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 58 and Further Legislation reducing or eliminating the use of Polystyrene Foam Foodware. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

President Adduci gave background on the Illinois Senate Bill and other similar bills.

Village Administrator Walsh noted that the Sustainability Commission has commented on being interested in a similar plastic foodware ban for River Forest.

The Village Board discussed the differences between Senate Bill 58 and other similar bills in the state legislature.

Trustee Brennan asked to alter the fourth whereas clause of the resolution to add the verbiage, "health."

Trustee Brennan asked Village Attorney Malina if there is anything prohibiting River Forest from banning Polystyrene like what Oak Park has passed.

Mr. Malina noted that it may be difficult to pass due to River Forest not being home-rule but there are avenues the Board could take.

Trustee Gillis added that the Sustainability Commission is already researching the possibility. She also noted that the Village should consider more enforcement of existing and future bans.

Trustee Bachner asked about the difference between banning polystyrene and other ordinances the Village has previously passed.

Village Attorney Malina explained that the Village would reference the same statute used in the single use plastic ordinance.

The Village Board agreed to pass a second resolution relating to the Illinois House Bill.

Trustee O'Connell amended his motion to add the verbiage requested by Trustee Brennan. Trustee Bachner seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Ayes: Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, O'Connell

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

e. Board, Commissions and Committee Appointments

**MOTION** by Trustee Gillis to consent to the Village President's Board and Commission Appointments for items #7e.1---7e.9 effective May 1, 2021. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Trustee O'Connell noted that the date in the motion is wrong, and Trustee Gillis re-

read the new motion with the date of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The altered motion was seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Trustee Brennan asked if for future appointments the number of years served prior can be shown with the members.

President Adduci stated she would consider that change in the future.

Roll call:

Ayes: Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, O'Connell

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Keystone Park Stormwater Variation Request**

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell to approve a variation to section 4-13-1 of the Village Code at Keystone Park. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Public Works Director Loster and the engineer for the project, Todd Abrams, gave background information on the project and the need for the variation.

Mr. Abrams noted that the structure the Park District is seeking a variance for has already been installed and claimed that it will make the detention area safer.

Trustee Gillis asked for an explanation between the differences between the device the Village requires and the device the Park District installed.

Director Loster provided clarification between the two devices.

Trustee Vazquez asked if we should consider changing the stormwater code.

Director Loster stated he was comfortable with the code as is.

Trustee O'Connell asked for clarification on the storm water capacity of the structure and the area during a larger storm.

Director Loster stated the stormwater would flow into a Lake Street catch basin.

Trustee Bachner asked Director Loster if the Park District requested device would alter any storm water related issues with the synthetic softball field close by.

Mr. Abrams stated that stormwater on the synthetic ball field has already been addressed in the project.

Mr. Abrams reported that the device the Park District installed will be more user-friendly for residents as it will not have mounds sticking above ground.

Trustee Brennan suggested the Board consider an agreement with the Park District that makes sure the Park District maintains the retention area properly.

Director Loster reported that the Park District device should operate no differently than the one required by the Village Code.

President Adduci asked for additional explanation from Director Loster.

Director Loster noted that Mr. Abrams does have some valid points surrounding the mounds but that he is most worried about the possibility of a lack of maintenance of the structure causing issues.

President Adduci asked Park District President Mike Grant if he could offer any assurances that the Park District would maintain the site so there are no maintenance issues.

Mr. Grant assured the Village Board the Park District would handle any maintenance issues.

Village Attorney Malina stated that since the Park District is public property, the Village could inspect the site anytime there are potential issues.

President Adduci asked for the motion to be amended to add a section surrounding maintenance of the property.

Village Attorney Malina reread an amended version of the motion.

Trustee O'Connell voiced concern on how the device was installed without Village approval.

Village Administrator Walsh stated that staff will investigate how it happened.

Trustee Bachner echoed the same concerns as Trustee O'Connell.

Director Loster gave background on how the device was implemented without approval.

President Adduci asked if developers receive a checklist of sort from the Village for construction projects.

Director Loster stated that projects are based on the final set of approved plans.

**MOTION** by Trustee O'Connell approve a variation to section 4-13-1 of the Village Code at Keystone Park for the restrictor structure at issue and conditioned on the Park District providing regular inspection and maintenance of the structure to ensure it is functioning at its required capacity. Seconded by Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

Ayes: Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, O'Connell

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes

## 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**MOTION** by Trustee Vazquez to enter into Executive Session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) & 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss: pending litigation and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village, and the Village Board will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session. Seconded by Trustee O'Connell.

Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Bachner, Brennan, O'Connell.

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes at 8:40 pm.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** to adjourn was taken by voice vote.

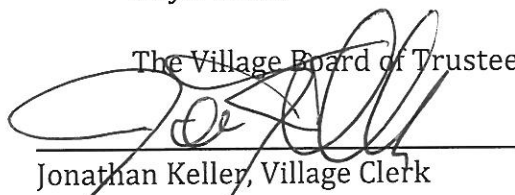
Roll call:

Ayes: Gillis, Vazquez, Johnson, Brennan, Bachner, O'Connell.

Absent: None

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.



Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk