

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, October 26, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 26, 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 7:00p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner (arrived 7:04), 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

Margaret Cekander, 531 River Oaks. Ms. Cekander commented about the stormwater RFP and suggested that it should include a full scope of work and that more time be given to obtain residents’ comments. She discussed the need for it to include river flooding. Ms. Cekander also commented about the bicycle plan and stated it had too many signs.

4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Recognition of River Forest Public Library Director Sue Quinn – Resolution

Trustee O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek to approve a Resolution Recognizing Sue Quinn for Her Distinguished Public Service to the River Forest Public Library

Village Clerk Brand-White read the Resolution aloud.

Administrator Palm noted that Ms. Quinn is in Colorado and has expressed her gratitude for this recognition.

President Adduci stated Ms. Quinn is awesome and that she was glad Ms. Quinn was part of the community for as long as she was.

Trustee Bachner stated her husband and child love going to the library and that they appreciate everything Ms. Quinn has done. She stated that in terms of programming, Ms. Quinn has always been innovative and creative in getting people to the library.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Recognition of the Life of Sr. Michelle Germanson, O.P. – Resolution

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Cargie, to approve a Resolution Honoring the Life of Sister Michelle Germanson.

Trustee Vazquez read aloud the Resolution.

Trinity President Laura Curley thanked the Village Board for taking the time to honor Sister Michelle. She stated she is honored to be sitting in the same office Sister Michelle occupied and to follow in her footsteps. President Curley stated Trinity is grateful for the River Forest community for its outpouring of love and support.

President Adduci recalled when Sister Michelle was in the Board room when they designated Trinity Way, and she shared a story about a young black student who started a petition at Trinity to bring more black history to the school. President Adduci stated the school embraces equity and inclusion, which was the will of Sister Michelle. She congratulated her legacy, the school, and the community.

Trustee Henek shared that she personally had a great experience at Trinity and that she has always been impressed with the school, and that Sister Michelle was great to have in the community.

Trustee O'Connell stated that based on the quality of education his two sisters received, he would resoundingly vote yes for this.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Henek asked that residents who will be participating in trick-or-treating take extra caution. She reported that she finished the four-week program for Race Conscious Dialogues and encouraged others to complete it, stating that it is a great opportunity to stretch thinking when it comes to race and what can be done collectively to move the needle. She also

announced that the annual Holiday Food and Gift Baskets donation drive would be reimagined and that they need to raise an additional \$100,000 by the beginning of November to equal the same amount of value in gifts as in previous years. She noted there is an increase in families in need from this year to last and that it includes River Forest families. She stated donations can be made at www.communityofcongregations.org.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell, Trustee Henek confirmed they had reached out to Target Foundation.

Trustee Brennan agreed with Trustee Henek's suggestion about encouraging people to attend the Race Conscious Dialogues programs. She stated one of the silver linings of COVID-19 is that it allows for people to participate remotely. She also reported she attended the Twin Village Covenant event.

Trustee Vazquez reminded everyone to have a happy and safe Halloween. He reported on the Age-Friendly Committee's most recent meeting, noting that the group is working to synthesize available data to focus on the gaps of information needed. He also reported that he attended the meeting with the Bonnie Brae residents regarding their concerns about the fence height at the senior living facility, and he congratulated Trustee Bachner on the Maywood Twin Covenant event. He stated they brainstormed ideas to make the Covenant become a reality and that he thought it went great. He announced two events related to aging: on November 2, Officer Ransom would be presenting at Coffee Monday on the Village's dementia resources, and on November 17 Concordia is hosting a discussion regarding aging in mainstream films.

Trustee Cargie stated the weather would allow people to set up tables for trick-or-treating and reminded everyone about the uptick in COVID cases.

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 thanked everyone who attended the Covenant meet and greet event and stated it was an opportunity for elected officials along with candidates for the internal equity group to get to know each other, and that it was wonderful to hear how the two communities would empower this partnership. She also thanked Lois Baumann for hosting the event at the Maywood Fine Arts. She cautioned that everyone be vigilant about COVID-19 precautions during Halloween. Trustee Bachner also reported that she graduated from Leadership Lab and thanked the Oak Park Community Foundation. She discussed the delays due to COVID-19 and reported that she completed an individual project that talked about work around racial equity and the internal advisory group. She also expressed pleasure in hearing others find value in the Race Conscious Dialogues work.

President Adduci reiterated the emphasis about being safe and healthy. She reported she also attended the Bonne Brae meeting and that they are trying to come to an agreement. She reported that she and resident Megan Keskitalo presented together to the DuPage Railroad Safety Council regarding the Village's relationship with the railroad and successes and challenges. She noted they discussed the soundproofing project along the Metra UP-West

line and working with Union Pacific to secure their access roads. President Adduci discussed the new COVID-19 mitigation measures in place and stated that she will continue to send out Village messages. She congratulated Trustee Bachner on her graduation from Leadership Lab. She stated she also completed the Race Conscious Dialogues program and participated in the reading event with Dominican University. President Adduci also stated the Village would try to work with CVS Pharmacy to prioritize COVID-19 testing for the community.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes October 12, 2020
- b. Village Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes October 15, 2020
- c. Approval of FY 2021 Compensation Plan – Ordinance
- d. FY 2021 Budget Amendment – Ordinance
- e. Letter of Support for a Joint Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant Application with the Village of Elmwood Park for Streetscape Improvements on North Avenue
- f. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-F.

President Adduci commented on item E and stated she is happy to see that item.

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

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Culture of Equity and Inclusion Partnership (TRHT) with Dominican University – Resolution

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to approve a Resolution Supporting a Community Partnership with Dominican University to Fight Racial and Social Injustice Using the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Framework.

President Adduci read the Resolution aloud.

Trustee Bachner commented on what it means to have white privilege and stated she is looking forward to working on this with Dr. Radford-Hill, Dominican and the rest of the team.

President Adduci stated this is another historic moment in River Forest and that she looks forward to the partnership. She also stated this is an issue that needs to be collectively addressed.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Dr. Radford-Hill stated that she is a proud resident and that she is proud of the Village. She introduced Dominican University students to speak as the next generation of student leaders.

Lauryn Bergert expressed her support for the partnership and stated student voices and experiences will be a great asset. She discussed that it is right to work together and being willing to make a change. She emphasized the importance of actively working together.

Jonathan Seals shared his experiences as a black man in River Forest and emphasized the need to create a culture of community and antiracism. He stated that he hopes with the new partnership, River Forest will be more welcoming to people of color and that to create change, they have to create a culture that everybody follows.

Dr. Radford-Hill also introduced Robert Baker as the TRHT intern. She thanked the students for sharing and stated she looks forward to working with the Village and students as Dominican brings its own resolution to their Board of Trustees next month.

In response to a question from President Adduci, Dr. Radford-Hill clarified that the executive board meetings in November and the resolution would be passed in December with the full board.

Trustee Henek thanked the students for their comments and noted it was brave of them to share personal experiences.

Trustee Bachner echoed this comment and reminded everyone that sharing these experiences takes an emotional toll on those recalling these kinds of incidents. She thanked them for their words and letting the Village hear their perspectives. She stated she looks forward to beginning to work with the Dominican community.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Village's Stormwater Master Plan RFP

Public Works Director Anderson reviewed the purpose of the RFP and highlighted the scope of work.

In response to a question from President Adduci about Ms. Cekander's comments, Director Anderson stated that the Greenfield Street discharge area would be included. He noted that including river flooding would increase the scope of work. Mr. Loster stated that the Village has good flood response in place. He also discussed ground flooding due to saturated conditions and the impacts on adjacent homes.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Mr. Loster stated that flooding is viewed as a natural occurrence and that if any response is necessary, it is up to the local municipality.

In response to a question from President Adduci, Mr. Loster stated the berms assist with responding to the flood on two different fronts.

In response to a question from President Adduci about grading, Mr. Loster stated a review of ordinance requirements relative to private property is included in the scope of the project.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan about permeable/impermeable surface, Mr. Loster stated if the Village wants to implement a private property stormwater element into Village Code, Staff would have to work with the consultant to figure out the best way to do that.

In response to a question from Trustee Cargie, Mr. Loster stated his understanding is that the existing Burke Engineering modeling is just in the NSMP area.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner about staffing, Mr. Loster stated the impact on staffing would ultimately depend on what the master plan recommends and what the Board chooses to move forward with.

