VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES Monday, October 10, 2022

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 10, 2022, 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 7:03 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: None

Also Present:Village Administrator Brian Murphy, Assistant to the Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Elijah Bebora, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Chief James O'Shea, Assistant Finance Director Keke Boyer, 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

President Adduci stated that citizen comments would occur during the discussion about traffic control.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee O'Connell wished everyone a Happy Columbus and Indigenous Peoples' Day. Trustee O'Connell reminded the public about the Fire Department Open House scheduled for October 15, 2022.

Trustee Johnson also wished everyone happy holidays. Trustee Johnson then stated he attended the Illinois Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The focus of the luncheon discussion was about energy & sustainability, and Trustee Johnson felt that River Forest fits in with the work of many other organizations.

Trustee Brennan expressed satisfaction with the Lake Street sidewalk near Lathrop being open to the public. Trustee Brennan then asked if the Village performed the work. Village Administrator Murphy confirmed that the Village effected the work and charged the Developer. Trustee Brennan then asked what the status is on the updated work schedule for the Lake & Lathrop project, and whether representatives for the project would attend an upcoming Board meeting. Administrator Murphy explained that the due date for the updated schedule is October 14, 2022 and that the meeting invite still stands. Trustee Brennan stated that she attended a ribbon cutting at Trinity High School for their recent renovations and complimented the improvements. Trustee Brennan also attended the Maywood Fine Arts Pumpkin Patch Parade and stated that LemonAid presented a check for \$44,000+ to the organization.

Clerk Keller had nothing to add to the permanent record.

Trustee Vazquez wished everyone a Happy Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day and acknowledged Trinity's ribbon cutting ceremony. Trustee Vazquez reminded the public about the upcoming deadline for household hazardous waste pickup registration and that residents have until October 12th for Electronic waste. Trustee Vazquez also thanked Deputy Clerk Elijah Bebora for his service and help with Village committees and wished him luck on his new job.

Trustee Gillis stated that she had attended the Tour de Proviso bike event on October 1st in Riverside and attended the Trinity High School ribbon cutting ceremony. Trustee Gillis also informed the group that she had been interviewed by CAN TV about the C4 initiative. She also spoke on solar initiatives.

Trustee Bachner began with a land acknowledgement and wished everyone a Happy Indigenous Day. Ms. Bachner also described a Powwow event in Schiller Park that she attended which was well attended by many Indigenous nations. She also mentioned that she was sorry to see Eiljah leaving the village staff.

Village President Adduci wished everyone a Happy Indigenous Peoples' day and Columbus Day and thanked the Trustees for attending various events during her vacation. She noted that National Indigenous Day is September 30th. President Adduci thanked Elijah Bebora and wished him luck.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes September 26, 2022
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Meeting Minutes September 26, 2022
- c. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 1431 Bonnie Brae Place
- d. Accounts Payable September 2022 \$1,580,544.32
- e. Monthly Department Reports September 2022
- f. Village Administrator's Report

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve consent agenda items A-F. Second by Trustee Brennan.

Roll call:

Ayes: Bachner, Gillis, Vazquez, Brennan, Johnson, O'Connell 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 for, and Action on, a Traffic Study in the Northeast Corner of the Village – Ordinances

President Adduci stated that public comments would be heard now.

Robert Armalas, from 1501 Bonnie Brae, addressed the Village Board and expressed concerns with the methods and findings of the northeast neighborhood traffic study and shared his observations of speeding and traffic violations. Mr. Armalas noted that he sent pictures to the Village Board of the traffic issues. Mr. Armalas stated that the problem is aggressive cut-through traffic and that comprehensive solutions are needed now. He felt the recommendations from the study are inconclusive and will not help the problem. He also noted that the Village is 35 years behind our neighbors in providing a solution. He recommended that Greenfield have permanent solutions, truck restrictions for the entire area, and complete street solutions.

Chris Schwartz, of the 1500 block of William Street, shared concerns about increased traffic and advocated for blocking traffic from North Avenue and Harlem Avenue. He noted that drivers are not abiding by the existing stop signs, etc. and that more stop signs likely won't help.

Todd Harangody, of the 1500 block of William Street, reiterated the concerns of increased traffic in the area and stated his support for his neighbor's requests.

Gary Kagan, of Greenfield Avenue between Bonnie Brae & William, shared his observations of traffic backups during rush hour and dangerous turns off of Harlem Avenue. His biggest concern was turns off/on Greenfield at Harlem.

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve the recommendations for and action on a traffic study in the Northeast corner of the Village. Second by Trustee Bachner. The four motions are listed below.

 Motion to restrict traffic on LeMoyne Street to one-way eastbound, between Bonnie Brae & Harlem, install a "right-out only" curb diverter and install all accompanying signage as proposed.

- Motion to install a partial cul-de-sac on Bonnie Brae at the south edge of the east/west alley just south of North Avenue and install the accompanying sign as proposed.
- 3) Motion to install a partial cul-de-sac on the west half of Clinton Place at the south edge of the east/west alley just south of North Avenue and install the accompanying signage as proposed.
- 4) Motion to convert the two-way stop at the intersection of William Street/LeMoyne Street and the one-way stop at Clinton Place/Greenfield Street to all-way stop intersections and modify the all-way stop at Clinton Place/LeMoyne Street such that only the north/south legs of the intersection are required to stop.

Public Works Director Jeff Loster addressed the Village Board. Director Loster provided a brief history of the northeast neighborhood traffic study process and the Traffic and Safety Commission's discussions. At its July meeting, the Commission instructed Traffic Engineers from KLOA to provide more substantial recommendations at its September meeting. At the September Commission meeting, the Commission made the recommendations on a temporary basis in order to elicit feedback on the potential improvements from other residents. This allows the Village to gather data on how well the temporary solutions are working, and how residents respond to the changes. Additional improvements can be made in the future. Director Loster added that a Village-wide traffic study will be performed soon. He also noted that William & Monroe streets will also be taken into account in future efforts.

Trustee Gillis asked whether the Traffic and Safety Commission had tabled the Greenfield Avenue discussion, and Trustee Bachner also asked if Greenfield had been discussed. Director Loster confirmed that Greenfield had not been discussed at length.

Director Loster explained each of the recommendations using aerial photos. The first recommendation is to restrict LeMoyne Street to one-way eastbound by installing a right-only curb diverter and signage.

Trustee O'Connell asked how residents that live near LeMoyne and Bonnie Brae would get to their homes.

Trustee Bachner explained that she lives near that location and that residents would drive down Division to William and around the Priory Campus, and that it was not a large disturbance.

Trustee Vazquez also had questions about the LeMoyne & Harlem recommendation.

Trustee O'Connell stated that he had heard different feedback from residents.

Trustee Johnson also asked about parking being affected.

Trustee Gillis mentioned that each of the recommendations may have an adverse impact on other streets and that needs to be considered. Director Loster stated that the Village-wide traffic study could analyze the impacts.

Director Loster then elaborated on the second recommendation. The recommendation is to install a cul-de-sac on Bonnie Brae at the south edge of the east/west alley just south of North avenue and install the accompanying signs. There was some discussion about potential impact on the North Avenue businesses. Director Loster explained that the access would not be blocked from North Avenue, and part of the intent is to prevent delivery trucks from residential streets.

Trustee Vazquez asked about where traffic would flow to. He also asked how Oak Park is handling North Ave traffic.

Trustee Brennan questioned the alley access for neighbors.

Director Loster presented the third recommendation, installation of a partial cul-desac on the west half of Clinton Place at the south edge of the east/west alley just south of North Avenue and install signage. This partial cul-de-sac prevents southbound traffic, while allowing northbound traffic.

Trustee O'Connell asked Chief O'Shea about the number of violations there are at the existing partial cul-de-sac at Forest Avenue and North Avenue.

Chief O'Shea stated that the Department does not see violations at that location, however there are regular violations at the North Avenue intersections that only have one-way signage.

The fourth recommendation regarding stop sign intersections was then presented.

Director Loster added a fifth recommendation to install a marked crosswalk on Greenfield at the intersection of Bonnie Brae. This does not require Board action.

Trustee Gillis asked if flashing crosswalk signage could be added at the location.

Director Loster stated that Greenfield is a local route and that could be implemented fairly easily.

A resident asked about locations for four-way stop signs on Greenfield.

Director Loster stated that the practice of the Traffic and Safety Commission has been to place stop signs every two blocks, to not have too many signs present. Director Loster added that KLOA offered recommendations for bump outs on Greenfield to slow down traffic. Trustee Bachner pointed out that Greenfield had not been extensively discussed by the Commission at previous meetings. She noted that Greenfield will just pick up traffic once LeMoyne is restricted.

Trustee O'Connell stated that the Board needs to be careful to act too quickly because of the potential impact on Harlem, Lathrop and Thatcher. Mr. O'Connell recommended that permanent solutions be implemented after the Village-wide study.

President Adduci pointed out that blocking access to Greenfield from Harlem would increase traffic on William Street, especially during Fenwick baseball games.

Trustee Johnson observed that Greenfield traffic reaches faster speeds at William Street.

Clerk Keller stated that residents in that area need relief, specifically from passthrough, non-resident traffic. If the Village decreases traffic counts, that will help increase property values.

Trustees Gillis and Vazquez reminded the group that the improvements would be temporary to test the impacts beyond the specific neighborhood.

President Adduci stated that the Board wants to avoid negatively impacting other streets.

Trustee Gillis stated that the Traffic and Safety Commission's role should not be forgotten, and that the regular traffic request process should be adhered to.

Trustee O'Connell stated that there are no budgeted expenses for improvements.

President Adduci reminded the room that the traffic studies take a significant amount of time and analysis.

Administrator Murphy read the new and revised motions for the Board's consideration.

Motion number four is to be amended as follows, "Motion to approve an ordinance to convert the two-way stop at the intersection of William Street/Lemoyne Street and the two-way stop at William Street/Greenfield to all-way stop intersections."

A new motion is to be added to the omnibus motion is as follows "Motion to approve ordinances to restrict traffic on Greenfield Street to one-way eastbound between the alley and Harlem Avenue, install a "right-out only" curb diverter and install all accompanying signage as proposed." Trustee Vazquez amended his motion and Trustee Bachner seconded.

There was some discussion about the temporary language for the motions. Trustee Brennan stated that there will be great information gathered from these improvements.

Roll call: Ayes: Bachner, Gillis, Vazquez, Brennan, Johnson, O'Connell Absent: None Nays: None Motion passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approval of a Contract with Nova Collective, LLC. For \$50,000 and Authorize the Village Administrator to Execute the Contract

MOTION by Trustee Bachner to approve a contract with Nova Collective, LLC. for \$50,000 and authorize the Village Administrator to execute the contract. Second by Trustee Johnson.

Administrator Murphy provided a summary of the RFP process for a third-party Diversity, Equity and Inclusion consultant. The three Advisory Group co-chairs agreed that Nova Collective submitted the best proposal, and that Nova was received positively by the DEI group.

Trustee O'Connell asked for more information about Nova's experience working with other municipalities.

Administrator Murphy noted that Nova had worked with the Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation. Mr. Murphy deferred to Trustee Bachner.

Trustee Bachner detailed Nova's work for the Oak Park Community Foundation and Fortune 500 companies. She commented that the Village is lucky to have Nova Collective working with us.

Trustee Johnson further explained that Nova had the best understanding of the River Forest area of all the other proposals submitted, and they have a deep roster of consultants. President Adduci complimented the work Nova performed for the Community Foundation.

Trustee Gillis requested additional information for the selection process on future contract awards. The Board agreed that more information would be helpful in the Board packet.

President Adduci explained the process for requesting RFP's and how they could be summarized for the Board moving forward.

Roll call: Ayes: Bachner, Gillis, Vazquez, Brennan, Johnson, O'Connell Absent: None Nays: None Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to enter executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village, and under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) to discuss the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the Village, and the Village Board Meeting will adjourn after executive session and will not return to open session. Second by Trustee O'Connell.

Roll call: Ayes: Bachner, Gillis, Vazquez, Brennan, Johnson, O'Connell Absent: None Nays: None Motion Passes.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned and went into executive session at 8:44 p.m.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk