



Village of Oak Park

123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
www.oak-park.us

Meeting Minutes President and Board of Trustees

Tuesday, September 09, 2025, 7:00 pm – Village Hall Council Chambers (Room 201)

I. **Call to Order:** Village President Scaman called the Meeting to order at 7:16 P.M.

II. **Roll Call Attendance:** Junior Deputy Clerk Mekhi Prince took the roll call as follows:

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

Present via remote participation: Trustee Enyia. President Scaman stated that Trustee Enyia's reason for remote participation was stated as illness.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Clerk Waters.

A quorum was present.

Village President Scaman asked Village Clerk Waters to introduce Junior Deputy Clerk Mekhi Prince, which she did. Clerk Waters stated that Prince participated in the Junior Deputy Clerk program, and meetings with various staff and officials including Cook County Commissioner Tara Stamps. Waters and President Scaman then congratulated the Junior Deputy Clerk, presented him with a "Certificate of Civic Leadership" and then posed for photographs. This concluded the Junior Deputy Clerk's portion of the meeting.

III. **Agenda Approval.**

President Scaman called for a Motion regarding the Agenda as presented.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Wesley, seconded by Trustee Straw to **Approve the Agenda** as presented.

- There were no questions or comments from the Board and no further discussion regarding the Motion.
 - President Scaman then called a voice vote regarding the Motion. All voted in favor and none were opposed.
 - **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.
-

IV. **Minutes.** None.

V. **Non-Agenda Public Comment.** President Scaman called for any public comments.

1) Resident Patricia Walker stated that she would like the Board to provide oversight regarding Heritage House, and, that the Village should purchase Heritage House.

2) Felix Tello introduced himself and stated that he will be campaigning in Oak Park because he is running for US Congress in the 7th District of Illinois, and that he is not campaigning at this meeting.

VI. **Proclamations.**

- A. **MOT 25-232**. A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Designating September 2025 as National Recovery Month in Oak Park, IL.

President Scaman read aloud the title of MOT 25-232 as follows: A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Designating September 2025 as National Recovery Month in Oak Park, IL.

President Scaman called for a Motion regarding the Proclamation.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Wesley, seconded by Trustee Straw to **Approve** the Proclamation.

- President Scaman read aloud the Proclamation for all present.
- There were no questions, comments or discussion from or by the Board.
- President Scaman then called for a voice vote regarding the said Motion. All voted in favor and none were opposed.
- **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.

Anita Pindiur, representing Way Back Inn, accepted the Proclamation and stated that they are grateful for the recognition, and for the resources they are able to provide their

clients, and also grateful for the Village of Oak Park. Pindiur and President Scaman then posed for photographs.

B. **MOT 25-233**. A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Designating September 2025 as National Hunger Action Month in the Village of Oak Park.

President Scaman read aloud the title of MOT 25-233 as follows: A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Designating September 2025 as National Hunger Action Month in the Village of Oak Park.

President Scaman then called for a Motion regarding the Proclamation.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Enyia, seconded by Trustee Straw to **Approve** the Proclamation.

- President Scaman read aloud the Proclamation for all present.
- There were no questions, comments or discussion from or by the Board.
- President Scaman then called for a voice vote regarding the Motion. All voted in favor and none were opposed.
- **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.

Jennie Hull, Executive Director of Beyond Hunger, accepted the Proclamation and stated that they are grateful for the recognition and for highlighting such an important cause that affects so many people, and for all of the support they receive from the community, and, Hull stated that last year they "served 69,000 families."

Karen McMillin and an individual named Jennifer (no last name was given), were identified as two representatives from the "Community of Congregations" organization. They thanked the Board for recognizing their organization and recognizing the impact of hunger on millions of Americans, and, thanked the Board for acknowledging the prevalence of food insecurity in the community. Jennifer announced their projects including "Soup and Bread" and "Veggie Bingo" at Robert's Westside.

Members of Beyond Hunger posed for photographs with President Scaman and the Board, as well as members of Community of Congregations also posed for photographs with President Scaman and the Board.

C. **MOT 25-234**. A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Designating September 2025 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Oak Park, IL.

President Scaman read aloud the title of MOT 25-234 as follows: A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Designating September 2025 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Oak Park, IL. President Scaman then called for a Motion regarding the Proclamation.

A Motion was made by Trustee Wesley, seconded by Trustee Taglia, to Approve the Proclamation.

- President Scaman asked Trustee Taglia to read aloud the Proclamation for all present, which he did.
- There were no questions, comments or discussion from or by the Board.
- President Scaman then called for a voice vote regarding the Motion. All voted in favor and none were opposed.
- **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.

Cheryl Potts, Executive Director of the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township, and Allison Davenport, CEO of RiverEdge, each spoke about the importance of suicide prevention awareness, and stated that they are grateful for the Board's recognition of the importance of suicide prevention and mental health crisis calls for service. Potts and Davenport then posed for photographs with President Scaman and the Board.

VII. **Village Manager Reports.**

- D. **ID 25-488.** Review of the Tentative Village Board Meeting Calendars for September, October and November 2025.

Village Manager Jackson stated that his report includes the updated calendars for September, October, November, and December, 2025. There was general discussion regarding dates and times of up-coming meetings.

Village Manager Jackson and President Scaman asked whether there were any questions; there were none. This concluded Manager Jackson's report.

VIII. **Village Board Committees.** No report was given; no action took place.

IX. **Citizen Commission Vacancies.**

- E. **ID 25-545.** Board and Commission Vacancy Report for September 9, 2025.

This report lists the expected number of members, current number of members seated and number of active vacancies for the Village's 18 citizen boards and commissions. There are currently 16 vacancies.

President Scaman stated that anyone interested in serving on a board or commission should contact Clerk Waters at clerkwaters@oak-park.us.

X. **Citizen Commission Appointments, Reappointments and Chair Appointments.**

- F. **ID 25-546.** A Motion to Consent to the Village President's Appointment of: Citizen Involvement Commission – Carollina Song, Reappoint as Commissioner Member.

President Scaman asked for a Motion regarding her re-appointment of Carollina Strong to the Citizen Involvement Commission as a commission member.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Leving-Jacobson, seconded by Trustee Straw to Consent to the Village President's Appointment of: Citizen Involvement Commission – Carollina Song, Reappoint as Commissioner Member.

- There were no questions or comments from the Board and no further discussion.
- President Scaman then called a voice vote regarding the Motion. All voted in favor and none were opposed.
- **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.

President Scaman thanked all of the individuals who volunteer and serve on the commissions and congratulated Carollina Song on her second term on the Citizen Involvement Commission.

XI. **Consent Agenda.** The following items comprise the "Consent Agenda:"

- G. **ORD 25-160** An Ordinance Granting an Extension of the Time for the Issuance of a Building Permit to December 18, 2025, to Construct a Townhome Development at 427 Madison Street Pursuant to an Approved Special Use Permit by Ordinance 24-129.
- H. **ORD 25-163** Concur with the Historic Preservation Commission and Adopt an Ordinance Authorizing the Revised Historic Preservation Guidelines for Roofing – Solar Panels.
- I. **RES 25-239** A Resolution Approving a Contract with Lyons Electric Company, Inc. for Project 25-14, Garfield Traffic Signal Upgrade, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$116,000 and Authorizing its Execution.

