

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Tuesday, September 29, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 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 7:02p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant 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

Nicola Lostumbo, 810 Bonnie Brae. Mr. Lostumbo spoke in support of parking restrictions on Bonnie Brae and commented about the placards.

Joe Baptist, 825 Bonnie Brae. Mr. Baptist spoke in support of parking restrictions on Bonnie Brae and stated his agreement with Mr. Lostumbo’s comments.

Dan Roche, 815 Bonnie Brae. Mr. Roche also spoke in favor of parking restrictions on Chicago Avenue and stated the parking problems with regard to the developer’s contractors will only get worse if not properly delineated and marked.

Tom Britton, 903 Bonnie Brae. Mr. Britton also spoke in favor of parking the restrictions. He also commented about placards and making it easier for visitors.

Mary Anne Zeh, 836 Bonnie Brae. Ms. Zeh stated the parking has gotten worse over the summer but that she did not see how resident only parking would make it better. She stated the 2-hour parking zone is essentially not enforced and that she would like to see it enforced for a few months before changing to resident only.

Jonathan Zeh, 836 Bonnie Brae. Mr. Zeh asked that the Board not cancel Halloween trick or treating.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell thanked everyone for attending.

Trustee Henek said good evening to everyone.

Trustee Brennan commented about the working group she and Trustee Bachner established, stating they have worked really hard to get where they are today. She stated it is more nuanced than just a committee with a mission stated. She reiterated that the individuals in the working group have lived experience related to equity and inclusion issues. Trustee Brennan recalled her recommendation for this group at the June 8 meeting and that she had also spoken with President Adduci about it. She expressed disappointment that it was necessary to set the record straight but stated that she looks forward to continuing the process.

Trustee Vazquez stated he wanted to offer some clarifications to Trustee Brennan's comments. He stated he did not have any problem pursuing diversity efforts and is in support of that. He expressed hope that this would not turn into a debate of what the record is and that he believes the Board is all on the same page. He also stated he is looking forward to listening to the individuals when they are introduced. Trustee Vazquez commented on the federal government's executive order regarding the prohibition of "divisive concepts," stating that the Village does not want to go that route. He expressed confidence they are all going in the same direction.

Trustee Cargie stated he had nothing to report.

Trustee Bachner read a statement to acknowledge that this land was once inhabited by indigenous people and stated that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She provided a Census update and noted the date to complete is now October 31. She stated she is proud of the 81.3% self-response rate, and she reported on the Complete Count Committee's activities and targeting of multi-family housing units. Trustee Bachner echoed Trustee Vazquez's comments about the federal executive order. She stated she believes the Board members want the effort of being a more equitable community to be successful

President Adduci stated she received the list of names of people for the working group from Trustee Bachner. She stated she will also ask the other trustees to give a name to make it a more participatory group. President Adduci also reported on her meeting with the Illinois Municipal League, noting that she was voted to be the second vice president of the advocacy group. She shared a video produced by the IML.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes September 14, 2020

- b. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes September 14, 2020
- c. Village Board of Trustee Executive Session Meeting Minutes September 14, 2020
- d. Approval of the Release of Executive Session Minutes: March 9, 2015; March 9, 2015 (supplemental minutes); May 26, 2015; May 26, 2015 (supplemental minutes); June 22, 2015; August 24, 2015; September 15, 2015; September 28, 2015; September 28, 2015 (supplemental minutes); October 26, 2015; October 23, 2017; February 26, 2018; and Approval of the Destruction of All Executive Session Tape Recordings dated December 10, 2018 or earlier for which Executive Session Minutes have been approved
- e. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee Brennan made a motion, seconded by Trustee O'Connell, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-E.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

- a. Traffic and Safety Commission – Recommendation Regarding Parking Restrictions Near Chicago and Harlem Planned Development – Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 9 of the Village Code authorizing the installation of Resident Only Parking Zones on Iowa Street between Harlem Avenue and Bonnie Brae and on Bonnie Brae between the hours of 8am-8pm between Chicago Avenue and Iowa Street.

