Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes

President and Board of Trustees

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 6:30 PM Village Hall

I. **Call to Order**. Village President Scaman called the Meeting to order at 6:45 P.M.

II. **Roll Call Attendance**.

President Scaman asked Junior Deputy Clerk Carr-Gay to take the roll call, which he did as follows:

- **Present**: Village Trustees: Eder, Leving-Jacobson, Straw, Taglia, and Wesley; and Village President Scaman.
- **Absent**: Village Trustee Enyia.
- **Also Present**: Village Clerk Waters.

A quorum was present.

Note: Trustee Enyia joined the meeting at 7:10 pm.

III. **Agenda Approval**.

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

The Board approved the Motion to Approve the Agenda as presented by unanimous consent of those present, pursuant to the following roll call vote taken by Junior Deputy Clerk Binion:

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

IV. **Minutes.**

A. **MOT 25-225**. A Motion to Approve Minutes from the May 6 and May 13, 2025 Closed Session Meetings of the Village Board, not for public release.

President Scaman read aloud the title of **MOT 25-255** as follows: A **Motion** regarding the Minutes from the May 6 and May 13, 2025 closed session meetings of the Village Board, that are not for public release.

President Scaman called for a Motion regarding the Minutes.

A **Motion** to Approve the Minutes from the May 6 and May 13, 2025 Closed Session Meetings of the Village Board, not subject to public release, was made by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Wesley.

There were no questions, comments or discussion from or by the Board.

President Scaman then asked Junior Deputy Clerk Carr-Gay to take the roll call vote, which was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Clerk Waters then introduced Junior Deputy Clerks Binion and Carr-Gay, and provided background on the 2 Junior Deputy Clerks present that evening. Waters also stated that 2 additional Junior Deputy Clerks, Horton and Velasco, participated in the program but were unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Waters described the Junior Deputy Clerk program, as well as the tours taken of Village Hall and the Oak Park library, and meetings with various staff and officials. Waters and President Scaman then congratulated the Junior Deputy Clerks, presented them with certificates of civic leadership and posed for photographs. This concluded the Junior Deputy Clerks portion of the meeting.

V. Non-Agenda Public Comment.

Resident Chris Donovan stated that he is opposed to the “special use permit application” for an EV charging station at 6104 Roosevelt Road that is set for hearing on August 6, 2025, before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Chris D. stated that he seeks to see the return of the “affordable housing trust fund and task force” at that location.

Resident Diane Ratekin stated that she and her neighbor, Barb S. were present on behalf of the 400 to 600 blocks of Taylor and thanked the Board for the Ordinance that limits the hours of operation of businesses including the gas station at Taylor and Chicago as “noise, traffic and gunfire” have decreased at that location. Diane R. also encouraged the Board to “keep that Ordinance in place” when considering a possible “QuikTrip” opening at Garfield and Harlem as she they operate 24 hours per day at their Chicago locations.

Ranja Bodla stated that he has been in the technology industry for 25 years; he is opposed to the Flock license plate reader cameras; he opposes the “non-exclusive and perpetual” data rights acquired by Flock; and, that the gathering of information from the readers conflicts with Oak Park being a “sanctuary city.”

VI. **Proclamation.**

B. **MOT 25-221**. A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Southeast Oak Park Community Organization (SEOPCO) on September 6th, 2025.

President Scaman read aloud the title of MOT 25-221 as follows: A Motion to Approve a Proclamation Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Southeast Oak Park Community Organization (SEOPCO) on September 6th, 2025.

President Scaman called for a Motion regarding the said Proclamation.

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

- President Scaman asked Trustee Wesley to read aloud the Proclamation, which he did for all present.
- There were no questions, comments or discussion from or by the Board.
- President Scaman then called for a vote regarding the said Proclamation.
- **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.

A representative of SEOPCO who did not identify himself accepted the Proclamation and announced that the 23rd annual “BarrieFest” will be on Saturday, September 7, 2025 from noon until 5 pm, and provided other details concerning the up-coming festival. Members of the Board and SEOPCO then posed for photographs.

C. **MOT 25-222**. A Motion to Approve a Proclamation in Observation of Women’s Equality Day Annually on the 26th of August.

President Scaman read aloud the title of MOT 25-222 as follows: A Motion to Approve a Proclamation in Observation of Women’s Equality Day Annually on the 26th of August.

President Scaman called for a Motion regarding the Proclamation.

A **Motion** was made by Trustee Leving-Jacobson, seconded by Trustee Straw to **Approve** the Proclamation.

President Scaman asked Trustee Leving-Jacobson to start reading aloud the Proclamation, which she read the first section of the Proclamation, followed by Clerk Waters who read the next section, and then President Scaman read the final section of the said Proclamation.

- There were no questions, comments or discussion from or by the Board.

- President Scaman then called for a vote regarding the Proclamation.
- **Motion carried** unanimously on a Voice Vote.

Two representatives of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park – River Forest who did not identify themselves accepted the Proclamation, and one representative stated that "the 19th Amendment that was signed in 1920 is now in crisis 100 years later because its goal that voting be fair, accessible and inclusive is now being threatened, and, that democracy and the rule of law is not being followed." She also invited men to join and support their League.

President Scaman explained that the League of Women Voters of Oak Park – River Forest has many committees and many causes such as environmental, health care and immigration issues in addition to voting advocacy.

Members of the League of Women Voters of Oak Park – River Forest posed for photographs with President Scaman, Trustee Leving-Jacobson and Clerk Waters.

VII. **Village Manager Reports.**

Village Manager Kevin Jackson introduced Marlin Jackson, the new Parking and Mobility Services Manager, and, Michael Mertes, the new Economic Vitality Administrator, who each introduced themselves and provided their backgrounds. President Scaman welcomed the 2 new employees to the Village of Oak Park.

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

Village Manager Jackson then updated the Board regarding the calendar for September, October and November, 2025. Both 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; no action was taken regarding this item.

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

E. **MOT 25-223**. A Motion to Consent to the Village President's Appointment of the following:

Aging in Communities: Marc Blesoff, Reappoint as Chair
Aging in Communities: Evelyn Clay, Reappoint as Commissioner
Building Codes Advisory Commission: Mike Nickels, Appoint as Commissioner
Citizen Involvement Commission: Robert "Drew" Miller, Reappoint as Commissioner
Transportation Commission: Jenna Holzberg, Appoint as Chair.

President Scaman asked Village Clerk Waters to read aloud the list of proposed appointments, which Waters did.

President Scaman asked for a Motion regarding the list of 5 appointments.

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

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

President Scaman congratulated the new appointees, thanked all volunteers who serve on commissions, and stated that anyone interested in serving on a board or commission should contact Clerk Waters at clerkwaters@oak-park.us.

X. Citizen Commission Vacancies.

F. **ID 25-484**.Board and Commission Vacancy Report for August 5, 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.

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

G. **MOT 25-205**. A Motion to Approve the Bills in the Amount of $6,466,300.86 from June 29, 2025 through August 2, 2025.

H. **MOT 25-208**. A Motion to Approve the May 2025 Monthly Treasurer's Report for All Funds.

I. **MOT 25-226**. Adoption of the Property Tax Levy Policy.

J. **ORD 25-159**. An Ordinance to Adopt a 1% Grocery Tax to Replace the Discontinued State Grocery.

K. **RES 25-233**. A Resolution Approving a Second Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Terra Engineering, Ltd. for the Design of the Oak Park Avenue Streetscape and Utility Projects to Change the not to Exceed Amount from $1,121,790 to $1,469,477 and Authorizing its Execution.

L. **RES 25-242**. A Resolution Ratifying the Renewal of a Professional Services Agreement with Metro Strategies Group, LLC to Provide Grant Services in an Amount Not to Exceed $100,000 for a One (1) Year Term and Authorizing its Execution.

M. **RES 25-245**. A Resolution Approving a Contract with Maintenance Coatings Co. for the 2025 Bike Boulevard Project, in an Amount Not to Exceed $809,903 and Authorizing its Execution.

N. **RES 25-246**. A Resolution Approving an Independent Contractor Agreement with Garland/DBS, Inc. for PWC Floor Sealing through Omnia Partners Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (Micpa) #PW1925 in an Amount not to Exceed $126,192.00, Authorizing its Execution and Waiving the Village's Bid Process for the Agreement.

O. **RES 25-247**. A Resolution Authorizing the Village Manager to Execute a Lease for 1010 Lake Street for use by the Office of Economic Vitality.

P. **RES 25-250**. A Resolution Approving Amendments to Appendix VII ("Appointee Pay Plan Schedule") of the Village of Oak Park Personnel Manual.

Q. **RES 25-251**. A Resolution to Approve an Amended Agreement with Housing Forward for Emergency Shelter Operating Costs at 112 S. Humphrey Ave. Oak Park, IL.

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

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

- President Scaman asked whether there were any questions or comments from the Board; there were none, and no discussion ensued regarding the Consent Agenda or its items listed therein.
- President Scaman then asked Clerk Waters to take the roll call vote, which was taken as follows:

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Village Trustees Eder, Wesley, Enyia, Leving-Jacobson, Straw, 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.

Agenda items G through and including Q were therefore adopted.

XII. Regular Agenda.

R. **ID 25-448**. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Kickoff Presentation.

President Scaman called upon Village Manager Jackson, who then introduced Donna Gayden, Interim Chief Financial Officer, and Mary Modelski, Budget Manager. Modelski then explained her presentation to all present, including a list of "Budget Influences" as follows:

- Village Board Goals,
- Village's Guiding Principals and Values,
- Adopted Village Policies,
- 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP),
- Core Services / Operational Priorities,
- Adopted Strategic Plans, and
- Unfunded Operational Needs.

Modelski then reported on the budget process, and the schedule of finance and Village Board meetings that will include budget discussions, as well as the Truth in Taxation public hearing scheduled for November 4 and the public hearing on the proposed budget scheduled for November 11, 2025. Modelski added that the goal is to present a draft recommended FY26 budget in late September or early October.

There was no further discussion or action taken with regard to this Agenda item.

S. **RES 25-238**. A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Opticos Design, Inc., to lead an update to the Zoning Ordinance supporting the Strategic Vision for Housing Plan and Missing Middle Housing Initiatives.

President Scaman read aloud the title of Resolution 25-238 as follows: A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement with Opticos Design, Inc., to lead an update to the Zoning Ordinance supporting the Strategic Vision for Housing Plan and Missing Middle Housing Initiatives.

President Scaman then called for a Motion.

There was a **Motion** to **Approve** the said Resolution by Trustee Wesley, seconded by Trustee Straw.

Village Manager Jackson then called upon Development Services Director Craig Failor, who summarized the Resolution and stated that it includes a professional services agreement with Opticos Design who will lead a 9-month effort to update policies and procedures that will allow a more equitable and affordable housing within the residential and business districts. Failor also explained the collaboration with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the process taken to arrive at the proposed agreement within Resolution 25-238.

There was much discussion regarding this Resolution and the underlying professional services agreement among Board members, Village Manager Jackson, Development Services Director Failor, and Marisa Schultz, a principal with All Together, a "placed-based creative agency that focuses on the intersect between planning and communications." The Board and Village Manager Jackson stressed the need to focus on the following in implementing the zoning code update: transparency, community outreach, engagement and education, and communications with residents and obtaining their feedback.

An individual named "Stefan" joined the discussion via zoom, and discussed communication and outreach strategies to be undertaken, and scheduling workshops with the community.

Trustee Straw then stated that he recommends consideration of the boundaries of the historic districts being added to the project and underlying scope of work of the Opticos Design agreement. Straw provided reasons such as the possibility that the historic districts not included in the review will not experience the same small-scale residential development sought elsewhere due to a process that adds delays and is less inviting to developers. Straw also stated that the topic of updating the zoning code to allow for additional middle housing to be built should include whether or not the historic districts are "appropriately bounded."

There was discussion regarding the historic areas and President Scaman encouraged all present to review "The Relevancy Guidebook" that was presented by Landmarks Illinois to the Historic Preservation Commission last year as it assists a community in assessing ways to make it more just, equitable, inclusive and accessible in areas that are in or adjacent to historic preservation districts to enhance its relevance in a changing world.

Development Services Director Failor then stated that a conversation with Opticos would be required to determine whether a review of the historic boundaries and any impact resulting from changes thereto could be added to the scope of work by Opticos, and, that if so, they would return with an amended agreement, which could possibly increase the timeline.

The Board discussed acting upon the Resolution and staff follow up with Opticos regarding the conversation of reviewing the historic boundaries issue.

President Scaman asked whether there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

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

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Village Trustees Wesley, Straw, Eder, Enyia, Leving-Jacobson, 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.

T. **RES 25-249**. A Resolution Approving an Economic Incentive and Redevelopment Agreement Between the Village of Oak Park and 1144 Lake Street, LLC and Authorizing Its Execution.

President Scaman asked whether this item is being tabled; Village Manager Jackson responded in the affirmative and the Board unanimously agreed.

No action was taken with regard to this Agenda item.

U. **ID 25-467**. A Presentation and Discussion on the Oak Park Avenue Streetscape Project.

President Scaman read aloud the title of Agenda item ID 25-467 as follows: A Presentation and Discussion on the Oak Park Avenue Streetscape Project.

President Scaman called upon Village Manager Jackson, who then introduced Bill McKenna, Assistant Public Works Director and Village Engineer. McKenna then delivered his presentation to all present. McKenna stated that in February, 2025, the Village Board rejected the one bid of $22,777,278 for the project, which was over the budgeted amount of $18,000,000. McKenna stated that village staff and Terra Engineering have revised the design to align with the previously approved budgeted amount.

McKenna stated that the scope of work is infrastructure and focused on Oak Park Avenue, including sewer replacement from Randolph to Ontario St, water main replacement from South Boulevard to Ontario St, and, streetscape improvements from Pleasant St to Ontario St.

McKenna added that the infrastructure in the subject areas are from the late 1800's and require repair and replacement. McKenna also addressed streetscaping that will enhance the areas that will be affected by the infrastructure project. McKenna presented designs for improving public spaces and adding art installations and a mural, and discussed possible CTA's green line renovations.

McKenna stated that the goal is to obtain more bidders by having the bid process start in September and awarding a contract in November, and, to keep a tight construction schedule for the businesses. McKenna added that construction work could hopefully be completed by Thanksgiving, 2026.

McKenna then discussed the cost saving strategies and adjustments made in the project including various "value engineering" items to reduce the cost of the project and hopefully increase the amount of bids they expect to receive. McKenna stated that the 2026 estimated construction cost is $18,650,000.00. McKenna then provided differences in cost for brick roadway versus asphalt which is $1,200,000.00 greater for brick, and, "blue stone" sidewalks versus concrete pavers which increase the cost by $1,000,000.00.

The Board then discussed McKenna's presentation and agreed that the new dollar amount could be changed to $17.6 million by replacing "blue stone" with concrete pavers. President Scaman thanked Village Engineer McKenna for reducing items and some of which can be later added if needed or desired.

President Scaman asked whether there were any other questions or comments. There were none.

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

Note: Items V. and W. were discussed and voted upon in reverse order, as reflected below.

W. **MOT 25-227**. A **Motion** made by Trustee Taglia and Seconded by Trustee Wesley to Temporarily Deactivate our Flock ALPR's in Oak Park for a Period not to exceed 90 Days from our August 5th, 2025 Board Meeting.

Prior to entertaining Agenda items V. (Motion terminating Flock contract) and W. (Motion deactivating Flock for up to 90 days), President Scaman called upon Village Attorney Greg Smith to summarize the 2 agenda items, which he did. Smith added that if both Motions are passed by the Board, the "last approved Motion would control the outcome."

President Scaman then proposed entertaining item W ("deactivating Flock") prior to item V ("terminating" Flock). There was no objection to entertaining item W prior to item V.

It was also unanimously agreed by the Board members to hear all public commenters at this point in the meeting, whether the comment was with regard to Agenda item V or W.

A **Motion** was then made by Trustee Taglia and Seconded by Trustee Wesley to Temporarily Deactivate Flock ALPR's in Oak Park for a Period not to exceed 90 Days from our August 5th, 2025 Board Meeting.

Public commenters were then called and provided their comments as follows:

1) Judith A. spoke regarding supporting the police department and supporting the Motion to deactivate the Flock contract and provide opportunities to modify the contract.
2) John S. stated that he is an Oak Park resident and executive director of a Washington DC based advocacy organization, Refugee Council USA. Slocum urged the Board to cancel the Flock contract.
3) An individual announced as "Zirin" spoke and urged the Board to discontinue the use of Flock cameras.
4) An individual who did not provide a name encouraged the Board to consider not canceling the Flock contract, and encouraged supporting the opinion of the police chief, who the individual believes supports the license plate readers.
5) Alisha C. spoke in supporting the cancelation of the Flock contract.

There were no other public comments.

President Scaman then asked Trustees Taglia and Wesley to provide their comments in support of their "Motion Temporarily Deactivate our Flock ALPR's in Oak Park for a Period not to exceed 90 Days from our August 5th, 2025 Board Meeting," which they each delivered their comments to all present.

Village Manager Jackson introduced Police Chief Shatonya Johnson, who stated that she agrees that the role of technology in the police department is a priority and subject to revision based upon comprehensive discussions to be held with the Board.

Trustees Taglia and Wesley advocated a 90-day period to explore the Flock contract with input from the police department and residents.

President Scaman then asked Trustees Leving Jacobson and Enyia to provide their comments in support of their "Motion to Exercise the Termination Provision under the Flock Contract," which they each delivered their comments to all present. Trustee Leving Jacobson stated several reason in support of her Motion including that she does not believe that de-activating the cameras is feasible due to how the hardware and software work, and, that the data collected in the community cannot be protected from harming innocent people.

Police Chief Johnson then stated that she has Flock online, and Mr Chandler from Flock stated that the cameras can be deactivated temporarily if the Board so chooses.

Trustee Enyia then spoke in support of the Motion to terminate the Flock contract and the importance of privacy rights as well as supporting the police department.

- There was a **Motion** at 9:45 pm by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Eder to continue the discussion and meeting beyond 10: 00 pm.
- There were no questions 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.

Trustee Straw then spoke in support of the Motion to terminate the Flock contract for several reasons including the contractor's ability to sell or give away data collected by Flock, and civil liberties concerns.

Trustee Eder then also spoke in support of the Motion to terminate the Flock contract for several reasons including the fact that he is a technologist, creates systems that collect data and that there is documented harm that can be caused by Flock's collection of data.

President Scaman then stated that the Village of Oak Park and its programs supporting youth, businesses, police initiatives, and restorative justice have set examples with other communities. Scaman further stated that the question of whether or not the Flock contract is appropriate for Oak Park should have been handled in a productive way, and should be examined through discussions with staff and the police department, considering what comprises a modern police department, and not a result of a feeling of urgency and possibly not evidence-based.

There was no further discussion with regard to Agenda items V or W.

President Scaman called for a vote regarding Agenda item W., the title of which was read aloud as follows:

W. **MOT 25-227**. A Motion made by Trustee Taglia and Seconded by Trustee Wesley to Temporarily Deactivate our Flock ALPR's in Oak Park for a Period not to exceed 90 Days from our August 5th, 2025 Board Meeting.

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

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** Village Trustees Wesley and Taglia; and President Scaman.
- **Nays**: Trustees Eder, Enyia, Leving-Jacobson, and Straw.

- **Abstentions**: None.
- **Absent**: None.

Motion was rejected / did not pass by a count of 3 “aye” votes to 4 “nay,” 0 abstain, and 0 absent.

President Scaman then called Agenda item V. and read its title as follows:

V. **MOT 25-219**. A Motion made by Trustee Leving Jacobson and Seconded by Trustee Enyia to Exercise the Termination Provision under the Flock Contract.

President Scaman then called for a Motion

There was a **Motion** by Trustee Leving-Jacobson, seconded by Trustee Eder, to Approve the said Motion item.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Carried by a count of 5 “aye” votes to 2 “nay,” 0 abstain, and 0 absent.

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

Clerk Waters, and Trustees Enyia, Wesley, Straw, Taglia and Eder each gave opinion statements regarding various agenda items, as well as President Scaman.

Trustee Leving-Jacobson passed on delivering a statement.

XIV. **Adjourn**. There being no further business before the Village Board, a Motion was made by Trustee Straw, Seconded by Trustee Wesley, to **adjourn this meeting** at 10:38 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Interim Deputy Clerk Marjorie A. Manchen