



Meeting Minutes
President and Board of Trustees

Tuesday, July 29, 2025

6:00 PM

19th Century Club

I. **Call to Order:** Village President Scaman called the Meeting to order at 6:22 P.M.

II. **Roll Call Attendance:** Clerk Christina Waters took the roll call as follows:

Present in Person: Village Trustees: Eder, Enyia, Leving-Jacobson, Straw, Taglia
and Wesley; and Village President Scaman.

Absent: None.

There was a quorum.

III. **Public Comment**

Jack Powers commented on the Citizens Police Oversight Committee and Flock cameras that read license plates. At the end of Powers' comments, Village President invited Powers to email his statement to the Board.

Marc Blesoff, Chair of the Aging in Communities Commission, encouraged the Village Board to set as one of its goals the issue of addressing ageism as a public health issue, and to raise awareness and address "age equity."

There were no other public comments.

IV. **Regular Agenda**

- A. **ID 25-465.** Village Board Goal Setting. This is a discussion regarding Village Board goal setting and prioritization.

Village Manager Jackson stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to discuss and re-set goals for the 2026-2027 cycle, and to create a shared vision for the Village.

Village Manager Jackson then introduced Hilary Shine, Sr. Vice President of Leadership Development with Strategic Government Resources, who facilitated a workshop meeting in 2023 with board members and set goals for the 2024-2025 cycle. Village Manager Jackson summarized Shine's professional background, including 20 years in communications with municipal government and a communications degree with the University of Texas at Austin. Hilary Shine then provided an overview of what she intends to cover in the meeting tonight, including the following:

- setting ideals and priorities,
- eliminating ambiguity,
- setting ultimate, long-term goals, not just short-term goals,
- discussing what defines success, and
- providing a clear vision for staff.

Shine recited the vision statement for the Village that she noted was adopted a few years ago, and is posted on the Village website and is as follows:

The Village of Oak Park is a highly desirable place to live and visit because of our people, our shared values, our culture and our location. We have a strong sense of responsibility to embrace our historic past and support our thriving present as a diverse, welcoming, inclusive and integrated community. Oak Park is a leader in transformational thought and action committed to making brave decisions that are racially and environmentally just and create a safe, equitable, affordable and vibrant future.

Shine asked whether there were any proposed changes to the vision statement. There were none.

Shine recited the list of what the Village Board had previously determined to be "core values and guiding principles" that is posted on the Village website and is set forth as follows:

- We are Community-Centered in Our Thinking
- We are Fiscally Responsible with Our Public Resources
- We Build Trust through Respectful Dialogue and Board Actions
- We are Transparent and Accountable to the Community
- We Engage and Collaborate with the Community and Partners
- We are Focused on Equity, Innovation and Sustainability.

Shine asked whether there were any proposed changes to the list of "Village Board Core Values & Guiding Principles." There was general discussion and unanimous consensus to add the element of "future" actions or "generational" to the above list, and, to add "communication" to the "We Engage and Collaborate with the Community and Partners" statement.

Shine reported that she reviewed survey responses from the Board members, and Shine described four different primary styles of thinkers and how people process information, from the "input-output processing template," specifically: "the reactive stimulator, hypothetical analyzer, logical

processor and relational innovator.” Shine also described people and how they process information as “changers, performers, conservators, and perfecters.” Shine stated that most of the Board members are a blend of the foregoing styles of thinkers, and discussed the individual profiles that she composed from the survey as well as the Board profile.

Shine then reported on survey results from staff including the following list of priorities or missions:

- Economic vitality and diversifying the tax base,
- Enhancing life experiences,
- Sustainability and resiliency,
- Reducing greenhouse emissions,
- Energy and transportation,
- Health issues,
- Unhoused recommendations,
- Core services and operational excellence,
- Lead-line replacement implications,
- Municipal campus,
- Percy Julian streetscape,
- “Vision Zero Plan,”
- Bike plan advancement,
- “Greenways network waste study,”
- Vacant buildings ordinance,
- Residential property inspections and
- Outreach engagement.

There was general discussion by the Board members and staff of the foregoing list of staff priorities.

Shine then facilitated discussion of the following “key initiatives or projects” that are set forth as “2024–25 Village Board Goals, Priorities, Key Initiatives & Projects” in the “Village Board Goals” published on the Village’s website:

1 Community Affordability

- Priority 1: Remove Economic Barriers
- Priority 2: Limit the Tax Levy per a Finance Policy
- Priority 3: Pursue Governmental Partnerships

2 Community Health & Safety

- Priority 1: Reduce Crime
- Priority 2: Explore Alternatives for Youth Engagement
- Priority 3: Implement BerryDunn Report Recommendations
- Priority 4: Provide for the Safe Use and Enjoyment of Private and Public Property
- Priority 5: Provide for Safe Mobility
- Priority 6: Ensure Healthy Work Environments for Village Workers

3 Racial Equity

- Priority 1: Ensure Equitable Access to Government Services and Contracts
- Priority 2: Assess and Address Historical Lack of Equity
- Priority 3: Support Integration and Diverse Community Entry Points
- Priority 4: Enhance Cultural Competency

4 Vibrant, Diverse, Connected Neighborhoods

- Priority 1: Support Sustainable Advancement of Affordable Housing
- Priority 2: Support Strategies Related to Parking & Mobility
- Priority 3: Create Opportunities for Neighborhood & Community Engagement
- Priority 4: Infrastructure that Promotes Sustainable Transportation
- Priority 5: Emphasis on Relationship Between Neighborhoods and Business Districts
- Priority 6: Rapid Response Support for Unhoused Residents

5 Sustainability & Resiliency

- Priority 1: Implement Climate Action Plan
- Priority 2: Reporting on Plan Progress
- Priority 3: Resident Engagement and Education
- Priority 4: Maintain Viable Sustainability Fund

6 Economic Vitality

- Priority 1: Update the Village's Formal Economic Vitality Strategy
- Priority 2: Support New and Existing Small Businesses and Districts

The Board then discussed the 6 main categories of key initiatives or projects, specifically:

- Community Affordability,
- Community Health & Safety,
- Racial Equity,
- Vibrant, Diverse, Connected Neighborhoods,
- Sustainability & Resiliency, and
- Economic Vitality.

The Board discussed each of the 6 categories as well as the priorities listed under each category. There was general consensus that modifications to the list of key initiatives or projects and priorities would be reviewed with staff, and then circulated to the Board.

At 9:58 pm, President Scaman called for a **Motion to either extend the meeting beyond 10:00 pm or to adjourn**. A Motion was made by Trustee Wesley, seconded by Trustee Leving-Jacobson, to extend the meeting past 10:00 pm. **Motion carried** unanimously on a voice vote.

The Board continued its discussion of the 6 categories of the key initiatives or projects and their respective priorities. Hilary Shine then stated that she noted the topics and issues that the Board discussed that should be revised or added to the priorities list and that she will send suggested revisions at some point after the meeting.

No action was taken by the Board regarding this Agenda item (“Village Board Goal Setting”).

V. Adjournment. There being no further business before the Village Board, a Motion was made by Trustee Wesley, Seconded by Trustee Leving-Jacobson, to **adjourn this meeting** at 10:38 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Interim Deputy Clerk Marjorie Manchen