

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, January 24, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7:20 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 7:20 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: None

Also, Present: Village Administrator Brian Murphy, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Elijah Bebora, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O’Shea, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Village Resident Mindy Credi stated that she had concerns about a Dominican University event stated in a previous publication of the Village E-news.

Village Resident Phyllis Rubin stated that she would like to know why the claw back clause for the Lake and Lathrop development was not on the agenda for last months and tonight’s Village Board meeting. She commented that Alpha Construction sent two notices to residents about the project at Lake & Lathrop. She stated that the communication needed to be improved with the residents and that things needed to be addressed without residents having to complain.

Julie Peterson, resident of 7575 Lake Street stated that she has had positive interactions with the Lake and Lathrop contractors. She stated that the developer held multiple meetings to prevent overcrowding at meetings. She remarked that the reason why the Lake and Lathrop sales office on Lake was not shoveled is because they are tenants, not landlords of the property.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner began with a land acknowledgment, stating that this land was once and still is inhabited by Indigenous people and that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She stated that free Covid-19 rapid tests are available from the Federal Government by visiting covidtests.gov. She stated that she encourages everyone to participate in receiving the free tests. She stated that she is thankful of the Diversity Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group efforts and the committee is off to a great start. Also addressed one of the public comments.

Trustee Gillis stated she congratulates the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group on winning the Villager of the Year award. She stated that she attended the King Day of Service in Maywood. She stated that she would like to thank the new Fire Chief, Village Administrator and their respective teams on working to devise a plan to dispose of old fire smoke detectors. She commented that she is appreciative of the efforts of continuous looking for electric vehicles and having the plan as part of the Village Comprehensive Plan.

Trustee Vazquez stated that he would like to congratulate Trustee Bachner & Ken Johnson and the members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group for being recognized as Villagers of the Year by the Wednesday Journal. He stated that he thinks that it is the first time the Wednesday Journal has awarded a large group the Villager of the Year award. He stated that the Age Friendly Committee met on Jan 12th and is done collecting the age friendly surveys. He remarked that the Committee received 146 paper copy surveys, and an additional 42 were submitted electronically. He stated that the Committee Members will take the hard copies of the survey and enter the data into an electronic format for analysis. He commented that he would like to thank Sara Phyfer for her help.

Village Clerk Keller stated he had nothing to add to the public record.

Trustee Brennan stated she would like to congratulate the Diversity Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee for be recognized as Villagers of the Year by the Wednesday Journal. She stated that she attended the truth, racial healing, and transformation meeting sponsored by Dominican University. She remarked the meeting was attended by 20 to 25 people from across the community. She stated that she attended the King National Day of Service in Maywood. She remarked that the Plastic Bag Store is now installed downtown in the Wrigley Building for the next 10 days. She stated that the exhibit is free, but you need to purchase a ticket to view the film.

Trustee Johnson stated he is pleased with what the Board has done to honor the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. He remarked that he spent the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday with an organization he volunteers with that helps youth of color get into college. Added that the Diversity Equity, and Inclusion Committee developed their strategy on proceeding forward with seven initiatives and definitions.

Trustee O'Connell stated that he attended the housing forward King Day activity with other Trustees and that the event was a lot of fun. He remarked that he has no other comment.

President Adduci stated she would like to congratulate the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. She commented that she would like to welcome Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner to the Village.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - January 10, 2022
- b. Approval of an Agreement with Koenig, Lindgren, O'Hara, Aboona, Inc. to Complete a Traffic Study in the Northeast Corner of River Forest for a not-to-Exceed Cost of \$16,500.00 and Authorize the Village Administrator to Execute the Contract Agreement.
- c. Approval of Payment to Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, Ltd. for Legal Services in the Amount of \$31,603.91
- d. Authorize the Village Administrator to Enter into an Agreement to Retain the Financial Advisory Services of Kane McKanna Capital, Inc. as Proposed for an Amount not to Exceed \$25,000 Plus Incidental Costs.
- e. Financial Report - December 2021
- f. Village Administrator's Report

Motion by Trustee O'Connell to approve consent agenda items A - F. Second by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Gillis, Brennan, Johnson, 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 - Recommendations

1. Four-Way Stop at Ashland Avenue and Vine Street.

Motion by Trustee Bachner to accept the Traffic and Safety Commission recommendation regarding the four-way stop signs at Ashland and Vine. Second by Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes

2. Flashing Stop Signs at Washington Boulevard and Keystone Avenue.

Motion by Trustee Bachner to accept the recommendations for flashing crosswalk at Washington and Keystone. Second by Trustee Vazquez

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes

3. Regarding Flashing Crosswalk Sign at Washington and Forest.

Motion by Trustee O'Connell to accept the recommendations the flashing crosswalk at Washington and Forest. Second by Trustee Vazquez

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes

b. Zoning Board of Appeals - An Ordinance Granting the Requested Variation to Section 10-11-8 of the Zoning Ordinance at 1111 Bonnie Brae Place - Ordinance

Motion by Trustee Gillis to Granting the Requested Variation to Section 10-11-8 of the Zoning Ordinance at 1111 Bonnie Brae Place. Second my Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: Trustee O'Connell

Motion Passes

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. An Ordinance Providing for the Issue of Not-to-Exceed \$550,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2022, of the Village of River Forest, Cook County, Illinois for the Purpose of Paying for Public Infrastructure Projects Within the Village, providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax to Pay the Principal of and Interest on Said Bonds - Ordinance

Motion by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance Providing for the Issue of Not-to-Exceed \$550,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2022, of the Village of River Forest, Cook County, Illinois, for the Purpose of Paying for Public Infrastructure Projects within the Village, providing for the Levy of a Direct Annual Tax to Pay the Principal of and Interest on said Bonds. Second by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Trustee O’Connell to enter into Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(5) to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Village, including whether a particular parcel should be acquired; (C) (11) and litigation involving the Village that is pending. Second by Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes

12. Return to Regular Session

The Village Board returned to regular session at 9:40 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

President Adduci stated that during the executive session, the Village Board reached a consensus to grant Wintrust and Sedgwick an extension to close on the loan by February 4 due to delays related to the omicron strain of the COVID-19 virus.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Trustee O'Connell, seconded by Trustee, the Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk