



Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes

President and Board of Trustees

Monday, May 3, 2021

6:00 PM

Public Works Center (outside) 201 South Blvd

I. Call to Order

Village President Abu-Taleb called the meeting to order at 6:16 P.M. He authorized a statement be read providing that the meeting is being held remotely due to COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines and that it is not prudent to have people present at the Village Board's regular meeting location due to public health concerns related to that pandemic.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

Absent: 0

III. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Village Trustee Andrews, seconded by Village Trustee Boutet to approve the Agenda. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

IV. Village President's Welcome

Village President Anan Abu-Taleb welcomed newly elected Village President Vicki Scaman, as well as all those watching the meeting.

V. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

VI. Resolution Certifying Election Results

A. [RES 21-113](#) A Resolution Proclaiming the Results of the Consolidated Election Held on April 6, 2021

Village Clerk Vicki Scaman presented the election results for Village offices as certified by the Cook County Clerk.

It was moved by Village Trustee Buchanan, seconded by Village Trustee Boutet, to adopt the Resolution. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Abu-Taleb, Village Trustee Andrews, Village Trustee Boutet, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Moroney, Village Trustee Taglia, Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

VII. Oath of Office: Village Clerk

B. [ID 21-128](#)

1. Remarks from Outgoing Village Clerk Vicki Scaman
2. Oath of Office of Newly Elected Village Clerk Christina Waters
3. Remarks from Newly Elected Village Clerk Christina Waters
4. Resolution in Appreciation of Village Clerk Vicki Scaman
Village Clerk Vicki Scaman will be presented with the Resolution & given a service award.

Outgoing Village Clerk Vicki Scaman held her comments until later in the meeting.

Outgoing Village Clerk Vicki Scaman administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Village Clerk Christina M. Waters.

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters stated that she is honored to serve in the role as Village Clerk.

Village President Anan Abu-Taleb read the Resolution in Appreciation of Village Clerk Vicki Scaman.

VIII. Oath of Office: Village Trustee

C. [ID 21-129](#)

1. Remarks from Mid-Term Trustees
 - a. Remarks from Trustee Arti Walker-Peddakotla
 - b. Remarks from Trustee Jim Taglia
 - c. Remarks from Trustee Susan Buchanan
2. Remarks from Outgoing Trustees
 - a. Remarks from Trustee Simone Boutet
After remarks, Trustee Simone Boutet will take a seat in the front row of the audience

b. Remarks from Trustee Deno Andrews

After remarks, Trustee Deno Andrews will take a seat in the front row of the audience

c. Remarks from Trustee Dan Moroney

After remarks, Trustee Dan Moroney will take a seat in the front row of the audience

3. Oath of Office for Village Trustee**a. Village Trustee Lucia Robinson**

After the oath of office, Trustee Lucia Robinson will take a seat at the Village Board table

b. Village Trustee Chibuike Enyia

After the oath of office, Trustee Chibuike Enyia will take a seat at the Village Board table

c. Village Trustee Ravi Parakkat

After the oath of office, Trustee Ravi Parakkat will take a seat at the Village Board table

Village Trustee Arti Walker-Peddakotla said she looks forward to working with the new Board.

Village Trustee Jim Taglia expressed his honor to have worked with Village President Anan, as well as outgoing Trustees Andrews, Boutet and Moroney over the last four years. He described their excellent working relationship. He noted that even when they disagreed, they engaged in a civil fashion which led to a meeting of the minds and progress. Village Trustee Taglia said that it is only through working together that the Trustees can accomplish what the constituents elected the Trustees to do. Village Trustee thanked Trustees Moroney, Andrews and Boutet for the sacrifices they made to serve on the Village Board. He thanked Village President Abu-Taleb for appointing him to the Board four years ago, for his vision and for his leadership. He shared his appreciation for Trustee Moroney's analytical and logical approach to all issues brought before the Board, his work on the budget and to keeping the Village's levy near 3%. Village Trustee Taglia thanked Village Trustee Andrews for his analytical skills in regards to business and the budget. Village Trustee Taglia also thanked Village Trustee Boutet for serving the Village and the sacrifices she made to make that happen. He congratulated newly elected Village Trustees Robinson, Enyia and Parakkat for honest well run campaigns.

Village Trustee Susan Buchanan welcomed the three new Village Trustees, Village President and Village Clerk. She thanked the Village Staff and the outgoing Trustees. She gave special thanks to Village

Trustee Boutet who mentored Village Trustee Buchanan when she decided to run. Village Trustee Buchanan also thanked Village Trustee Andrews and Village President Abu-Taleb.

Village Trustee Simone Boutet welcomed the new Village Trustees. As she addressed the newly elected Trustees, she said the role of Trustee is about the relationships the Trustees shape with one another, with the citizens, with the staff, and government is about the relationship between the citizens and the governed. It is the job of the Trustee to make decisions to decide how that relationship is shaped. Village Trustee Boutet also noted that the Board service is about making good decisions and judgments for the community. She thanked Village staff and her colleagues.

Village Trustee Deno Andrews thanked his wife and children for their patience and support over the last four years. He also thanked his parents for raising him and his siblings in Oak Park. He thanked Village Staff for the leadership, expertise, sacrifice and keeping the Village running safely on budget and consistent with their shared values. Village Trustee Andrews gave regards to former Trustees Button and Tucker. He wished Village President elect Vicki Scaman the very best as she leads the Village of Oak Park. He shared his appreciation for Village Trustees Buchanan, Walker-Peddakotla and Taglia. Village Trustee Andrews shared his gratitude for Village Trustees Boutet, Moroney and Village President Abu-Taleb. Village President Abu-Taleb will be known as a transformative leader who brought the Village of Oak Park into the 21st century. He congratulated the newly elected Village Trustees and Village Clerk.

Village Trustee Dan Moroney congratulated all of the newly elected officials. He enjoyed getting to know Village Trustee Taglia. He shared his admiration for Village Trustee Boutet for her willingness and ability to fight for what she believes in. Village Trustee Moroney expressed his appreciation for Village Trustee Andrews. He shared his gratitude to Village President Abu-Taleb for being a part of the accomplishments they've made over the years and the friendship they have built. He thanked Village staff for all of their hard work. He also thanked his family and the friends he has made through his time as Village Trustee.

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters administered the Oath of Office to Village Trustee Lucia Robinson.

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters administered the Oath of Office to Village Trustee Chibuike Enyia.

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters administered the Oath of Office to Village Trustee Ravi Parakkat.

IX. Oath of Office: Village President**D. [ID 21-126](#)****1. Oath of Office for Village President****a. Remarks from Outgoing Village President Anan Abu-Taleb****b. Oath of Office for Incoming Village President Vicki Scaman**

After the oath of office, Village President Scaman will take a seat at the Village Board table

Village Clerk Christina M. Waters administered the Oath of Office to Village President Vicki Scaman.

Outgoing Village President Anan Abu-Taleb stated that doing well and doing good are intertwined. He said we do good, when we do well. And we do well, when we do good. He provided a synopsis of the various activities and responsibilities under the Board's purview and the level of accountability required by the Board to successfully oversee these Village functions. He thanked many of the trustees he worked with over his years of service as Village President. He noted that during his term, he and the sitting Village Boards transformed the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation by making it a public/private partnership. He thanked John Lynch and the members of the Oak Park Economic Development Corporation Board. He also thanked the Village Commissions. He recognized accomplishments during his term - The revitalizations of Downtown Oak Park and the Madison Street Corridor, the adoption of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, improvements to permits and parking through updated technology and the creation of a permit processing and parking divisions, investment in the Village's infrastructure, and the Village's response to COVID-19 and putting public safety first during the pandemic. He stated, in light of the calls to action to defund the police, he recognizes the Village's needs for social services, social programs as well as mental health and drug abuse treatment centers, but these services should not come as a result of diverting money from the Village's Police Department. The Village cannot compromise community safety and police response times. He thanked the other taxing bodies within the Village for the services they provide. He thanked the dedicated staff for their work. He thanked the Wednesday Journal and Oak Leaves. He thanked the residents of Oak Park and his family.

X. Resolutions of Appreciation & Service Awards

E. [RES 21-115](#)

1. Resolution in Appreciation of Trustee Deno Andrews

Trustee Deno Andrews will be presented with the Resolution & given a service award.

2. Resolution in Appreciation of Trustee Simone Boutet

Trustee Simone Boutet will be presented with the Resolution & given a service award.

3. Resolution in Appreciation of Trustee Dan Moroney

Trustee Dan Moroney will be presented with the Resolution & given a service award.

4. Resolution in Appreciation of President Anan Abu-Taleb

President Anan Abu-Taleb will be presented with the Resolution & given a service award.

Village Trustee Ravi Parakkat read the Resolution in Appreciation of Village Trustee Deno Andrews aloud. Village Trustee Deno Andrews was presented with a framed resolution and service award.

Village Trustee Lucia Robinson read the Resolution in Appreciation of Village Trustee Simone Boutet aloud. Village Trustee Simone Boutet was presented with a framed resolution and service award.

Village Trustee Jim Taglia read the Resolution in Appreciation of Village Trustee Dan Moroney aloud. Village Trustee Dan Moroney was presented with a framed resolution and service award.

Village President Vicki Scaman read the Resolution in Appreciation of Village President Anan Abu-Taleb aloud. Village President Anan Abu-Taleb was presented with a framed resolution and service award.

It was moved by Village Trustee Taglia, seconded by Village Trustee Buchanan, to adopt the Resolutions. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

XI. Oak Park Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement

F. [RES 21-116](#)

A Resolution Adopting the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Statement

It is a tradition in Oak Park for the Village Board of Trustees to reaffirm the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion statement after each election. This is done at the first meeting in which the newly elected officials take the oath of office. This is done at the first meeting of the new Board.

Village Trustee Susan Buchanan read the diversity statement aloud.

It was moved by Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla, seconded by Village Trustee Enyia, to adopt the Resolution. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, Village Trustee Robinson, Village Trustee Taglia, Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

XII. Remarks from the Newly Elected Trustees

G. [ID 21-137](#) 1. Remarks from Newly Elected Village Trustees

a. Village Trustee Lucia Robinson

b. Village Trustee Chibuike Enyia

c. Village Trustee Ravi Parakkat

Village Trustee Lucia Robinson expressed her gratitude in stepping into the role of Village Trustee. She shared how much Oak Park has meant to her and her family throughout the years they have lived here. In taking the oath of office, she promises to put forth the potential put forth by her campaign. That includes compassion centered leadership that can tackle tough issues, for solution focused dialogue at the Board table, discussions with her Board colleagues framed with respect and a genuine willingness to listen, for solutions in the face of adversity. She said she looks forward to the difficulties ahead, both those she expects and those that may surprise her because she knows they will tap into our collective strength as a community and provide opportunities for collaboration, ingenuity, resourcefulness and Oak Park pride. Village Trustee Lucia Robinson said she looks forward to tapping into our unexpected strength as a community in the new term.

Village Trustee Chibuike Enyia thanked the Creator and his family. He recognized the diversity of the Board. He said the Board must create a system of community engagement that is equitable, transparent and inclusionary.

Village Trustee Chibuike Enyia plans to listen to all the voices in the community, not just the loudest voices. He said he will prioritize enacting a racial and social justice policy that will provide framework to the Village government to develop goals, strategies and plans to end racial disparities in local government and provide equitable services to all Oak Park residents. He indicated that as part of the process he will encourage the Board to implement a racial and equity impact analysis tool for public decision making.

Village Trustee Ravi Parakkat said he is honored to represent Oak Park as Village Trustee. He thanked those who have previously served at the Board table for their service. He said their body of work is a source of inspiration, learning, and a foundation that the current Board must build upon. Village Trustee Ravi Parakkat addressed his colleagues and asked that even when they disagree, let their disagreements be centered on mutual respect and community interest. He also extends his message to Boards on other Oak Park taxing bodies. He thanked Village staff and Commissions for the efforts. He stated that he will work with his Board colleagues and the Village Manager to enable an environment where they can serve the community effectively. In return he asked that staff and commissions bring a citizen centric mindset to their work. He hopes to represent all of Oak Park. He commits to voting in ways that are consistent with his values. He also commits to taking actions that make his family proud, and those that he believes are in the best interest of his community. He wants to contribute to bringing Oak Park together and make Oak Park a community that leads communities across America that define our generation and the next.

XIII. Remarks from the Newly Elected Village President

[ID 21-138](#)

1. Remarks from Newly Elected Village President

a. Village President Vicki Scaman

Village President Vicki Scaman said she is honored and humbled to serve as Oak Park's Village President. She thanked her closest friends and family. She also thanked the outgoing Village President and Village Trustees for their service to Oak Park. She looks forward to working with all 2021 candidates in the future. She thanked the community for embracing her as Oak Park Village Clerk. She enjoyed working with staff, and retired Village Clerks. She will bring all that she has learned as Village Clerk, to her role as Village President. Her love of service, transparency, fairness, knowledge of our form of government and governmental partners, the ability to listen to learn without growing defensive, having empathy and integrity.

She stated that she is optimistic for the future because she believes in the spirit and resiliency of Oak Park. She noted that 2020 was an unforgettable year and it must inform our work for the future. Village President Vicki Scaman said we will respond to the call of our time for social justice and racial equity. We have to be bold to our response to climate change. She said there are great opportunities for economic recovery, small business growth, supporting tourism, infrastructure improvements and building relationships with our neighbors so Oak Park contribute to the opportunity that strengthens our greater area. She thanked the community for choosing her to lead at this important time. She said as a team, they will not let the community down and the team includes the community.

Village Manager Cara Pavlicek confirmed the meeting was not being broadcast live, but is being recorded and will be broadcast multiple times.

It was moved by Village Trustee Walker-Peddakotla, seconded by Village Trustee Buchanan to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M., Monday, May 3, 2021. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

XIV. Adjourn

Respectfully Submitted,
Village Clerk Christina M. Waters