Village Engineer Loster reported on the recent Traffic and Safety Commission meeting, stating that they discussed the long term effects of parking around the senior living facility. He stated the general consensus was to implement resident only parking restrictions and to have placards for those residents for guests.

Trustee Henek commented about the placards, noting it makes it easier for spontaneity rather than having to plan ahead to get a pass from the Village.

Mr. Loster clarified that there are two types of resident parking only zones, one being a permit zone and the other is open to those with a Village vehicle sticker. He stated the discussion about placards came about because those in the permit zone receive a placard.

Mr. Palm stated he would have a conversation with the overnight parking vendor to see if there is a way to use technology to make it easier or more convenient for residents with regard to spontaneity.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell, Mr. Loster stated he is not aware of parking issues elsewhere with the exception of a resident on Lake Street looking for 24-hour parking, which Staff would discuss.

Mr. Loster confirmed Trustee Bachner's statement that the resident only parking restriction would remove the 2-hour parking limitation.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Culture of Equity and Inclusion – Dominican University: Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation

President Adduci stated that the Board has been discussing this framework and methodology and expressed her excitement that it will embrace the community and surrounding communities, which is what is needed to build equity and inclusion.

Dr. Sheila Radford-Hill of Dominican University introduced herself and stated she would be [presenting](#) the Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) framework. She reviewed the history and mission statement, which includes eliminating racial inequities on campus and in the communities. She explained the purpose of TRHT, noting the broad areas it focuses on and how it can be used to change policies and practices on campus and in the communities served by Dominican. Dr. Radford-Hill also reviewed the 2020-2021 action plan, which includes developing a collaboration with the Village to promote equity and support the Twin Village Covenant with Maywood by connecting to the TRHT framework. She also reviewed the next steps in the partnership, which include creating a mission statement, approving a resolution expressing support for the partnership, and engaging in the existing stakeholders' group and developing a TRHT advisory board.

Stephanie Samuel introduced herself and her connection to the Dominican framework as the Community Outreach Coordinator at the Oak Park Library. She explained how it benefits all communities and noted the Maywood Public Library is happy to participate in the partnership.

Leila Will introduced herself as being part of a committee that is working to obtain landmark status on the home of Fred Hampton, who was the chairman of the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther Party. She stated the committee hopes to bring tourism and student

programming though this status, and she noted how important these partnerships are in doing so.

Dr. Radford-Hill expressed hope that the River Forest community would endorse this partnership for equity with Dominican University. She stated she hoped this partnership would extend to fully implement the Maywood Twin Village covenant and pull the communities together to address and create opportunities for students and community members using the TRHT model. She noted the next step is to officially approve the partnership by resolution.

President Adduci stated she is impressed with what Dominican has done and that she is happy to meet everyone.

In response to a question from Trustee Vazquez, Dr. Radford-Hill stated the TRHT model was developed to grow nationally and has 26 centers currently, with a goal of 150.

Trustee Miguel Jones of Maywood greeted everyone. He stated the presentation was great and exceeded his expectations as far as what Dominican has planned for both communities. He stated he is excited to hear how they can support and add value. He also expressed excitement about the Fred Hampton project. He reiterated that the partnership is exciting and historic.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Dr. Radford-Hill stated the Sienna Center with the Dominican community holds a program every year and is scheduled to discuss the book *The Sin of White Supremacy*. She stated they wanted to start in River Forest because this is where the students come every day. She also noted their work with the Oak Park Library and the Oak Park Community Relations Commission.

Trustee Henek expressed her excitement with having these important and ongoing conversations. She asked about the steps after the partnership resolutions are passed, such as setting up meetings. She recalled her comments during the Twin Village Covenant discussion and that she encouraged the community to think broadly and build relationships. She also asked what is envisioned as the partnership with residents and suggested a town hall meeting to incorporate community input.

Dr. Radford-Hill discussed the organization of TRHT within Dominican, noting there is a working group for communication, branding and social media. This working group, she explained, has its charge and builds relationships to work on that charge. She stated the idea is to get the working groups on projects and then to come together to see how the projects can become bigger, better, sustainable, and more attractive to philanthropic donors.

President Adduci emphasized the word sustainable, stating it is a long-term commitment. She stated her intention to engage all the taxing bodies and specifically District 90 since they already have a working group.

Trustee O'Connell commented that the presentation was excellent and asked who would lead the working and community engagement groups.

Dr. Radford-Hill stated that the groups are a coalition of the willing, which includes faculty, staff, and students. She noted that students typically do not lead the group.

Amy Omi of Dominican University introduced herself and stated the working groups are head up by those members of the University who have a particular passion or love for doing this work. She stated they have to begin with transforming the way race is thought about over time and the groups are open to anyone who is interested.

Trustee Bachner agreed and commented that so much of this work is building trust and relationships.

Dr. Radford-Hill discussed Dominican's work in an equity enhancing model and embracing all the students served. She stated they believe this model is the route to becoming an anti-racist institution.

Trustee Henek commented on the importance of hearing from people and their lived experiences and what is actually happening in order to address issues.

President Adduci stated the Board stands together on that and reviewed the different structures – an internal group was discussed at the last meeting and tonight is a discussion about making River Forest a better and more welcoming community. She stated the partnership between Dominican, the Village, and Maywood will guide in that direction. She stated the Board needs to come to an agreement about a partnership worthy of committing to. She expressed her support for the TRHT framework.

Trustee Henek suggested also reaching out to Trinity High School to see how they could be part of the conversation, and President Adduci noted they have reached out to Concordia.

Trustee Vazquez concurred with Trustee Henek's suggestion about inviting Trinity. He recalled his question about expanding the model and noted it would be great to have more people join.

b. Discussion: 2020 Halloween Trick or Treating

Administrator Palm reviewed the guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and noted some municipalities that have provided guidelines on their websites. He stated Staff has not found much in terms of towns cancelling trick or treating, noting that enforcement would be the issue, and that issuing guidelines is the most consistent practice.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan, Mr. Palm stated there is no news yet on what Oak Park's plans are.

Trustee Cargie noted that the schools are considering going back to in-person and

commented that the Highland Park guidelines are smart. He stated this gives parents an option of participating. He stated he would add wearing gloves while handing out candy.

President Adduci noted this topic came up at an Illinois Municipal League meeting and that most other communities are offering reasonable guidelines. She stated her other thought is to find places for younger kids to go to celebrate safely, and to embrace service clubs like Kiwanis and Rotary.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan, Mr. Palm stated there was no specific date by which they needed to make a decision. President Adduci stated residents are looking for guidance.

Trustee Cargie stated it makes sense to allow trick or treating if kids will be returning to school. He asked whether they could change the hours from 3-6 instead of 4-7.

President Adduci stated they can do whatever they want and cautioned the enforcement issue.

Trustee Vazquez stated he has talked to many residents who believe it is going to happen regardless. He stated enforcement is difficult and it would be even worse if the Village tried to prohibit or restrict trick or treating. He commented that everyone understands social distancing and agreed about setting an earlier time. He stated those who do not want to participate do not have to.

Trustee Henek acknowledged the concerns about enforcing it and providing an opportunity for younger kids. She expressed concern that if the Village says it is allowed, everyone is going to want to do it. She recalled in Staff's memo that moving up the time could result in trick or treating lasting longer. She stated it would be tricky to ensure the guidelines reach everyone, especially those coming in from other communities. Trustee Henek indicated it is difficult for her to say that the Village should embrace trick or treating due to the CDC's categorization of it as a high risk activity. Regarding the possibility of the schools going hybrid, she stated she would hope that is in a controlled manner.

Trustee Bachner stated she did not feel comfortable with permitting this when the CDC says trick or treating is a high risk activity. She explained the risks of using the same pair of gloves and stated that if the Village were to go the route of modified activities, she would suggest bags with treats out on the lawn. She expressed her concern about kids going up to doors and interacting with people.

President Adduci noted that at some point, parents have to take responsibility too.

Trustee Henek stated that in a pandemic, safety should be number one. She reiterated her concern about groups of kids going together, and that while they can try to provide guidelines, not everyone is going to be following them.

President Adduci stated they are not condoning it but should be controlling it.

Trustee O'Connell stated they are going to get people and that guidelines would go to parents. He stated they can include the safest ways of giving out candy.

Trustee Cargie asked why take this holiday away from kids who have already had a bad year. He supported giving clear guidelines.

Trustee Brennan stated she agreed with Trustee Henek and Bachner, noting that the risks outweigh the benefits. She stated she understands people will do it anyway but by offering guidelines, it looks like the Village is condoning it.

President Adduci stated they would continue to discuss it until there is a consensus, and that those who are against Halloween would need to come up with a plan of how to enforce it.

Mr. Palm stated Staff would want an expectation of how to handle enforcement.

Trustee Bachner stated she does not like the idea of kids going up to people's doors, and stated that they would need to find a way to avoid that.

Trustee Henek asked whether an enforcement plan would be needed for making sure people are following the guidelines, and President Adduci stated it would be the parents' responsibility to enforce it.

Trustee Vazquez reiterated that parents will do it regardless. He expressed support for setting guidelines that they would be responsible to follow.

Clerk Brand-White stated that in a pandemic, this is an opportunity to learn about risk mitigation.

Trustee Cargie stated that the community is good about the mask requirements. He reiterated his support for guidelines and stated the Village needs to emphasize to parents it is in their kids' best interests to follow them.

President Adduci introduced Corina Davis, who conducted an online community poll that found 2/3 of poll participants would pass out candy.

President Adduci noted the challenge is also what surrounding communities are doing. She stated they need a consensus and they would pick up the discussion again on October 12.

Mr. Palm stated Elmwood Park is permitting trick or treating, Forest Park is leaning towards it, and Oak Park is still discussing it.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Temporary Parking Restriction on Chicago Avenue (Between William & Bonnie Brae)
– Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve an Ordinance Amending Title 9 of the Village Code authorizing the installation of a Resident Only Parking Zone on Chicago Avenue between William Street and Bonnie Brae, between the hours of 7am-6pm.

Administrator Palm stated this is to address the concern raised by Mr. Roche and that the Village has been able to prevent the development's contractors from parking on Bonnie Brae, but they have shifted to parking on Chicago Avenue. He stated they envision this restriction as temporary but could leave in place as the project opens up to see how it works. He stated this would force the contractors to park at the site or in an Oak Park garage.

In response to Trustee Brennan's question about on-site parking, Mr. Loster stated there is not much open space on the site for the contractors to park and that they had looked at using other parking lots from the start. Once completed, he stated the developer has indicated they have adequate parking on site for their needs.

Administrator Palm clarified the distinction between construction parking for contractors and the parking lot for staff and visitors once the development is open.

President Adduci confirmed that their planned development indicates they will have plenty of spots for family and employees and they would not need to park on the Village's residential streets.

Administrator Palm added that in the event someone decided not to park on site, there are on-street restrictions.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Village Attorney Smith announced that because the Board would be going into Executive Session on a different Zoom line, 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 Bachner, to go into executive session to discuss to litigation involving the Village that is pending at 9:30pm.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

The Village Board returned to regular session at 9:58 p.m. with the following members present: President Adduci, Trustees Brennan, Bachner Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez, Village Clerk Brand-White.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Bachner made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 9:58p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk