

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES
September 9th, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 9th, 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 7:02 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

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

Absent: Trustees Vazquez and O’Connell

Also Present: Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner, Deputy Police Chief James Greenwood, Police Commander Michael Swierczynski, Police Chief James O’Shea, Director of Public Works and Engineering Jack Bielak, Village Attorney Lance Malina, Human Resources Manager Trish Ivansek, Village Administrator Matt Walsh, Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer, and Deputy Clerk Luke Masella

2.PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

3.SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- a. Proclamation Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of The League of Women Voters of Oak Park & River Forest.

President Adduci read the proclamation.

Members of the League of Women Voters made remarks on the history of the organization and presented staff and the Board with yellow roses.

4.CITIZEN COMMENTS

Gerri Humbert made public comment about parking issues in the area surrounding Dominican University. She also presented a petition signed by neighbors in the area asking the Village to act on the parking issues.

Pierangela Murphy made public comment about the parking issues surrounding Dominican University and raised multiple safety concerns related to the parking situation.

Village Administrator Walsh noted that the Traffic and Safety Commission will be discussing the Dominican University parking situation at the next Traffic and Safety Commission Meeting.

Margie Cekander made public comment regarding Agenda Item. 10a. Ms. Cekander raised concerns about the funding of the project and the cost sharing between the municipalities and the private train companies.

Ms. Cekander asked how the minutes and audio from the September 4th, 2024, Electoral Board meeting will be shared with the public.

Ms. Cekander then made public comment about the recent Neighborhood Dialogue program the Village has been promoting. Ms. Cekander raised concerns about a lack of public access in these meetings and stated that she thought these events are actually campaign events on behalf of Village President Adduci. Ms. Cekander also raised concerns about how the Neighborhood Dialogue events only focus on areas south of Lake Street.

5.ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Bachner began her comments with a Land Acknowledgement. She then noted September being Suicide Awareness Month and highlighted some programs the River Forest Township provides.

She also highlighted an upcoming kayaking event at Trailside Museum.

Trustee Gillis had no comments.

Village Clerk Keller had no comments.

Trustee Brennan reminded everyone that the LemonAid event was that week and also thanked the League of Women Voters for their work and the flowers.

Trustee Brennan reported attending the Conversations with President Adduci event the previous week and stated that there was good dialogue at the event. She also thanked Staff for their work at the event. She also reported attending multiple events at the Democratic National Convention.

Trustee Brennan highlighted a new restaurant, Cava, that opened in town. She then asked Village Administrator Walsh to explain the Neighborhood Dialogues as she stated she was unfamiliar with them.

Administrator Walsh provided background information on the program and noted that the primary goal is to discuss economic development with residents and garner feedback.

Trustee Brennan asked how the Village will decide who gets to attend the events and who gets to host them.

Administrator Walsh asked that anyone could volunteer to host and that Village staff is encouraging the hosts themselves to invite their neighbors and friends.

Trustee Bachner asked for clarification on which area of town the Village is focusing on.

Administrator Walsh stated that the area south of Lake Street is currently being focused on as a sort of testing ground/phase but noted that the Village is flexible.

Trustee Brennan asked which Village staff will be representing the Village.

Administrator Walsh stated he will be representing the Village or Assistant Village Administrator Jessica Spencer.

Trustee Brennan asked if elected officials could attend the meetings.

Administrator Walsh stated that it was not the intent for elected officials to attend due to optics.

Trustee Brennan asked how the feedback will be shared with the Village Board and other commissions.

Administrator Walsh stated he is not entirely sure what the deliverable will be at this moment but staff will be taking notes to help address any comments or questions raised by residents.

Trustee Johnson reminded residents of the Hazardous Waste Collection program. He also suggested that the Village put out a reminder regarding political signs on Village Property.

President Adduci gave thanks to The League of Women Voters and also highlighted the LemonAid event. She then thanked the Village staff for their work on the Neighborhood Dialogues. She also highlighted the most recent Casual Conversation with the Village President event and noted being excited about the quality of the event and the next event.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Village Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – August 12th, 2024

- b. Village Board of Trustees Executive Session Meeting Minutes – August 12th, 2024
- c. Monthly Reports
- d. Administration Department Report
- e. August 2024 – Accounts Payable – \$2,666,361.92
- f. Amendments to Chapter 9-2-19 of the River Forest Village Code – Schedule of Fines and Fees for Compliance Warning Tickets – Ordinance

MOTION by Trustee Gillis to approve Consent Agenda Items A-F. Seconded by Trustee Bachner.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, Gillis.

Absent: Trustees Vazquez and O’Connell.

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

7. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

None

8. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

None.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Oak Park & Forest Park for Harlem Viaduct Phase I Engineering and Engineering Agreement with Lochner – \$248,211.00

MOTION by Trustee Johnson to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Oak Park and Forest Park for Harlem Viaduct Phase 1 Engineering and Engineer Agreement with for a not-to-exceed cost of \$248,211.00 and authorize the Village Administrator to execute the contract agreement. Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

Administrator Walsh and Director Bielak provided background information on this agenda item.

Trustee Brennan asked if this plan will alter the traffic pattern for vehicles going under the viaduct.

Public Works Director Bielak provided information on the Phase One review but noted that everything is still up for review.

Trustee Johnson asked if the height will change.

Director Bielak noted that the height will change because the road will be lowered.

Trustee Brennan asked how the stormwater issues will be handled.

Director Bielak stated that alterations will be made to address the issues.

Trustee Johnson asked what the timeline will be.

Administrator Walsh stated Phase One engineering will be around a year. Further he stated, once the recommendation is received, the three units of government will have to determine what action will be taken. He noted that grant funding will be crucial for the success of this project.

Trustee Brennan asked if the contributions between the three municipalities for structural work will be reflective of their contributions in the planning portion.

Administrator Walsh stated not necessarily.

Trustee Bachner asked for further clarification on the previous studies that have been referenced and if these will be updated to reflect modern data trends.

Director Bielak stated that IDOT will not allow the Village to cite old data.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, Gillis.

Absent: Trustees Vazquez and O'Connell.

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Washington Boulevard Improvements ITEP Submission – Resolution

MOTION by Trustee Bachner to approve a resolution of financial commitment that states the Village commits to fund the required local match and all ineligible costs if awarded the ITEP grant funding for Washington Boulevard. Seconded by Trustee Johnson.

Administrator Walsh provided background information on the agenda item.

Trustee Johnson asked what area of Washington will be included.

Administrator Walsh stated Thatcher to Lathrop.

Trustee Bachner asked why this agenda item has a resolution instead of an ordinance.

Village Attorney Malina provided reasoning on why a resolution was used and fielded further questions from Trustee Bachner regarding Ordinances and Resolutions.

Trustee Brennan asked if the “ineligible costs” mentioned in the memo are costs that would not be covered by a grant.

Administrator Walsh stated that is correct.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, Gillis.

Absent: Trustees Vazquez and O’Connell.

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Gillis. Seconded by Trustee Brennan.

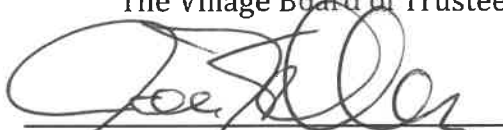
Roll call:

Ayes: President Adduci, Trustees Vazquez, O’Connell, Bachner, Johnson, Brennan, Gillis

Absent: None

Nays: None

The Village Board of Trustees Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.


Jonathan Keller, Village Clerk

Date: 09/23/24