- J. **RES 25-253** A Resolution Approving An Amendment To A Professional Services Agreement With T.Y. Lin International Great Lakes, Inc For The Completion Of An Electric Shuttle Feasibility Assessment To Change The Amount Not To Exceed From \$58,114 To \$65,732 And Authorizing Its Execution.
- K. **RES 25-255** A Resolution Authorizing The Submission Of A Special Projects Grant Application With The Illinois Department Of Human Services Office Of Community And Positive Youth Development For Supporting The Cross Community Climate Collaborative's Youth Leadership Programming.
- L. **RES 25-259** Concur with the Housing Programs Advisory Committee and Adopt the Resolution Authorizing a Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Loan (SFR-105).
- M. **RES 25-260** Concur with the Housing Programs Advisory Committee and Adopt the Resolution Authorizing a Single-Family Housing Rehabilitation Loan (SFR-103B).
- N. **RES 25-261** A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Oak Park and the County of Cook for the Invest in Cook Grant for the 2026 Neighborhood Greenway Project in an Amount of \$250,000 and Authorizing its Execution.
- O. **MOT 25-210** A Motion to Approve the June 2025 Monthly Treasurer's Report for All Funds.
- P. **MOT 25-211** A Motion to Approve the Quarterly Financial Update (Unaudited) For Period Ending June 30, 2025.
- Q. **MOT 25-228** A Motion to Approve the Bills in the Amount of \$5,955,697.44 from August 3, through August 30, 2025.

President Scaman asked for a Motion regarding the Consent Agenda as presented.

There was a **Motion** by Trustee Taglia, seconded by Trustee Wesley, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

- There were no questions or comments from the Board and no further discussion regarding the Consent Agenda.
- President Scaman then asked Clerk Waters to take the roll call vote, which was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Village Trustees Taglia, Wesley, Eder, Enyia, Leving-Jacobson, Straw; and Village President Scaman.
- **Nays:** None.
- **Abstentions:** None.
- **Absent:** None.

Motion Carried by a count of 7 "aye" votes to 0 "nay," 0 abstain, and 0 absent.

Agenda items G through and including Q were therefore adopted.

XII. Regular Agenda.

- R. **RES 25-248.** A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Greenprint Partners for the Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Study and Plan in an Amount Not to Exceed \$120,035 and Authorizing its Execution.

President Scaman read aloud the title summary of **Resolution 25-248** as follows:

A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Greenprint Partners for the Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Study and Plan in an Amount Not to Exceed \$120,035 and Authorizing its Execution.

President Scaman asked for a Motion regarding RES 25-248.

There was a **Motion** by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Leving-Jacobson, to Approve RES 25-248.

Trustee Eder stated that he was recusing himself from discussions regarding this Resolution, and consequently abstaining from any vote, because his wife works for Greenprint Partners, the company who is a party to the proposed agreement. Eder also stated that his wife's employment is also the reason that he asked that this Resolution "be pulled from the Consent Agenda."

President Scaman called upon Village Manager Jackson who introduced Lindsey Roland Nieratka, Chief Sustainability Officer, who then summarized the Resolution and underlying professional services contract for all present.

The Board generally discussed the Resolution.

President Scaman asked whether there were any further questions or comments from the Board; and no further discussion ensued regarding the said Resolution.

President Scaman then asked Clerk Waters to take the roll call vote, which was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Village Trustees Straw, Leving-Jacobson, Enyia, Taglia, and Wesley; and Village President Scaman.
- **Nays:** None.
- **Abstentions:** Trustee Eder.
- **Absent:** None.

Motion Carried by a count of 6 "aye" votes to 0 "nay," 1 abstain, and 0 absent.

S. **ID 25-512.** A Presentation and Discussion of Police Oversight Recommendations.

President Scaman read aloud the title of this Agenda as follows: A Presentation and Discussion of Police Oversight Recommendations.

President Scaman called upon Village Manager Jackson who introduced Kira Tchang, Assistant Village Manager and Human Resources Director, who stated that she also serves as the staff liaison to the Citizen Police Oversight Committee, also known as "CPOC." Tchang stated the goal of the study session this evening is to present recommendations for CPOC which was created in 1991, and "updating the oversight function with the goal of creating a modern system that aligns with the current and future needs of our community."

Tchang then introduced Bart Lowe of Pivot Consulting Group ("PCG"), which is comprised of police oversight practitioners and who provided the Village with their review and recommendations. Tchang also introduced the Chair of the Citizen Police Oversight Committee, Kevin Barnhart, and Village Police Chief Shatonya Johnson, who were both present. Lowe then summarized his presentation entitled "Strengthening Civilian Oversight in Oak Park" including the following items:

- The 5-phase evaluation process and methodology used in the study.
- Phase 1: Needs assessment, including review of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Phase 2: National best practices and models.
- Phase 3: Community and stakeholder engagement.
- Phase 4: Recommendations framework, including a comparison of the current CPOC and recommendations for changes.
- An overview of the elements of the "Cambridge Review Model."
- Recommendations within the following areas:

- 1) Governance and legal structure,
- 2) Membership and appointments of CPOC,
- 3) The scope of CPOC's oversight,
- 4) Access to information,
- 5) Staffing and resources,
- 6) Training and capacity building,
- 7) Communication and transparency,
- 8) Police engagement and feedback loops,
- 9) Data systems and access protocols,
- 10) Performance metrics and evaluations, and
- 11) Ongoing structural review.

Lowe complimented Police Chief Johnson regarding the police department and thanked everyone who participated in the project. This concluded Lowe's presentation.

President Scaman asked the Board whether there were any questions. The Board then generally discussed Lowe's presentation.

Chief Johnson stated that the police department appreciates the work performed by Pivot Consulting Group and she looks forward to implementing recommendations that are best for the Village. Chair of the Citizen Police Oversight Committee, Kevin Barnhart, then spoke, agreeing with Chief Johnson, and stated that he agrees with the recommendations of the Pivot Group, with the knowledge that there will be some revisions to and fine-tuning of the details of the recommendations.

There was discussion among the Board members with Lowe and Corr of PCG and Police Chief Johnson regarding issues including surveillance technology and its definition, "ALPR" technology, modernizing the data structure, and developing and implementing secure permission-based systems that would allow specific CPOC members and/or staff different levels of access to read and possibly investigate complaint files.

Brian Corr of Pivot Consulting Group stated that he worked for the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts since 2010 and provided additional details concerning the "Cambridge Review Model." Corr stated that Cambridge has a department of one full-time person who handles the daily responsibilities of the police oversight committee, and who reports to their city manager.

The Board members each asked questions of Lowe and Corr of PCG, Police Chief Johnson and Village Manager Jackson. There was much discussion of the presentation and recommendations of the PCG, including the following issues: 1) whether or not there is

a need for a full-time staff member to assist CPOC; and 2) who would supervise the staff person; whether the staff person would report to the Village Manager and/or the Chief Diversity Officer.

Director Tchang also discussed with the Board members the possible job responsibilities that the position in question would include, such as the following: accepting complaints via mail, email, fax and in-person; speaking with the complainant, including to see whether the issue may be resolved and whether the complainant will sign a complaint form, and "regular" communications with complainants; advancing the complaint to internal affairs; preparing materials for and assisting with monthly meetings with CPOC and handling all follow-up tasks deriving from meetings; training for the individual and committee members, both orientation training and on-going.

At 9:59 pm, there was a **Motion** by Trustee Leving-Jacobson, seconded by Trustee Eder to continue the discussion and meeting beyond 10: 00 pm.

- There were no questions or comments from the Board and no discussion regarding the Motion.
- President Scaman called for a voice vote; All voted in favor and none were opposed.
- **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.

Barnhart, Chair of CPOC, spoke to the importance of systemic overview and examining trends of certain incidents such as traffic stops, pedestrian stops, and use of force.

After each Board member commented on the presentation by and recommendations of Pivot Consulting Group, President Scaman asked whether there were any other questions or comments. There were none. Scaman stated that she is supportive of the report and its recommendations and grateful for the work of the Board, staff and stakeholders regarding the review of CPOC. Scaman stressed the importance of CPOC. Scaman then stated that there was a lot of consensus within the room regarding the topics covered, and, she reminded all present that this is a discussion item and not ready for action.

No further discussion ensued and no action was taken regarding this Agenda item.

-
- T. **MO 25-220**. A Motion to Approve the Design Concept and Scope of the Chicago Ave Streetscape Project Honoring Dr. Percy Julian.

President Scaman read aloud the title of **Motion 25-220** as follows: A Motion to Approve the Design Concept and Scope of the Chicago Ave Streetscape Project Honoring Dr. Percy Julian.

President Scaman asked for a Motion regarding **MO 25-220**.

There was a Motion by Trustee Wesley, seconded by Trustee Eder, to approve the Design Concept and Scope of the Chicago Ave Streetscape Project Honoring Dr. Percy Julian (**MO 25-220**).

President Scaman called upon Village Manager Jackson who introduced Assistant Village Engineer Chris Welch, who Jackson stated has worked on the streetscape project with Public Works Director Rob Sproule, and Village Engineer Bill McKenna. Welch then described the background of the project and the process undertaken. Welch stated that Chicago Avenue from Oak Park Avenue to Austin has been identified by the Village as "a high injury network corridor." Welch then introduced Jennifer Kelliher, senior landscape architect with Planning Resources Inc ("PRI").

Kelliher delivered a presentation highlighting proposed designs and including a site assessment summary, community engagement summary, "final concept design," proposed "site palette," gateway designs, large and small exhibit designs, "minor identifiers," and, designs for the following Avenues: East Avenue, Ridgeland, Lombard and Humphrey. Kelliher also explained proposed "augmented reality opportunities" including navigational, immersive and informational.

The Board members then each offered comments and posed questions of landscape architect Kelliher and Assistant Village Engineer Welch.

President Scaman reminded all present that this Motion does not authorize specific costs and that there will be additional discussions and feedback and approval of costs will be in the down the road.

President Scaman asked whether there were any further questions or comments from the Board; and no further discussion ensued regarding the Motion.

President Scaman then asked Clerk Waters to take the roll call vote, which was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Village Trustees Wesley, Eder, Enyia, Leving-Jacobson, Straw, and Taglia; and Village President Scaman.
- **Nays:** None.
- **Abstentions:** None.
- **Absent:** None.

Motion Carried by a count of 7 "aye" votes to 0 "nay," 0 abstain, and 0 absent.

-
- U. **ORD 25-154**. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 ("Housing"), Article 2 ("Residential Rental License") And Article 6 ("Residential Tenant And

Landlord Ordinance”), Section 4 (“Rental Agreements”) And Section 11 (“Security Deposits”) And Amending Chapter 13 (“Human Rights”), Article 5 (“Unlawful Management Practices”), Section 1 (“Unlawful Management Practices; Regulations”) as reviewed by the Village Board at its June 17, 2025 study session.

This Agenda item was tabled by the Board due to the length of the meeting. All Board members agreed. There were no questions or comments from the Board and no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote; none were opposed.

No other action was taken regarding this Agenda item.

XIII. **Call to Board and Clerk.**

Trustees Straw, Taglia, Leving-Jacobson, Eder and Enyia each gave opinion statements regarding various agenda and non-agenda items, as well as President Scaman. Clerk Waters and Trustee Wesley “passed” on providing statements.

XIV. **Adjourn.** There being no further business before the Village Board, a **Motion** was made by Trustee Straw, Seconded by Trustee Leving-Jacobson, to adjourn this meeting at 11:03 p.m.

- There were no questions or comments from the Board and no further discussion.
 - President Scaman then called a voice vote regarding the Motion. All voted in favor and none were opposed.
 - **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.
-

Respectfully submitted,

Interim Deputy Clerk Marjorie A. Manchen