

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
Monday, August 22, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, August 22, 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 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: Trustee Brennan

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.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Phyllis Rubin, of 411 Ashland Ave., stated that she had not seen any activity at the Lake and Lathrop site for a while. She remarked that she received a phone call from Mark McKinney who stated that they are seeking access to her building’s northern access and parking lot. She mentioned that the place is untidy and that the site is poorly regulated. She commented that the Lake and Lathrop site is also blocking access to the sidewalks.

4.ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner started with a land acknowledgment. She remarked that she would like to congratulate all the kids on going back to school. She commented that she participated in a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion meeting with the Mayors Metropolitan Caucus and went through interesting topics. She remarked that there was discussion on what the outline for next year will be and the group came up with an agenda through the year 2024. She stated that the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group finalized their Request for Proposal along with the review with the larger group. She commented that there have been 16 bids from consultants across the country and the

community. She remarked that the review process will continue for the next couple of weeks.

Trustee Gillis stated that the Greentown Task force would be getting together to focus on sustainability issues as a collaborative. She remarked that the event would be educational and focus on how we can combat climate change together.

Trustee Vazquez stated that the Age Friendly Advisory Ad Hoc Committee met and are focusing on findings and action items and plan to complete the work at the next Committee meeting.

Trustee Johnson stated that he welcomes everyone back and is glad to see everyone.

Trustee O'Connell stated that he wished everyone good wishes for going back to school. He also wanted to congratulate Trustee Gillis and her husband Rick regarding her son graduating from basic training from the Marine Corps.

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

Village President Adduci stated she wishes the students good luck on the new school year. She remarked that she spent time with the C4, the Climate Collaborative and are trying to shape the project with goals. She remarked that the goal is trying to get communities of color with projects including solar. She commented that she had a Greentown meeting and stated that there will be a summit on Climate Change, hosted in Oak Park. She stated that River Forest will be a big part of the summit and will propel the community to the next level in combating climate change. She commented that she met with, Brad Cole, Executive Member of Illinois Municipal League, about the Board of Directors meeting that will be hosted in River Forest.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2022
- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Meeting Minutes – July 11, 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 629 Thatcher Avenue.
- d. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 558 Keystone Avenue.
- e. A Right-of-Way Encroachment Waiver and Agreement for an Irrigation System in the Public Right-of-Way with the Property Owners at 755 Monroe Avenue.
- f. Approval of an Agreement with Baxter and Woodman to Complete a Pump Station Energy Efficiency Study for A Not to Exceed Cost of \$30,000 and Authorize the Village Administrator to Execute the Contract Agreement.
- g. Monthly Department Reports
- h. Accounts Payable July 2022 - \$2,093,599.89
- i. Monthly Financial Report – June 2022
- j. Monthly Financial Report - July 2022

k. Village Administrator's Report

MOTION by Trustee O'Connell to approve consent agenda items A-K. Second by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Brennan

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None

7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

- A. Board, Commissions and Committee Appointments
 - i. Plan Commission
 - a. Reappoint David Crosby as Member and Chair, 4-year term expiring April 2026
 - b. Reappoint Roberto Armalas, 4-year term expiring April 2026
 - ii. Development Review Board
 - a. Reappoint Maryanne Fishman, 2-year term expiring April 2024
 - b. Reappoint Jane McCole, 2-year term expiring April 2024
 - c. Reappoint David Crosby, 2-year term expiring April 2024
 - iii. Zoning Board of Appeals
 - a. Reappoint Frank Martin as Member and Chair, 5-year term expiring April 2027
 - b. Reappoint Ron Lucchesi, 5-year term expiring April 2027
 - iv. Traffic and Safety Commission
 - a. Reappoint Doug Rees as Member and Chair, 4-year term expiring April 2026
 - b. Reappoint Arun Jayaraman, 4-year term expiring April 2026
 - c. Reappoint David Karrow, 4-year term expiring April 2026
 - d. Reappoint Patricia Chase, 4-year term expiring April 2026
 - v. Ethics Commission
 - a. Reappoint Greg Ignoffo, 2-year term expiring April 2024
 - vi. Fire Pension Board
 - a. Appoint Tom Severson, 3-year term expiring April 2025
 - vii. Board of Police and Fire Commissioners
 - a. Appoint Nathan Mellman, 3-year term expiring April 2025
 - viii. Historic Preservation Commission

- a. Appoint Brian Muhr, Schwartz Vacancy, remainder of term expiring April 2025

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to concur with the reappointments by the Village President of David Crosby, Roberto Armalas, Maryanne Fishman, Jane McCole, David Crosby, Frank Martin, Ron Lucchesi, Doug Rees, Arun Jayaraman, David Karrow, Patricia Chase, and Greg Ignoffo and to concur with the appointments by the Village President of Tom Severson, Nathan Mellman and Brian Muhr. Second by Trustee Johnson.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Brennan

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

B. Development Review Board – River Forest Park District Keystone Park Improvements – Ordinance

Lynn Libera, President of Park District presented the Keystone Park East Project. She noted that the have been before the Board previously on the proposed project. She stated that the tennis courts need to be replaced for several reasons. She remarked that there is opportunity for better use of the east space of the park and redesign the entire space. She commented that the park district has designed better centralized batting cages that create more spaces for recreation opportunities.

Mark Sletten, Executive Director of Park District stated that he proposes replacements of 5 tennis courts, 2 tennis hitting walls 4 lighted batting cages, 2 basketball hoops on tennis courts with 2 basketball hoops in a dedicated area. He went through the presentation for the plan with the Board. He remarked that a 30-foot flagpole will be installed next to the baseball field. He commented that there will be dual use on the tennis courts with lines for Pickle Ball. He stated that the batting cages will be the same as in Priory park. He commented that there will be 6 poles to hold temporary nets during baseball season. He stated that the baseball surface will remain grass. He remarked that the benefits of the proposed plan will decrease the concrete and asphalt surface area by 9%, and a 38% decrease in chain link fence, a decrease in the number of tennis light poles from 8 to 5, a greater distance between tennis courts, plus centrally located lighted batting cages between both ballfields, and added recreation opportunities including pickle ball and open basketball hoops.

Todd Abrahams, Vice President of WK group, coordinated with the engineers of the planned development, including the electricians. He spoke about the drainage for the area and lighting needs and recommendations. He mentioned how the light levels outside the park will be reduced considerably.

President Adduci asked about the open space next to the Paddle Courts.

Mr. Sletten confirmed that space is a grass area and will remain that for now.

Trustee Bachner asked about the lighting for the basketball courts in relation to the tennis courts.

Mr. Abrahams commented that with new lighting systems there is less of a need for more lighting sources in an area, and that the basketball courts will be well lit for play.

President Adduci asked if the lighting is adequate for basketball play.

Mr. Abrahams confirmed that it will be sufficient.

Trustee Johnson asked if the lighting for the basketball courts is insufficient, can the Park District correct that issue.

Mr. Abrahams commented, yes.

Trustee O'Connell commented that we should be careful about too much light spilling outside the park.

Mr. Abrahams showed examples of the Musco lighting being used at the park. He noted that there will be sufficient light and there is an ability to add more lighting if needed.

Mr. Sletten noted that reviewing the plan after it is in effect will be available to the Board. He also noted this October & November will be when the work begins and that the lines for courts will be painted in the Spring.

MOTION by Trustee O'Connell to approve an Ordinance granting an amendment to a planned development permit for the River Forest Park District (7920 Central Avenue).
Second by Trustee Vazquez.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Brennan

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

C. Zoning Board of Appeals – 1443 Forest Avenue – Side Yard Setback Variation – Ordinance

MOTION by Trustee Vazquez to approve an Ordinance granting the requested variations to Section 10-9-7 and 10-8-7(C)(2)(b) of the Zoning Ordinance at 1443 Forest Avenue. Second by Trustee Johnson.

Matthew Walsh stated that the property owner wants to install an elevator on the site. He remarked that there were no comments at the public meeting. He commented that there were three letters of support from neighbors in favor of extending the existing the setback.

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

Motion Passes.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to direct the Village Administrator to approve a minor amendment to the planned development at Concordia University for a digital scoreboard. Second by Trustee Vazquez

Brian Murphy stated that the scoreboard was installed in 1999 and the university is looking to replace it with a similar-sized scoreboard panel. He commented that Concordia University would like to replace the old panel with a new LED panel and decorative features. He stated that Concordia University has agreed to do landscape improvements to mitigate the view of the scoreboard to surrounding properties.

Randy Barfield, Chief Financial Officer at Concordia University thanked the Village Board for meeting tonight. Mr. Barfield did a quick overview of the University's relationship with the Village. He remarked that the current scoreboard is outdated and needs to be replaced.

Glen Steiner, Head of Operations at Concordia University, stated that the digital scoreboard will be Led in nature, the same size as the current scoreboard and will feature a decorative feature that will increase the height by a foot. He commented that the primary sports that will be supported by scoreboard will be football, soccer, lacrosse and track. He remarked that the scoreboard will only be lit during the day to minimize impact to neighbors. He stated that the maximum light emitted by the proposed scoreboard will be equivalent to 7500 nits, but only 40% of the maximum capacity will be used, or 3000 units. He commented that by contrast, the scoreboard brightness is lower than highway billboards. He remarked that Evergreen trees will be planted to obscure the view of the scoreboard to neighboring properties.

President Adduci commented that she appreciated the presentation by Concordia and that she is looking forward to seeing it completed.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Brennan

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Vazquez, Seconded by Trustee Bachner. The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Roll call:

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

Absent: Trustee Brennan

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk