

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, June 28, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 28, 2021 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 7:04p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Acting Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Police Chief James O’Shea, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Fire Chief Kurt Bohlmann, Public Works Director John Anderson, Village Engineer Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joseph O’Connor, 351 Thatcher. Mr. O’Connor stated he was in support of the Traffic and Safety Commission study regarding a crosswalk on Hawthorne and pedestrian curb ramp. He stated the Commission approved a crosswalk at Gale and Hawthorne, and also approved a south facing pedestrian ramp on the northeast corner of Thatcher and Hawthorne. He expressed his support for both of those changes.

Johann Buis, 8141 Lake St. Mr. Buis stated he has lived in the Village for 23 years. He noted he was member of a stormwater/flood committee, and that he just stepped down as a Traffic and Safety Commissioner. He stated he is here to talk about the Stormwater Master Plan. He stated he was on the task force from 2008-2011, and he spoke about the historical flood event during his term as commissioner. He stated that today we have increased climate change, unpredictable weather patterns, and tornadoes from last week. He mentioned that the Village engineers and Village administrator have no institutional living memory of these events and are uninformed by these types of catastrophic events. He stated River Forest being prone to flooding is in the strategic plan, but that he does not accept that. He proposed that the Village think substantively for the next 50-year solution. He urged the Board to consider making extraordinary efforts, and to think about near permanent abatement and not solutions that fit 10-year solutions. He proposed that the Village not allow for any clearance or mitigation in the river beds and to instead ask for exceptions of temporary or

permanent berms. He recalled that on the 300 block of Chicago Ave, a homeowner implemented all three of the Village's abatement solutions, spent \$25,000 and still has flooding. He urged the Board to think about creative solutions so that overland flooding might not be the kind of thing that will dam up. He stated that the Village is also at behest of a single, dual system stormwater drainage system. Mr. Buis stated that when he was on the flood committee, they discussed phased implementation looking at the stormwater system, and separating storm and sanitary systems. He stated only a small section of the Village has separate systems, and he urged the committee to re-evaluate that. He stated he would like to note that the Village has subterranean water flows under Village and wanted to note that there are streams under the Village. He strongly urged the Board to take a 50-year view of not just solutions for the time being but comprehensive, long-term abatement solutions that will be permanent.

Trustee Brennan asked if Mr. Buis has shared his historical perspective and opinions with the contractor.

Mr. Buis remarked that Christopher Burke is the one and only contractor from 2008, and that, no he had not shared his perspective with them. He stated that he assumed that because they were original engineers, whatever the Board thinks he said of value could be shared with them. He encouraged for the plan to call for proposals to be more intentional, aggressive and versatile. He stated it is clear that when a single firm has a monopoly on engineering, there are no fresh ideas coming forward and there is the possibility of the Village falling into a trap.

President Adduci asked Mr. Buis to share his information with the contractor.

Ms. Scheiner mentioned that there were two resident meetings and encouraged Mr. Buis to share his information with the Village Engineer and to complete the SMP questionnaire.

Katharine Christmas, 601 Bonnie Brae. Ms. Christmas stated she was a citizen member of the Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee and is speaking to remind the Board that resolution 20-03 requires the Village to have at least one resident forum to educate residents of a deer management program. She stated that although COVID restrictions may have prohibited meeting in the past, there is no reason now not to fulfill that obligation. She proposed that the two groups present their reports to a Committee of the Whole meeting in August before a vote takes place. She stated the Board included a public forum requirement in the original resolution to make sure the residents are fully educated on this topic. She stated nothing has changed to make this goal less relevant.

President Adduci concurred, and she stated they would make it a priority to hold a community education forum. She stated it is a good idea to have a Committee of the Whole meeting. She asked Ms. Christmas about holding that meeting at the end of the summer.

Ms. Christmas remarked that since it is already late June, and that the presenters would need time to prepare, that some date in August made sense.

President Adduci commented that they will make this a priority.

Phyllis Rubin, 411 Ashland. Ms. Rubin discussed Lake and Lathrop and the updates on website that the seventh unit sold. She also mentioned that there was a Sunday pamphlet in the newspaper for Lake & Lathrop. She stated she had a previous question that was not answered - is radon one of the gases expected to come out of the ground on that site? She asked what are the remaining building permit review comments and when those will be addressed. She asked about the MWRD permit and that it is anticipated to be issued in the near future, and stated that she hoped that in the report tonight that they will inform the public on their progress. She remarked that nothing is being done and that the building start has been delayed, and that the Board should know what is going on. She commented about someone coming onto the Zoning Board of Appeals who has ties to West Cook News, which she felt is not a reliable news source. So, she stated, if this person comes on the Commission, there is not a proper vetting of people.

Margie Cekander, 531 River Oaks Dr. Ms. Cekander discussed the appointment process and noted the February 22nd meeting. She stated that several Board members and President Adduci expressed support for the plans presented by resident John Grant. She stated sharing applications of those nominated was a good first step. However, she noted that the role of the Board is to advise and consent on potential appointments and asked if all applicants were reviewed by the Board, and whether they advised the President on those appointments. She also noted that 60% of the appointments are for four years. Ms. Cekander noted one nominee donated \$1,000 to President Adduci and is now an appointee to two boards in the Village, and asked if that information was shared with the Board. She noted that other qualified candidates to the ZBA were not included in the group of appointees and asked if the Board knew that. She remarked that if the Board did not review all the appointees and advise the President, then they are not doing their duty to the residents. Regarding Lake and Lathrop, she asked what is the status of the MWRD permit, the IEPA approval and the NFR letter, and Village permit. She stated that was unclear within the report from Acting Administrator Scheiner from June 24th about the resubmittal of those permits. She asked about the current status and timetable of the project as the Sheridan took three years from permit to occupancy and Lake & Lathrop was originally approved in 2016 and completion looks more like 2024. Regarding the \$26,000 legal bill on Unfair Labor Practice, she asked what was the outcome of the hearing and was it related to the individual who filed suit last year, and what else can be shared. Regarding the Village Administrator search, she stated the Village needs to conduct a Village Administrator search with residents. Regarding the SMP meetings, Ms. Cekander stated Jeff Loster answered questions, but there were no presentations and the contractor did not take notes. She stated she agreed with Johann Buis' comments.

Jan Saeger, 435 William. Ms. Saeger stated the President is presenting her appointments and the Board of Trustees is tasked with voting. She stated the President's appointees have impressive credentials and are from all areas of the Village. She stated the Village government relies on active residents who graciously and tirelessly volunteer their time and effort to sustain the quality of our community. Ms. Saeger stated the Village's boards are most functional with full memberships, and that without appointments, especially those that are vacant, there can be additional cost of money and time to residents and business owners.

She stated that everyone should all understand the need to appoint and reappoint as soon as possible, noting that the list is long, but how does that compare to previous years. She stated the process is by ordinance and should not be tabled now or in the future, as hitting the pause button is counter-productive and will result in a broken system. Regarding consideration of appointments, Ms. Saeger thanked Acting Administrator Scheiner for her work on the June meeting about the appointment process. She commented that the need to appoint and reappoint volunteers to the commissions is up to the Village President and the Board of Trustees, and the goal is to ensure the process is transparent, well documented and available for all residents. She stated that suggestions made at the June 2 meeting were examples of the need for clearer communication, but not of a broken appointment process. She stated she appreciated that all community members are encouraged to research topics and then share those findings during Public Comment.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell wished everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July weekend, and asked everyone to use their best judgment.

Trustee Johnson wished everyone a happy holiday. He stated he is enamored by all the community engagement, and that he wants residents to understand the Board is listening, and they will take comments and thoroughly discuss them and ensure an adequate result.

Trustee Brennan reported that a River Forest student, Marin Chalmers, won a One Earth Film Festival award for her short film "Sundiaca." She stated she is a student at Roosevelt Middle School and that this student is a member of Cory Kadlec's science class. Trustee Brennan asked if the student and the teacher can be invited to a Board meeting to watch the film. She noted the article in the Wednesday Journal of the potential sale of part of the Dominican Priory Campus and asked if it was appropriate or possible for the EDC to assess this property and advise the Village Board on the impact of this land use.

President Adduci commented that the Comprehensive Plan guides the Village and asked if the Board is prepared to re-zone the property to commercial or residential. She noted that currently the property is zoned Public-Recreational-Institutional. President Adduci noted that the Comprehensive Plan is very detailed and zoning for that property was very carefully looked at. She agreed that putting that issue on the agenda was prudent, but remarked that they will follow the Comprehensive Plan.

Trustee Brennan stated she would like to hear the Village's options and what the impact would be on those decisions.

President Adduci remarked that that is what the Comprehensive Plan does, and that every consideration was discussed in detail. She also noted the discussions included that if it was public it could be greenspace and if private, it would be taxable.

Trustee O'Connell noted that many ideas can be brought forth, but asked if they want to abide by Comprehensive Plan or do they want to do something else there. He asked what the Board wants EDC to do.

President Adduci stated that was a major decision and vote for the Board.

Trustee Vazquez wished everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July. He stated he had three items related to Age Friendly issues. He reported he attended the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Age Friendly Communities Collaborative meeting on June 3. In reviewing the meeting, he stated the Village is farther beyond the AFCC's initial initiatives. He stated the AFCC heard from the City of Woodstock and their Age Friendly Action Plan and thought some of their ideas were very interesting. He stated the Village's Age Friendly Committee met this past month and reported that the Committee is getting close and finalizing survey questions. He stated he hoped to reach a conclusion at the next meeting. He also briefly noted the Neighborhood Age Friendly Collaborative and reported about their commitments.

Trustee Gillis wished everyone a happy Fourth of July and cautioned everyone to be safe and be healthy. She reported that she represented the Village and joined the Oak Park mayor and Senator Don Harmon at the OPRF Infant Welfare Society construction kickoff event for their move from Lake Street to Madison. She stated they purchased the building with donations and have the budget to remodel the space, with the hope to move in within a year. She stated she attended the West Central Municipal Conference training for newly elected officials and found it informative and insightful. She stated it is great to see the collaboration that municipalities have together.

Trustee Bachner started with a Land Acknowledgment statement that this land was once and still inhabited by indigenous people and stated that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She noted she celebrated Juneteenth and that it was great to be able to see everyone in person. She wished everyone a happy Juneteenth and Fourth of July. She reported that the DEI Advisory Group has met twice and has approved guidelines for discussions for dialogue, and that a working group is set on finalizing the definitions for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She noted that the group was provided with additional key terms that are used in DEI spaces. She reported that the Group has been focused on one part education in DEI, one part the Village itself, and one part getting to the work at hand. She stated it is a marathon, not a sprint. She stated it is great to have people share and hear from people in the community. Regarding Priory Campus, Trustee Bachner stated the Village felt there is a huge opportunity and should consider the tax rolls for the community. She stated that this could be something for multi-use, and that for the right kind of project, she would be willing to amend the Comprehensive Plan.

President Adduci wished everyone a happy Fourth of July. She updated the Board on the Village Administrator recruitment, and stated she has asked West Central Municipal Conference to give the Board resumes and contacts of individuals in the surrounding area. She stated her hope is to create a trustee workgroup/advisory group to help them pick the right administrator. She reiterated that that process is starting, and stated that Village trustees and the clerk will be involved in that process. She emphasized it is an important process and the Board acknowledges that.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes – May 24, 2021
- b. Executive Session Meeting Minutes – May 24, 2021
- c. National Railway Safety Week – Proclamation
- d. Approval of Resolution Rejecting All Bids Received for the Village of River Forest’s 2021 Green Alley Improvement Project and Authorizing the Rebidding of the Project - Resolution
- e. Award of Contract to V3 Companies for Design Alley Design for a Cost Not to Exceed \$145,665.00
- f. Approval of Payment to Clark Baird Smith LLP for Legal Services in the amount of \$26,787.50
- g. Award of Bid and Contract to Crowne Industries, Ltd. for the Fuel System Improvement Project in the amount of \$141,000
- h. Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System Located at 706 Franklin
- i. Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System Located at 605 Park
- j. Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for a Fence Located at 500 William
- k. Monthly Department Reports
- l. May Financial Report
- m. Accounts Payable – May 2021 – \$1,663,289.63
- n. Performance Measurement Report
- o. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-E and G-O.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve the Consent Agenda item F.

Trustee O’Connell asked if this was related to litigation regarding personnel.

Ms. Scheiner stated yes.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

- f. Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald’s-Karavites for \$31.89 (*Trustee O’Connell Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to approve payment from the General Fund to McDonald’s-Karavites for \$31.89.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Gillis, Johnson, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee O’Connell

Motion Passes.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Development Review Board – Trinity High School Planned Development – Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to approve an ordinance granting an amendment to a Planned Development Permit for Trinity High School, located at 7574 Division Street.

President Laura Curley of Trinity High School introduced the project. She stated it would be the construction of a corridor that would link buildings and the installation of an elevator. She stated the project would improve accessibility, improve safety, and improve usability of outdoor space, additionally noting a new courtyard. She discussed the improved pedestrian movement. She also discussed the Development Review Board’s requests regarding specific information about the amount and durability of EIFS. She explained that for the first 7’6” of the exterior of the building, she was assured that a new grade with ultra-high impact EIFS would be used and the DRB agreed. Next, President Curley discussed the logistics plan regarding neighborhood parking and traffic. She stated 38 parking spaces were to be designated to construction workers. She emphasized there will be 167 total parking spots and that would be more than sufficient parking for staff and students. She also noted that no construction workers will be parking outside their lot. She discussed the number of trees being impacted, noting that three trees must be removed. She thanked the Board and the DRB for years of collaboration with Trinity and noted they pride themselves on being good neighbors.

Trustee Johnson stated that this is a great project. He asked if parents would pick up kids from the front area and asked about lighting during after-hours.

President Curley stated as long as someone is in the building, lights would be on.

Trustee O'Connell noted it will be a great addition to the campus and asked about the timing of construction.

President Curley stated that they would like to start tomorrow, but would certainly be finished before the start of Christmas break.

Trustee Bachner noted the DRB approved the project with several conditions, and she asked if the exterior materials discussed in the presentation met the DRB's conditions.

President Curley responded yes.

Trustee Bachner remarked that it sounds like they have taken accessibility into consideration. She stated she wanted to make sure they will have the right buttons in the elevator.

President Curley stated yes, and that that is something that would be standard on construction.

Trustee Brennan commented that she listened to the audio, noting that when trees are removed they are measured by caliper. She stated that you cannot remove large trees and replace them with small trees.

President Curley concurred and stated they must replace the caliper amounts and not just the number of trees, noting that if you fall below you must make amends. In this case, she stated, the school would have to plant 14 trees to make up the caliper length, which is not feasible. She explained that instead, the school will be planting three new trees and making a contribution to a fund in River Forest that pays for new trees in the Village.

Trustee Gillis applauded Trinity for thinking about the project from a sustainability perspective with the green roof and permeable pavers.

