

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, May 23, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 9, 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 7:05 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: Trustee O’Connell

Also, Present: Village Administrator Brian Murphy, Assistant to the Village Administrator Matthew Walsh, Management Analyst/Deputy Clerk Elijah Bebora, Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Police Commander James Greenwood, Assistant Finance Director Keke Boyer, Director of Public Works and Development Services Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith.

Roll call:

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

Absent: O’Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

4.ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Honorary Recognition of Mark Walsh - Resolution

President Adduci stated that whereas, Mark Walsh was born on February 21, 1961 in Oak Park; and whereas, Mark moved with his family to River Forest while Mark was in Junior High; and whereas, Mark was a longtime basketball coach of River Forest youth at Saint Luke Parish School; and whereas, Mark served on the River Forest

Board of Police & Fire Commissioners for over two decades until his untimely death in 2020; and whereas, Mark was a dedicated and passionate public servant who tirelessly contributed to the betterment of the River Forest community; and whereas, Mark passed away on February 8, 2020, and whose presence has been sorely missed by all members of the River Forest community. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of River Forest, Cook County, Illinois that the Board, for its members and the citizens of the Village of River Forest, honor the community service of Mark Walsh, and present this Resolution to his legacy. Be it further resolved that: section 1. The 1400 block of Keystone Avenue shall have a secondary designation as “Mark Walsh Way.” Section 2. The Board of Trustees requests that the Village place an honorary street name sign at the intersection of Keystone Avenue and Greenfield Avenue, which shall reflect the “Mark Walsh Way” designation. section 3. By this Resolution, the Board of Trustees does not intend to affect any existing or future signage that reflects the secondary designation of Keystone Avenue, with the exception of the honorary sign described in Section 2 of this Resolution. Section 4: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect after its passage, approval, and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

President Adduci presented Eva Walsh with the honorary street name sign and resolution.

Motion by Trustee Vazquez to honor Mark Walsh with an honorary recognition.
Second by Trustee Johnson

Roll call:

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

Absent: O’Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

President Adduci presented a plaque of recognition to Eva Walsh.

b. Carol Zanke 90th Birthday Recognition - Resolution

President Adduci stated that whereas, Carol Zanke, was born in Oak Park on May 28, 1932; and whereas, she met Gerald Zanke at Loyola University and they married on May 29, 1955; and whereas, in 1962, Carol and Gerald moved to 607 Thatcher in River Forest where they continue to live; and whereas, Carol is a lifelong lover of education and served Chicago Public Schools as a substitute teacher for several decades; and whereas, Carol has been an involved community member as a volunteer with the League of Women Voters; and whereas, Carol was an active parent of three boys at Lincoln Elementary School, volunteering often and serving as “Picture Lady”; and now, therefore, be it resolved by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of River Forest, Cook County, Illinois that the Board hereby congratulates Carol Zanke

on the occasion of her birthday; and, be it further resolved that the Board extends best wishes to Carol Zanke for her continued good health and happiness; and, be it further resolved that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Carol Zanke in honor of her 90th birthday as a token of esteem and good wishes from the Village Board.

Motion to Trustee Johnson to recognize Carol Zanke on her 90th birthday. Second by Trustee Vazquez

Roll call:

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

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

c. Elected Official Comments and Announcements

Trustee Johnson stated that he attended the recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast in Hillside with several area elected officials and Trustee Brennan. There was a discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and what it means.

Trustee Brennan stated that she is excited about two upcoming Juneteenth events. She commented that the first event is River Forest's first Juneteenth flag-raising ceremony in partnership with the River Forest Public Library which will take place on Monday, June 13 at 11:30 am at the River Forest Public Library. She stated that she would like to thank Trustee Johnson for being the MC for the event, Trinity high school students who will be performing a poem, and the Boy Scouts who will raise the flag with the Fire Department. She remarked that she would like to thank the Police Department for providing the sound equipment, Fire Department, the Forest Park Juneteenth Committee, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group. She also commented that on June 18th, the first West Villages Juneteenth Parade will happen starting at 11 am. She stated that the entry form was just completed, and the RF Fire Chief has already completed it which secures the first spot in the parade. She commented that the event is in need of volunteers for the parade and sign-up sheets are now available. She stated that she heard a segment on local radio about an event being coordinated by SCARCE, which is an organization located in Addison that the Village has partnered with in the past for the recycling extravaganza. She commented that the organization is collecting items for the people in Ukraine. She remarked that SCARCE is looking for donations of crutches, walkers, canes, wheelchairs, IV stands, sterile bandages, slings, Crayons, coloring books, new stuffed animals, energy bars, and new lightweight sleeping bags. She stated that SCARCE is partnering with Project Cure to send medical supplies all over the world. She remarked that more information can be found on the SCARCE website.

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

Trustee Vazquez stated that he would like to wish everyone a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. He commented that the Memorial Day Parade is returning on Monday, May 30th at 9:30am and will start between Augusta and Ashland. He remarked that he welcomes everyone to come out and support the parade. He remarked that the Age-Friendly Ad Hoc Committee met on May 11th and reviewed the survey questions and answers. He commented that the Committee focused on the first 52 questions by reviewing them, and rating them based on the number of responses to the questions. He stated that the Committee will go back and review the questions by age group at the next meeting. He remarked that soon they will provide a report to the Board. He stated that he and Elijah Beborra attended the Collaborative Committee and there were highlights from the school districts. They discussed the high school open house and it was a positive and well-attended event. He stated that there was a discussion on the academic curriculum and the community's reaction to it.

Trustee Gillis stated that she would like to thank the Kiwanis Club of Oak Park-River Forest for taking over the Memorial Day Parade partnership with the Park District from the River Forest Service Club.

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 where people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. Wished a Happy Memorial Day to everyone. She stated that she urges residents to be vigilant with rising COVID-19 cases. She stated that she urges the wearing of masks, and use of hand sanitizer to keep COVID-19 numbers low. She remarked that she attended the Mayor's Metropolitan Caucus Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion working group meeting that focused on data analytics. She stated that municipalities gather a lot of data and information but it is not centralized to be used for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion purposes. She stated that many municipalities are considering such data gathering and how to integrate it into Diversity Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. She commented that she attended a meeting on social media and viral misinformation specifically on anti-Asian hate that was hosted by the Chinese Canadian Council for Social Justice. She stated that people should be aware of the information they receive on social media. She remarked that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group met and did subcommittee work. She stated that a draft request for proposal will be ready by early June. She remarked that she met with the Dominican University Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group and discussed the training they are conducting at the University. She stated that she would like to congratulate the 8th graders who are graduating in a couple of weeks and going into high school. She stated that there will be an Inaugural American Ireland Youth Conference in late May on tackling climate change. She stated that a local Oak Park resident, Joanna Collins, who founded and ran Chicago Youth Coalition, will be part of the conference speaker's panel. She remarked that there will be a pride flag raising ceremony on June 1st at Village Hall.

President Adduci stated that she hopes everyone will be able to attend the Memorial Day parade after a two-year hiatus. She commented that the Memorial Day parade is an event that brings the entire community together and hopes everyone will be able to attend. She commented that she attended the Cross Community Climate Collaborative. She stated that it is meant to bring people across diverse groups together and share resources and drive changes that reach an agreed upon greenhouse gas reduction. She commented that she is working with many of the local Mayors and several municipalities are interested in joining. She remarked that all are invited on June 1st at 10:00am to attend the Memorandum of Understanding ceremony at Triton College.

Trustee Bachner commented that the Pride Flag Raising is happening on June 1st at 6:00pm at Village Hall.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes - May 9, 2022
- b. Approval of the Appropriation of \$550,000.00 of Motor Fuel Tax funds for the 2022 Maintenance Agreement - Resolution
- c. Motion to Award the 2022 Tree and Stump Removal Program to Homer Tree Care, Inc. in the not to Exceed Amount of \$84,000 and Authorize the Village Administrator to Execute the Contract Agreement.
- d. Village Administrator's Report

Trustee Brennan requested that consent agenda C be pulled from the consent agenda.

Motion by Trustee Brennan to approve consent agenda items A, B, D Second by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

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

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Motion by Trustee Bachner to approve consent agenda item C, second by Trustee Vazquez.

Trustee Brennan stated that she pulled item C because she would like to know why it is a single source bid, and why the cost has risen for the service. She stated that she would like an explanation.

Public Works/Development Services Director Jeff Loster stated that the Village competitively bid on the tree and stump removal contract. He commented that 6 to 7 contractors were notified before the bid was advertised, which is a common practice to let contractors know that the bid is out there. He remarked that only 1 company bid on the contract, Homer Tree Service. He stated that there is a general trend that the general cost for this type of work cost is increasing due to rising energy costs. He commented that Staff determined that re-bidding the work would not provide a lower bid.

Trustee Brennan asked Director Loster if the tree and stump removal can be incorporated into the budget. She asked Director Loster if the Village reduced the number of trees annually.

Director Loster commented that the Village has a budgeted number when it goes out to bid. He remarked that the Village has an annual allotment of trees, but not a set annual number.

President Adduci asked how the number of trees varies and how the Village budgets for that.

Director Loster described how the work and the budget is determined year to year.

Trustee Johnson asked Director Loster how the Village determines the number of allotted trees

Director Loster stated that it is determined by a rolling average from previous years and the Village estimates on the higher side.

Roll call:

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

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

a. Board and Commission Appointments

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Group – Appoint Jennifer Kelly & Layney McGinn

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to concur with the recommendation of the Village President to appoint Jennifer Kelly and Layney McGinn to the Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion Advisory Group. Second by Trustee Bachner

Roll call:

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

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Motion by Trustee Johnson to Approve an Ordinance Amending the River Forest Village Code Regarding Single-Use Food ware in Places of Eating - Ordinance. Second by Trustee Bachner.

President Adduci introduced the new Ordinance and mentioned that one Village business, McDonald's, wanted to be in attendance but could not make it. She remarked that the business owner has concerns on part of the ordinance.

Village Administrator Brian Murphy stated that the Sustainability Commission took the issue up at the guidance and recommendation by President Adduci and Trustee Gillis. He stated the matter was very well received. He commented that there was discussion on the requirements, exemptions, and which businesses the proposed ordinance would apply to. He stated that takeout and delivery food establishments would only provide single-use food wares at the request of the customer. He commented that food establishments shall provide options for customers to affirmatively request single-use food ware when ordering food for delivery or takeout. He remarked that there are exceptions that remain: single use food ware used to address safety concerns, vending machines, manufactured food attached with utensils, charitable foods, and pre-packaged food ware. He stated that at the May 10 meeting, the Sustainability Commission decided not to remove the exception.

Sustainability Commissioner Eric Simon stated that the Commission took the Chicago ordinance and made modifications. He remarked that the Commission did not want to exempt drive-through's because they didn't view it as necessary after public input from that meeting. He stated that the Commission felt that they wanted to make the ordinance as good as it can be. He commented that exempting drive-throughs would result in there being a significant volume of single-use plastic which is why the Commission determined that the drive-thru exemption was not worth it.

The Board gave consensus to defer voting on the single-use ordinance until McDonalds can address the Sustainability Commission at their next meeting.

Trustee Bachner had a question about McDonald's objections.

Commissioner Simon commented that McDonald's may have objections to an opt in vs. opt out concept for drive through customers.

Trustee Gillis commented that she would recommend that we do not assume what McDonald's concerns are and would like to hear from McDonald's what their concerns are. She commented that it should be noted that we do not know why the City of Chicago had a "carve out" for drive through in their ordinance.

Trustee Brennan stated that she is in favor of moving forward with the ordinance regardless of drive through businesses. She commented that patrons can bring their own food service utensils or can ask for it.

President Adduci noted that McDonald's does give out straws, napkins, etc when customers use the drive through.

Trustee Bachner asked if the Sustainability Commission considered why Chicago carved out the drive through from the ordinance.

Commissioner Simon commented that he did research via Google on the matter but found nothing.

President Adduci stated that the Board can do one of two things: 1) agree with Trustee Gillis that McDonald's is not present and able to forward their concerns and table the vote; 2) or vote today.

Trustee Vazquez stated as a courtesy to McDonald's he would prefer to have McDonald's present their concerns and table the vote now.

Commissioner Simon mentioned that there was not push back from local businesses, but mirrored concerns that restaurants are challenged enough today.

President Adduci stated that she would like to wait to hear McDonald's concerns prior to voting.

Trustee Bachner asked if there was a grace period to adhere to the new ordinance.

Commissioner Simon stated that the grace period is 60 days.

Trustee Brennan stated that she has two issues with language in the proposed ordinance – the title refers to places of eating and not take out; and a reference to Styrofoam should be changed to Poly-Styrene Foam.

Trustee Johnson and Vazquez withdrew their motions.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Trustee Vazquez 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 5 ILCS 120/2 (C)(2). Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives and not to reconvene after the conclusion of the executive session. Second by Trustee Gillis.

Roll call:

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

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Brennan, Seconded by Trustee Bachner. The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: O'Connell

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk