

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, February 28, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 28, 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 7:00p.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 Sara Phyfer, Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Elijah Bebora, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Commander James Greenwood, 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 voices her support for the planned development at Keystone Park with one caveat. She commented that Keystone Park has a magnificent flagpole, but there isn’t one in the planned development. She remarked that she would like the Village Board to consider asking the River Forest Park District to include a flag pole into the planned development that is properly illuminated.

Susan Charette, Village Resident and Sustainability Commissioner, stated that Lakeshore Recycling’s proposal falls far short in ensuring River Forest meets the PlanItGreen goals it signed on to. She commented that it does nothing to decrease overall waste. She remarked that the added options for composting and particularly the hazardous waste and electronic removal are an improvement, but they do not go far enough. She stated that she would like the Village to evaluate Lakeshore Recycling’s proposal keeping in mind the goals of PlanItGreen’s sustainability plan. She commented that she requests that the Board give the Sustainability Commission the opportunity to evaluate the proposal since the Commission is the Village’s designated advisors on sustainability issues. She commented that given the length of this contract, if the added features do fall short, it would be five more years before the Village could implement any significant changes.

Village Resident and Library President, Deborah Hill, spoke to thank the Village Administrator and Police Department for finding parking solutions to keep the library open during inclement weather.

Village Resident Margie Cekander stated that she expresses her deep sadness and solidarity with the people in Ukraine. She remarked that she wants to speak on the \$5.4 million bond issuance and the Village's finances. She stated that the Village received \$1.34 million dollars in COVID-19 relief funds. She stated she would like to know what the funds were spent on or will be spent on. She commented that she would like to know what the share of infrastructure funds received by the State will River Forest receive. She stated that it is unclear what happens to the bike path at the viaduct at Thatcher Avenue and Greenfield. She remarked that she hopes the Keystone Park design will receive a full review from the Village.

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 there are many families in the Village who are being impacted by the conflict in Ukraine. She remarked that the Ukrainian people are fighting for the democracy we have in this country. She stated that she would like to acknowledge Black History Month and wanted to thank all the people who celebrated it around the community.

Trustee Gillis stated that she expresses her support for the people in Ukraine. She commented that there have been discussions with Lindsey Silver, organizer of the River Forest Bike Exchange. She commented that the event will take place on April 9th.

Trustee Vazquez stated that he would like to express his sympathy and support for the people in Ukraine. He remarked the Age Friendly Committee met last month and discussed the survey monkey results and how the data will be handled. He commented that the Committee will analyze the data and come up with a plan that will be brought in front of the Board.

Village Clerk Jon Keller stated that he has nothing new to add to the permanent record.

Trustee Brennan stated she echoes the sentiments by others regarding the conflict in Ukraine. She stated that there was a Metropolitan Mayor's Conference where River Forest was well represented. She commented that the 11th annual Winter Film Festival begins on March 4th. She stated that the goal is to turn the tide on climate change and environmental racism. She remarked that additional information is available on oneearthfilmfest.org. She commented that a River Forest student will be leading one of the post-film discussions.

Trustee Johnson stated that he also echoes the sentiments of the other Trustees in regard to the Ukraine conflict. He stated that Trustee Bachner and Village Manager Murphy attended the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group meeting, and that information will be forthcoming.

Trustee O'Connell stated that he echoes the other Trustee's comments in regard to the Ukraine conflict. He commented that he attended the Economic Development Commission meeting and noted new technology that can be used to help with retail space.

Village President Adduci stated that she offers prayers on what is happening in Ukraine and to those involved. She commented that there was Village wide communication regarding the lifting of the mask mandate. She remarked that there is a high degree of vaccination within River Forest and is thankful to those residents.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Special Community of the Whole Meeting Minutes - January 24, 2022
- b. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - January 24, 2022
- c. Village Board of Trustees Executive Minutes - January 24, 2022
- d. Black History Month - Proclamation
- e. Women's History Month - Proclamation
- f. Approval of an Agreement with Sikich, LLP for Professional Auditing Services for the Fiscal Year Ending on April 30, 2022 in the amount of \$36,950 with the Option of Auditing the Four Subsequent Years
- g. Change Order in the Amount of \$38,563.07 for the Construction of the Fuel Island Improvement Project - Resolution
- h. Approval and Execution of Amendment #1 to the Standard Terms and Conditions - Municipal Ordinance Violation Enforcement and Municipal Offense System with Municipal Systems LLC, a DARCA Technology Company
- i. Approval of a Communications Equipment Agreement with the 1 Gale Condo Association - Agreement
- j. Monthly Department Reports - January 2022
- k. Financial Report - January 2022
- l. Accounts Payable - January 2022 - \$1,950,245.58
- m. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee Brennan stated that she would like to pull Item H on the consent agenda.

Trustee Gillis asked stated that he would like to pull Item G on the consent agenda.

Motion by Trustee Vazquez to approve consent agenda items A-F and I-M. Second by Trustee O'Connell.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Gillis, Brennan, Johnson, O'Connell, Vazquez
Absent: None
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Motion by Trustee Gillis to approve agenda item G. Second by Trustee Brennan.

Trustee Gillis stated that she would like to discuss the fuel pumps at the Public Works garage.

Public Works and Development Services Director Jeff Loster stated that after the December Village Board meeting, the Village reached out to the residents next to the Public Works facility but did not receive a response.

Trustee Brennan stated that she is surprised by the lack of a response due to the commitment those residents made in the December meeting.

Village Manager Murphy mentioned that the Village will contact the residents again when the parking lot is resurfaced.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Gillis, Brennan, Johnson, O'Connell, Vazquez
Absent: None
Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Motion by Trustee Brennan to approve agenda item H. Second by Trustee Johnson.

Trustee Brennan stated that she would like to know why there is a 30% increase in costs.

Patrol Commander Jim Greenwood commented that the cost has been flat with this vendor for over ten years and the adjustment now is likely to catch up from past years.

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

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Waste Contract - Discussion

Director Loster stated that Staff has had multiple meetings with Strom/Lakeshore Recycling Systems regarding a new contract and has incorporated the elements that Staff believes will lead to increased service for the Village throughout the term of the new contract. He remarked that these prioritized elements include: The refuse and recycling collection rates will be frozen in year 1 to match 2021 rates with a 3% annual increase thereafter, which is consistent with overall increases throughout the current contract term. He commented that compost collection will now include three options for participation: 35-gallon cart (\$13.00/month), 64-gallon cart (\$15.00/month) 96-gallon cart (\$17.00/month). He stated that it should be noted that all of these options are at a lower rate than the current compost collection rate of \$20.87 a month. He stated that these rates would also be subject to an 3% annual increase, which is consistent with overall increases throughout the current contract term. He commented that two at-home collections of household hazardous waste and two at-home collections of electronic recycling are included in the base contract at no additional cost. He remarked that these collections are not included in the current contract.

Director Loster stated that multiple education campaigns will take place throughout the duration of the contract. He commented that in year one, introductory/informational video, e-waste postcard mailers, food waste education marketing and semi-annual informational mailers will be provided to residents. He remarked in year two through five, an annual informational mailer and e-waste postcard mailer will be mailed to residents. He remarked that there will be an increase in customer service tracking and the addition of a dedicated Lakeshore Recycling Systems staff member to help coordinate all River Forest customer service responses.

Direct Loster stated that Staff is seeking consensus that the proposal presented includes a desirable level of service for future years of the solid waste hauling contract. He remarked that should additional services be requested for incorporation into the contract, Staff would ask that these be made known now so that they can be negotiated and ultimately incorporated into the formal contract.

The Village Board of Trustees provided consensus for Staff to continue negotiating a new waste contract.

b. Harlem Avenue Multimodal Bridge Replacement - Project Update

Director Loster stated that in 2008 the Village along with Forest Park and Oak Park discussed the Viaduct Bridge at Harlem and Lake. He remarked that despite the project being stalled for several years, the three municipalities have continued to seek outside funding sources for the completion of Phase 1 and 2. He commented that it should also be noted that due to the substantial amount of time since the project began, there are facets of the Phase 1 work that are already completed that will need to be updated.

Director Loster remarked that this is mostly related to traffic impact studies due to variable rates of traffic over the years and area development that has since occurred. In communicating with Oak Park, Forest Park and the Engineering Consultant working on this project, he remarked that Staff has determined that the solicitation of funding at this time would not be prudent. He commented that funding often comes with a spending “shot-clock” and issues unrelated to funding are currently holding up the project. He remarked that the optimal path forward would be to resolve these issues first. He commented that if the project is to proceed, it is recommended that the impacted agencies be contacted to continue discussions regarding an intergovernmental agreement for the project in the following order; United Pacific, Illinois Department of Transportation, Chicago Transit Authority, and Metra. He stated that this appears to be the optimal sequence for attempting to resolve this issue or discovering any nonstarters in an efficient manner. He stated that only once a conceptual intergovernmental agreement can be agreed-upon should additional funding sources be sought for Phase 2.

c. Update: Des Plaines River Trail - Bike Plan Update

Director Loster stated that the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. have been designing bike plan improvements and installations along the Des Plaines River. He remarked that the trail will pass through Rosemont, Schiller Park, Franklin Park, River Grove, Des Plaines, Park Ridge, Elmwood Park, River Forest and Forest Park. He commented that originally, the plan stopped at North Avenue. He commented that the planned continuation of the trail through River Forest and Forest Park will allow the path to reach the Illinois Prairie Path as well as the Forest Park Transit Center. He stated that the purpose of these improvements is to avoid repeated flooding issues associated with the river and to create a more comprehensive network for bicyclists. He remarked that all Phase 1 Engineering has been completed with the majority of construction planned to be completed in 2022. He commented the River Forest and Elmwood Park sections are planned to undergo Phase 2 Engineering and construction at some time in 2022 or 2023, depending on funding. He remarked that in order to continue to pursue funding opportunities to complete design/ construction and permitting through the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Village has been asked to re-affirm its support for this project to ensure that we remain an interested partner.

Director Loster stated that Staff is seeking consensus from the Board regarding supporting this project.

The Village Board provided consensus in support of the project.

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. An Ordinance Authorizing and Providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the Purpose of Financing the Costs of Certain Capital-Related Projects and Authorizing and Providing for the Issue of not to Exceed \$5,400,000 General Obligation (Limited Tax) Debt Certificates, Series 2022, Evidencing the Rights to Payment Under Such Agreement, Prescribing the Details of the Agreement and Certificates, and Providing Security for and Means of Payment Under the Agreement of the Certificates - Ordinance

Finance Director McAdams stated that the ordinance will set forth the parameters that are provided to the underwriters for when they are issuing the bonds. She commented that bonds will not exceed \$5.4 million and will be sold in March. Finance Director Rosemary McAdams stated that the Board should consider a Motion to approve an ordinance authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of financing the costs of certain capital-related projects and authorizing and providing for the issue of not to exceed \$5,400,000 General Obligation (Limited Tax) Debt Certificates, Series 2022, evidencing the rights to payment under such Agreement, prescribing the details of the Agreement and Certificates, and providing security for and means of payment under the Agreement of the Certificates.

Motion by Trustee Vazquez. Second by Trustee Brennan.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Introduction of Planned Development – 615 Lathrop Avenue (River Forest Tennis Club)

Ms. Maggie Kelly, Representative from the River Forest Tennis Club, spoke on the exterior beautification project.

Peter Donohue, spokesperson from the River Forest Tennis Club provided a project summary to the Village Board.

Architect Mark Zinni, outlined the design of the project.

Trustee Gillis stated that she would like to know if permeable pavers will be used.

Mark Zinni stated that permeable pavers will not be used, but there will be an increase of planting areas.

Trustee Johnson asked Mr. Zinni if construction will interference with traffic from the nearby school.

Mr. Zinni stated that the project will be mostly done during the Summer.

Trustee Brennan asked about where construction would be done.

Mr. Zinni stated that construction will be contained by the parking lot within the River Forest Tennis Club.

President Adduci stated that the improvements look great.

Ms. Scheiner stated that the Village Board is not voting to approve or deny the petition but is instead instructing staff on whether to continue with the planned development process. She commented that if the Board instructs staff to continue with the process, the applicant will proceed to the next step, which is to conduct a pre-filing conference with the Development Review Board on Thursday, March 3, 2022.

Ms. Scheiner stated that she is seeking Board consensus on continuing the application process.

The Village Board reached a consensus and approved the progression of the application process.

c. Introduction of Planned Development – Keystone Park (River Forest Park District)

Mr. Michael Sletten, Executive Director of the River Forest Park District, spoke on the scope of the project. He commented that the tennis courts surface needs to be replaced and reconfigured, and the batting cages and basketball courts will be moved. Mr. Sletten stated that a flagpole will be added to the scoreboard.

Trustee O’Connell stated that the park needs a significant flagpole and that residents want that. He stated that he will vote “no” in the future unless that is included.

Trustee Brennan stated she would like to know about the bioswale in the project, located along Lake St. and whether trees will be lost.

Mr. Sletten stated that the bioswale is for storm water collection & drainage. He stated that some trees will be lost, but will be replanted in other park sites.

Trustee Brennan asked whether the basketball courts will be lighted.

Mr. Sletten responded that those courts will not be lighted, but will be monitored.

President Adduci stated that she hopes the Park District Board will consider adding a flagpole.

Trustee Brennan asked about why the traffic study is not being included given new usage from the plan.

Mr. Sletten stated that no new services will be added, so no new traffic will be expected.

Trustee Bachner asked if the basketball courts could be lighted after an evaluation is done or requested by the community.

Mr. Sletten commented that changes can be made at any time.

The Village Board provided consensus to continue with the application process.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Trustee O'Connell seconded by Trustee Vazquez, the Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Public Comment - River Forest Board of Trustees - 2/28 Item #8 Waste Contract

My name is Susan Charrette and I've been a Sustainability Commissioner since 2019. I've also been the Village of River Forest's representative to PlanItGreen, a regional sustainability initiative, since 2019.

The PlanItGreen Sustainability Plan serves as River Forest's sustainability plan since it is the only one we have at this point in time. The Waste portion of PlanItGreen's Sustainability Plan lists the following two goals:

1. Increase residential waste diversion from landfills by 62%
2. Decrease overall waste generated by 1% annually

The reason it is so important to divert organics is that mixing it with other waste at landfills generates an immediate combustion of methane, a greenhouse gas scientists say is 100 times more potent in the short term than CO₂, making food residual diversion a key global warming mitigation strategy.

In PlanItGreen's last scorecard, River Forest received a C rating (defined as "Some goals have been met), indicating we still have much work to be done in this area.

In my opinion, Lakeshore Recycling's proposal falls far short in ensuring River Forest meets the PlanItGreen goals it signed on to. It does nothing to decrease overall waste. And though the added options for composting and particularly the hazardous waste and electronic removal are an improvement, I don't think they go far enough.

I would ask that you evaluate Lakeshore Recycling's proposal keeping in mind the goals of PlanItGreen's sustainability plan. And I would further request the Board give the Sustainability Commission the opportunity to evaluate the proposal since we are the Village's designated advisors on sustainability issues.

Given the length of this contract, if the added features do fall short, it would be five more years before we could implement any significant changes.

Thank you for giving this consideration.