Trustee Vazquez commented that he loves the plan and thanked Trinity for being a good neighbor.

President Adduci thanked Trinity and stated their project is well received. She said thank you for all their diligence working with the Village and for being conscious about things that are important to them.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Traffic and Safety Commission Recommendations

1. Recommendation on Crosswalk on Hawthorne
2. Recommendation on Pole-Mounted Radar Feedback Signs – 500 Block of Thatcher Avenue
3. Recommendation on Safe Walking Routes to School

Village Engineer Jeff Loster introduced these items. He reviewed the Commission's discussion about the safety parameters of that intersection. He stated consideration was given to a crosswalk across the alley, noting there some speeding concerns on Hawthorne and Thatcher, and also noting stops signs at Safe Walking Routes to School crosswalks. He stated the recommendation is ultimately a striped crosswalk at Hawthorne and Gale Avenue. He noted Staff's concern regarding putting a crosswalk into the alley.

Mr. Loster reviewed the request for pole-mounted radar feedback signs for northbound and southbound Thatcher and stated the recommendation is for one for southbound traffic.

Mr. Loster reviewed the recommendation for stop signs that flash red at certain intersections. He reviewed the 12-month check up on the Safe Routes implementation and stated the recommendation is for three additional intersections to have flashing lights.

He noted no ordinance changes are required.

Trustee Brennan stated that a resident contacted her about the Traffic and Safety Commission and asked about the process regarding the 8 requests for the flashing lights.

Mr. Loster noted that for some of the recommendations, the Commission concluded some of the items would go through the new parameters to get on an agenda. He clarified that the lights for stop signs on the Safe Routes project are being recommended and that the other requests should go through the normal process.

President Adduci stated there was Village Board consensus for these items.

c. Board and Commission Appointments/Reappointments:

1. Economic Development Commission – Appoint Katie Lowes (Mass vacancy) – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
2. Economic Development Commission – Appoint Rajendra Chiplunkar (Slepicka vacancy) – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
3. Economic Development Commission – Reappoint Cuyler Brown – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
4. Economic Development Commission – Reappoint Tim Brangle – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
5. Sustainability Commission – Appoint Maggie Clancy (Gillis vacancy) – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
6. Sustainability Commission – Appoint Jeff Veazie (Behan vacancy) – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25

7. Sustainability Commission – Reappoint Susan Charrette – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
8. Historic Preservation Commission – Appoint John Schwartz (Pritz vacancy) – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
9. Historic Preservation Commission – Reappoint Carla Graham-White – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
10. Historic Preservation Commission – Appoint Scott Krusinski (Prestes vacancy) – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
11. Traffic & Safety Commission – Reappoint Kim Hoyt – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
12. Traffic & Safety Commission – Reappoint John Osga – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
13. Traffic & Safety Commission – Reappoint Rick Gillis – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
14. Traffic & Safety Commission – Appoint David Karrow (Buis vacancy) – Remaining Term expiring 4/30/22
15. Traffic & Safety Commission – Appoint Patricia Chase (Wade vacancy) – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
16. Police Pension Board – Reappoint Heath Bray – 2 Year Term expiring 4/30/23
17. Police Pension Board – Reappoint Rosemary McAdams – 2 Year Term expiring 4/30/23
18. Board of Fire and Police Commissioners – Reappoint John Phelan – 3 Year Term expiring 4/30/24
19. Local Ethics Commission – Appoint Peggy Daley Member and Chair (Collins vacancy) – 2 Year Term expiring 4/30/23
20. Local Ethics Commission – Appoint Anastasie Sénat (Cullerton vacancy) – 2 Year term expiring 4/30/23
21. Local Ethics Commission – Reappoint Greg Ignoffo – 1 Year Term expiring 4/30/22
22. Plan Commission – Appoint Elias Yanaki (Gottlieb vacancy) – 4 Year Term expiring 4/30/25
23. Zoning Board of Appeals – Reappoint Gerald Dombrowski – 5 Year Term expiring 4/30/26
24. Zoning Board of Appeals – Appoint Corina Davis (O'Brien vacancy) – 5 Year Term expiring 4/30/26
25. Zoning Board of Appeals – Appoint Chris Plywacz (Berni vacancy) – Remaining Term expiring 4/30/22
26. Development Review Board – Appoint Corina Davis (Kilbride vacancy) – 2 Year Term expiring 4/30/23
27. Development Review Board – Appoint Elias Yanaki (Dombrowski vacancy) – 2 Year Term expiring 4/30/23
28. Development Review Board – Reappoint Frank Martin Member and Chair – 2 Year Term expiring 4/30/23

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to concur with the recommendations of the Village President for item 7C #'s 1-12 and 14-28 for the Board and Commission appointments effective May 1, 2021.

President Adduci noted that Board members had resumes prior to meeting tonight. She reviewed the appointments and reappointments.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Johnson, to concur with the recommendations of the Village President for item 7C #13 for the Board and Commission appointments effective May 1, 2021.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Gillis

Motion Passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Update: Lake & Lathrop

President Adduci stated that Lake and Lathrop representatives were unable to attend the meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consideration of Recommendation Regarding Board, Committee and Commission Appointments

Ms. Scheiner reviewed this item and stated there was a forum regarding this item in June. She stated appointments are defined by statute, using legislation that defines how appointments are brought forward. She noted trustees give advice and consent, and that the trustees have final approval authority of appointments. She stated that once an application is submitted or vacancy occurs, Staff sends applications to the Village President. She stated the Village President interviews the applicant, brings forward to Board, and the Board gives advice and consent. She stated there are opportunities for enhancements to the process. She explained that the process used is consistent with state and local legislation and that it is something that is approved by the Village Board of Trustees. She stated she is not suggesting changes to that process, noting that it is a standard and customary process that functions well. Ms. Scheiner

explained they can use the Village's communication channels to improve communication and how residents can engage with groups. She suggested using the website, newsletter, and social media to share and they can do a more thorough job getting information out to the community. She suggested talking more about the amazing work by these volunteers and highlighting the good work that they do. She also suggested applicants have subject matter familiarity but that expertise was not necessarily needed. She stated it is reasonable to appoint people who are not experts. Regarding the post appointment process, Ms. Scheiner suggested providing more resources to acclimate appointees to these roles, including getting people familiar with where to find information, how to use their staff liaison, and what to expect in terms of their roles and responsibilities. She stated there is a good document from Glen Ellyn, which serves as a manual that the Village of River Forest could adapt. She stated staff liaisons will reach out proactively to member. She stated that concluded the recommendations and stated Staff is seeking the Board's direction.

Trustee O'Connell stated he listened to the meeting and appreciates the residents and their input. He stated one takeaway in addition to post-communication is the job description. He suggested including what is the position, what are the expectations, and what is the candidate's interest. He noted the one thing he is not in favor of would be substantial changes to the vetting process. He stated he fully supports post-communication and that the Glen Ellyn document was good, and that someone should make it the Village's own.

Trustee Johnson remarked that it is very important to continue developing transparency of the process. He stated he was encouraged by developing how the Board makes appointments. He stated that while proceeding down that path, educating residents will alleviate issues about when things are happening and how things are happening.

Trustee Bachner re-emphasized that the process part is what she heard people asking for. She stated that the idea that if we can help the community understand what happens, what are we doing a few months out if the vacancy occurs on April 30. She asked what is the role of the president, chairman, and other commissioners. She stated she would love to see if a timeline would help and that she would like to see that established. She suggested the Village could start a timeclock for vacancies for commissioner or committee chair positions and then push that out to the community and let them know a few months out that vacancies are occurring.

President Adduci agreed that as soon as they know, the Board can let residents know. She noted that they do not always know if someone will get reappointed.

Trustee Johnson asked where residents can look.

Trustee Vazquez clarified that if someone wanted to apply for a commission, they can apply now even though the opening may not be for 3-4 years. He stated that they can apply for several positions.

President Adduci confirmed that residents can apply way out.

Trustee Vazquez emphasized residents do not have to wait until there is a vacancy to apply for positions.

President Adduci stated people do that already and that appointments are typically four year terms.

Trustee Brennan stated there is an opportunity to promote the good work of the commissions when communicating that vacancies available. She suggested that as part of the application process, they could ask that the applicant attend a meeting in person so it gives the person more information of what that commission does.

President Adduci stated they can suggest it while making it optional. She stated that many times, the applicant just wants to give back to the community.

Trustee O'Connell noted that one person appointed to the EDC has attended meetings.

President Adduci commented that the applicants typically know where they want to apply to.

Trustee Brennan asked if they can bake this suggestion into the application: "we invite and encourage you to attend."

President Adduci stated yes but if they say no due to other circumstances, the Board does not want to make attendance required. She stated she believes that 90% of the applicants do attend meetings.

Trustee Brennan commented that she liked the involvement of the commission chair coordinating the potential applicants and telling the Village President when vacancies occur and who is attending meetings. She stated having "boots on the ground" input from the commission chair would be valuable input and aid in transparency.

President Adduci stated that is what they do and there is no trouble documenting that.

Trustee Brennan stated in attending public meeting and hearing from the residents, they should document it.

President Adduci commented that there is so much work that she personally does in regards to interviewing and talking to potential applicants. She stated she is as interested as everyone in documenting the process.

Trustee Gillis stated one can give back without being a commissioner and a resident volunteer. She stated she wanted to reiterate that the Glen Ellyn document should be the Village's own. She stated that for the expectations of the commissioners, it is an important thing for them to understand when going into it.

Regarding the post appointment process, Trustee Vazquez stated he wanted to clarify and emphasize evidentiary hearing and their role in that. He noted that some commissioners have

gone outside and done their own evidentiary hearing and that that should not be allowed. He also noted that there should be a strong emphasis on quorum and participation. He stated that every now and then they will hear about how commissioners did not attend a meeting. He stated they need to know they have to participate in these meetings.

Trustee Bachner stated she wanted to note one change she would recommend regarding the graphic showing the process of application. She stated the applicant is reviewed and the application is submitted to the Village Board of Trustees, which is not accurate. She stated that right now, the Board only sees the application for someone who is nominated and the Board does not see the full set of applicants. She stated she would like to see a set of applicants in the pool who are interested in the position along with the Village President's recommendation for the appointment.

Trustee Vazquez noted that in doing that, the Board would be interjecting with the role of the President.

President Adduci stated that would potentially bring up a scenario of why this person and why not that person. She stated presently, it is a reasonable and customary process, noting that what the Board does works and will go beyond the Board today. She stated that otherwise there will be the bureaucracy of a citizens' committee. She stated that at the end of the day, it works, is not broken, and is going to go beyond all of them.

Trustee Bachner stated she does not see it as bureaucracy. She stated it shows why this person versus that person.

Trustee O'Connell commented that the Board could take time with the process, but the intent is this is one of the powers of the Village President. He stated the Village President does interview applicants and that they rely on her and her areas of expertise.

Trustee Bachner remarked that she is not trying to take away the powers of the President.

President Adduci added that she does go to the chairman of each commission. She stated that from there, she brings forward the best candidate, then the Board gives advice and consent. She stated that vetting in the interview process does happen.

Trustee O'Connell stated that if they interviewed and vetted everyone for the DEI Advisory Group, it would have taken forever.

Trustee Bachner stated that if they are starting a new process, it might be relevant.

Trustee Brennan stated that is what they are trying to do. She stated the June meeting was about transparency. She stated that what she struggles with is how is the President making this decision in a vacuum.

President Adduci stated that is not true. She stated that if a trustee feels a person is not capable or competent, they can say no. She stated that she disagrees and there would be complete mayhem if everyone vetted all candidates.

Trustee Brennan stated that if they have a timeline, it would be helpful to have nominees put forth to the Board a month and a half before the term expires so they are not dealing with what they had tonight. She stated 28 nominees in one meeting lends the pressure to fill those votes to have full commissions. She stated she would like to get the nominees to the board a month and a half out and have the ability to talk to each nominee and do the research.

President Adduci stated they cannot go down that route. She stated it would be horrible for a small community. She stated she refused to make this political and that she thinks it is wrong and dangerous. She stated they need consider each individual as someone who wants to give back to the community. She urged the Board not to make this political.

Trustee Brennan stated she is not understanding where making it political is coming from. She asked that they get the nominees out in advance.

Trustee Vazquez commented about stacking up nominees, stating that they postponed nominating or voting on individuals due to the election. He noted that there might have been a new President to make those recommendations and they had to be respectful of that. He read from John Grant's note that "there are flaws with the system, not with the people." Trustee Vazquez that that if they are going to change something, it is because the output or result is coming out bad. He stated that at the end of the day, if people are still accepted even by people proposing the process, that is important. He commented on free speech in regards to media. He also commented on donations to campaigns and how he personally would not want to get into that debate.

Trustee Brennan stated she is talking about the process. She stated she would like to see them earlier than position has already expired.

President Adduci stated they try to get it before the term expires and they often do. She stated they will do their best to get it as quickly as they can.

Trustee O'Connell suggested that some of the recommendations from the meeting will help the process.

- b. Approval of Recommendation to Award Contract to Vicarious Multimedia for a three-month engagement in the amount of \$17,600

Trustee Vasquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell to approve a contract with Vicarious Multimedia for a three-month engagement in the amount of \$17,600.

Management Analyst Phyfer reviewed this item and reviewed the memo in the packet. She stated that over the past year, the Village increased its communication due to the COVID pandemic. She stated that the Village has employed Vicarious Multimedia to aid in these

efforts since March of 2021. She stated the cost of services from March-June was within the Acting Village Administrator's spending authority. She stated that before the Board is an extension of services for Vicarious Multimedia for an additional 3 months from July through September. She explained this contract includes an implementation of a new and improved monthly newsletter, noting that examples from Long Grove and Buffalo Grove are included in the Board's packet. She stated the proposed contract also includes the implementation of Nextdoor, a social media channel to help communicate with residents. Ms. Phyfer stated the staff recommendation is to continue the relationship through September of 2021. She noted that if the contract is not extended beyond September, there would be a \$1,500 per month fee to handle the web graphics for the new newsletter as there is presently no one on staff to handle this work.

Melanie Santostefano of Vicarious Multimedia introduced herself and her firm. She stated she founded it 17 years ago and has a team of eight people. She stated that presently Vicarious works with five other municipalities and several non-profit organizations. She stated that they are working very hard to boost the use of the newsletter and have grown it by 100 people. She noted her staff would also be managing the Nextdoor page.

Trustee Johnson asked if Ms. Santostefano had any experience with other municipalities educating residents who do not use social media.

Ms. Santostefano replied that yes, in Long Grove Vicarious delivered newsletters to park districts, senior centers, and assisted living facilities. She stated they have marketed the digital newsletter to the same facilities.

President Adduci recalled that the newsletter will be printed at the Sheridan for their residents.

Ms. Santostefano noted that the newsletter can be downloaded and printed at those facilities.

Trustee Johnson noted that with regard to surveys, commissions do things differently and that there is not a cohesive look and that it is confusing to the community. He asked how are surveys used in the community.

Ms. Scheiner commented that there are social media tools to poll residents.

Ms. Santostefano explained how polling is done online and that 30% of residents do respond and that can grow. She stated Nextdoor has a polling mechanism that can be used and pushed out to other sites.

President Adduci agreed that surveys should be consistent.

Trustee Bachner commented that other organizations use Qualtrics and that may be better than SurveyMonkey.

Ms. Santostefano commented that there are several options for surveying and that a consistent look is a good idea.

Trustee Brennan asked about using Nextdoor to communicate to different parts of the neighborhood.

Ms. Santostefano stated that Nextdoor is a great tool, but complicated. She stated it can be used to segment neighborhoods and select messages to specific to sections of River Forest.

Trustee Bachner asked if this engagement is only for three months.

Ms. Scheiner stated Staff is suggesting that the Village do the engagement for these three months, since the budget has been exceeded for this work and there is no one on staff to handle it.

President Adduci stated she highly recommends doing this. She recalled that prior to Vicarious working for the Village, the task was handled in-house and very time consuming.

Trustee Bachner suggested the Village bid out the work.

Ms. Scheiner clarified that originally this work was bid out. She explained that there are very few media companies that do this type of work. She stated Staff believes that Vicarious has done great work.

President Adduci commented that the Board has consistently asked to communicate more and more and the Village agreed to do that, which is why Vicarious is so important to the team right now.

Trustee Gillis remarked that the Sustainability Commission doubled and tripled communication, and that she agrees that there is a strong need and noted the cost is minimal.

Trustee Vazquez suggested that they come back in August to discuss renewing the commitment.

Ms. Scheiner noted that this contract only covers July through September and that it does not automatically renew.

Trustee Brennan asked about the new E-newsletter and whether it could be brought in-house.

Ms. Scheiner commented that that is not possible at this point due to staffing and talent required in-house.

Trustee Bachner asked if the new E-newsletter could be brought in-house after staffing is addressed.

Ms. Santostefano replied yes and stated there is a template being created and it could be done.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Scheiner announced that because the Board would be going into Executive Session, there would be no further discussion or action after Executive Session and that the Board would adjourn immediately after.

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to go into executive session to discuss litigation involving the Village that is pending; and the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Village, including whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board returned to regular session at 10:11p.m. with the following members present: President Adduci, Trustees Brennan, Bachner, Gillis, Johnson, O'Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Keller.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Bachner made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 10:11p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk



Subject:



Pedestrian ramp

Date:

Sunday, June 27, 2021 11:14:12 AM

I live at 339 Thatcher and often walk with my grandchildren to the playground. The ramp at Hawthorne and Thatcher would be a safe addition at that corner for those of us pushing strollers, and accompanying children on bikes and scooters.

Thank you for handling this.

Agnes Walsh Adamik

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [VBOI](#)
Subject: Traffic and Safety Commission Memo - June 28, 2021
Date: Sunday, June 27, 2021 4:41:32 PM

I'm in full support of the recommendation for a south-facing curb ramp to be installed on the east leg of the Thatcher/Hawthorne intersection.

As the parent of three young children, I appreciate you looking into this issue again recently.

--Jarad

Jarad Champion
335 Thatcher Ave.
River Forest, IL 60305

[REDACTED]

President Adduci and Village Trustees,

I was a citizen member of the Deer Management Ad Hoc Committee and am one of the writers of the Alternative Deer Management report that is posted on the Village web site. I am speaking today to call attention to an important unfulfilled duty of the Deer Committee. Board Resolution 20-03 required that the committee “plan at least one community forum to educate residents on the importance of a deer management program.” While covid made public meetings a challenge, given the recent lifting of restrictions, there is no reason not to fulfill this obligation before the Trustees vote on this topic.

I propose that the two committee groups, pro-cull and pro-alternatives to culling, present their respective reports to the Board and the public in a Committee of the Whole meeting. Given that summer vacation plans are already in place, I request that this be done after August. As there is also no external time pressure related to this topic, I’m not requesting a date be put on the calendar but only that a commitment be made to host a Committee of the Whole meeting, as just described, before a vote takes place.

Such a meeting would benefit the entire community and pave the way for greater acceptance of whatever Deer Management Plan is eventually enacted. It would also benefit the new Trustees, who have yet to even participate in Village-run discussions on this topic, yet will eventually be voting on it.

Presumably the Board included a public forum requirement in the original resolution to ensure that the community would be as informed as possible before proceeding with a plan. Nothing has changed to make this goal less relevant.

Thank you for your time and attention.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [VBOI](#)
Subject: Support Pedestrian ramp
Date: Sunday, June 27, 2021 2:16:01 PM

Hello,

I am writing to support the addition of a south-facing pedestrian ramp on the Northeast corner of Thatcher and Hawthorne, agenda item 7b for the meeting on Monday, June 28th (I am working and unable to attend).

Thank you,
Sarah Fitz
318 Gale Ave

From: [REDACTED]
To: [VBOI](#)
Subject: Village Board Packet page 418 for 6/28/21. Crosswalk & Curb Ramp
Date: Sunday, June 27, 2021 3:13:58 PM
Attachments: [Intersection Thatcher Ave & Hawthorn, River Forest, IL.pdf](#)
[NE Corner Thatcher & Hawthorn.pdf](#)

6/27/21

Dear Village Board President & Trustees.

I sent you an email on Friday in regards to a Pedestrian Ramp that is proposed to the Village Board on the packet page 418. I would like to add some further information on this issue for your inspection and clarification.

The attachments are photos and diagrams of the Northeast Corner of Thatcher and Hawthorne for which a Pedestrian (Curb) Ramp is requested. These were submitted to the Traffic and Safety Commission at their last meeting when they discussed Crosswalks on Hawthorne.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph O'Connor
Resident - 351 Thatcher Ave.
River Forest, IL 60305
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

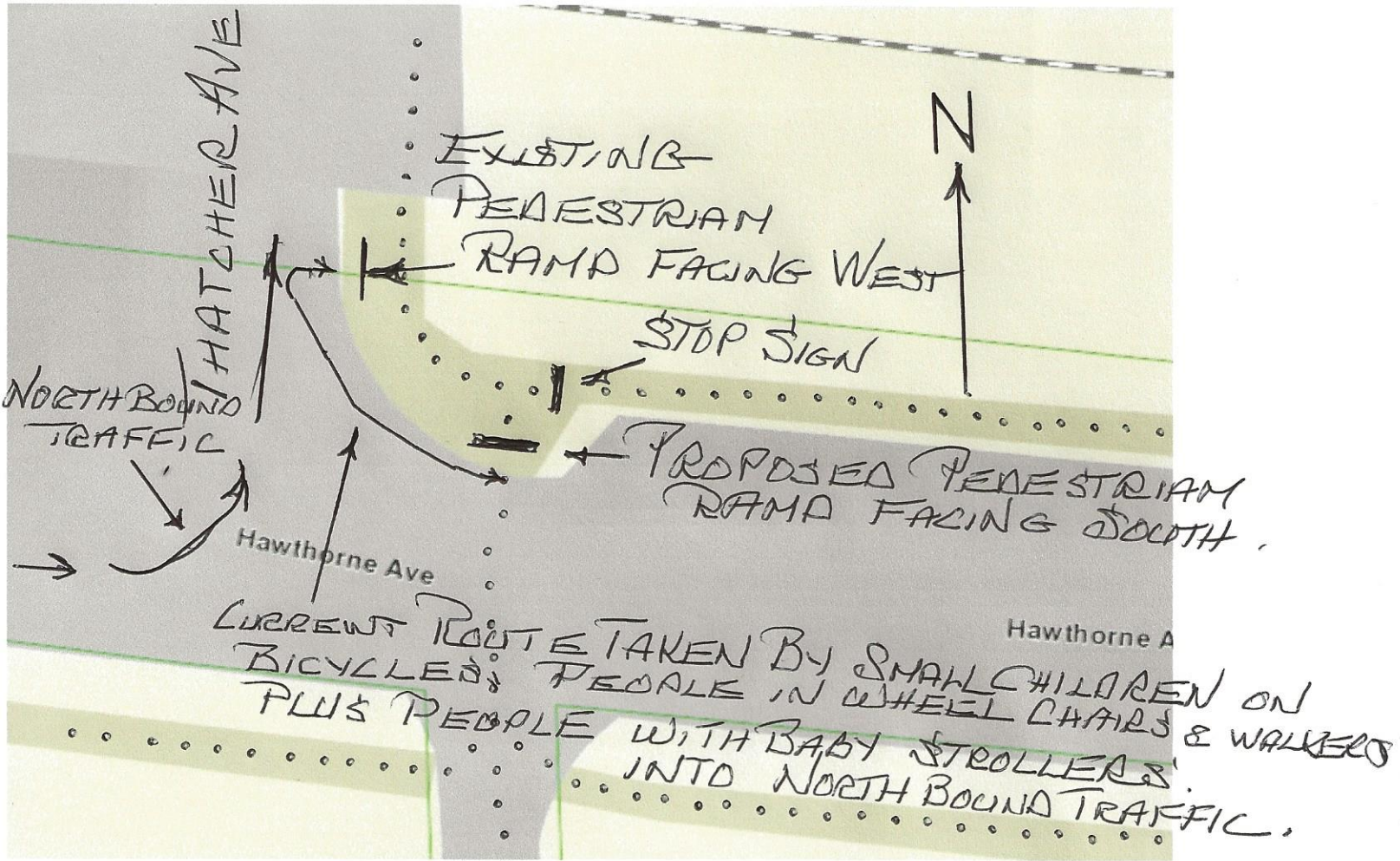


DIAGRAM # 2
 NORTHEAST CORNER of THATCHER
 SUBMITTED BY & HAWTHORN

5/26/21

Joseph O'Connor
 JOSEPH O'CONNOR
 351 THATCHER AVE
 RIVER FOREST, IL



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Hawthorne Ave

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