In response to a follow up question from Trustee Henek, Mr. Loster stated reviews for residences would be in house but that bigger properties and projects would be referred to a consultant if necessary.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan about including the Sustainability Commission, Director Anderson suggested the consultant's analysis of green benefits could be referred to the Commission.

Trustee Brennan also suggested the consultant work with the Village of Maywood. She stated it might be a good idea to consider what kind of flooding issues they have and what they have been doing. She stated it might be good to work together because River Forest's flood mitigation might impact them.

President Adduci stated Ms. Cekander made a lot of good points and that they need to understand what they are and have a better understanding of the effects. She stated Staff should hold a Zoom town hall meeting to invite resident feedback.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, President Adduci stated they would reach out to those who were part of the task force as well to get more input, and this feedback would be incorporated into the RFP to get consensus to move forward.

Administrator Palm suggested it might be more meaningful to solicit resident impact once the vendor is selected.

Trustee Cargie expressed concerns about partnering with the Village of Maywood. He stated he is ok with that if Maywood would pay to be involved but that it is not appropriate for River Forest residents to pay for that.

Trustee O'Connell asked that Director Anderson and Mr. Loster be given latitude and that the Village did not need to get down into the minutiae of looking at individual homes.

Trustee Bachner stated the town hall gives residents an additional opportunity to provide feedback and that it is worth having a conversation with Maywood. She requested that Staff also connect with the flood task force members to get their ideas and historic information too.

Trustee Vazquez suggested posting it on the website and communicating it in the next newsletter in order to start soliciting information.

President Adduci directed staff to set and outline expectations of what the RFP scope is intended to do and to get an idea of all the topics out there and the impact. She suggested doing a couple of resident meetings.

Trustee Henek concurred and stated it is worth the time.

b. Follow-Up Discussion on Automated Water Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

Public Works Director Anderson reviewed how antennas would be part of this project and provided additional details about the AMI. A consensus was reached to move forward with this project and issue the RFP.

c. Project Update: Bicycle Plan Implementation

Public Works Director Anderson reviewed the history of the Bicycle Plan and the scope of the implementation and signage. He stated right now the plan is to bid the project out in the next month or two and be ready to implement in the spring.

Trustee Cargie stated there are too many signs and commented that it is visual pollution. He also stated the sign posts are getting cluttered.

Trustee Henek concurred. She also expressed concern about the impact of COVID-19 on the budget. She suggested breaking it down in phases and stated that some of the signage and street markings have value. She considered whether the full grant needed to be used.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell, Director Anderson stated certain streets would require IDOT coordination and their sign-off, so they could start with Village-controlled streets first. He stated he would have to follow up with the Cook County Department of Transportation regarding the grant if they were to cut things back.

Trustee O'Connell concurred that the plan contains too many signs. He also suggested seeing what they could do with \$30,000 today and go from there at a later date.

Trustee Bachner stated she is not opposed to bike route signs and asked how much the bike destination signs cost. She asked that to Trustee Henek's point about budget, whether that might be an easy way to submit for other work and hold off on bicycle destination signs. She stated those signs are not necessary for residents and considered which signs are meant for people outside the community. She stated for those outside the community, the Village Center and Town Center signs would need to be clarified.

Trustee Brennan suggested prioritizing the signage based on safety vs. wayfinding. She concurred with going ahead with the cyclist safety signage over points of interest or destination signage.

Trustee Vazquez concurred and stated most residents already know where the library and schools are.

President Adduci stated this is a good distinction. She stated that the consensus is to bifurcate safety signs and markings and then wayfinding signs separately.

Director Anderson stated he can go back to KLOA to remove wayfinding signage and get an estimated updated cost.

Administrator Palm clarified the grant source.

Trustee Brennan stated that bicycle shops have been ordered to stay open and that bicycling is often safer than public transportation right now.

Trustee Henek stated she does want to advocate biking and that she would like to see more bicycle pumps like those by the train station. She suggested using the money in a way that would have a greater benefit to residents.

President Adduci thanked Trustee Brennan and Andy Basney for their work. She also confirmed that Staff would bring back the revised Plan.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:51p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk