Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes

President and Board of Trustees

Tuesday, June 16, 2026	7:00 PM	Village Hall

I. Call to Order

Village President Scaman called the Meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Eder, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Leving Jacobson, Village Trustee Straw, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Wesley

Absent: 0

III. Agenda Approval

Village President Scaman announced that Item F will be moved from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda.

It was moved by Village Trustee Straw, seconded by Village Trustee Taglia to approve the agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved as amended.

IV. Minutes

A. MOT 26-180 **A Motion to Approve Minutes from the June 9, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Village Board.**

It was moved by Village Trustee Eder, seconded by Village Trustee Leving Jacobson to approve the Minutes. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

V. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Frank S. commented on proposed zoning changes and expressed concerns about the potential effects on single-family homes, redevelopment patterns, housing density, and neighborhood character. He also discussed affordable housing funding and stated that he intended to return to provide additional information regarding housing policy research.

Mark K. commented on proposed bicycle lane improvements on Harvard Street and expressed concerns about safety related to driveways, alleys, sightlines, and potential conflicts between bicyclists and vehicles. He suggested consideration of a bicycle boulevard as an alternative approach.

Monique M. commented on community safety and a recent death in the community. She encouraged residents and Village leaders to work together in support of the community.

VI. Proclamation

No proclamations were presented.

VII. Village Manager Reports

B. ID 26-399 **Inclusionary Housing Ordinance Update**

Neighborhood Services Director/ Asst. Village Manager, Jonathan Burch explained the status of the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, noting that it operated as a market based tool and currently applied only in limited areas and to developments of 25 units or more. He said staff paused proposed updates until zoning recommendations from Shape Oak Park were clearer but continued background work and analysis so updates could move quickly once direction was set. He also noted that a task force, if created, would not slow staff's ongoing preparations.

Village Trustee Jenna Leving Jacobson expressed appreciation for the update and emphasized the urgency of aligning zoning reform and IHO changes, citing expert recommendations to improve affordability. She noted that unexpected development opportunities could arise and believed a stronger IHO needed to be in place beforehand. She asked for a concrete timeline, additional data, and updated drafts to accompany ongoing zoning decisions.

VillageTrustee Brian Straw stated that the IHO update should move quickly and noted that substantial time had passed since the August 2024 discussion. He acknowledged the connection to zoning but argued the two processes should not overly delay each other, particularly since many zoning changes would not affect large projects covered by the IHO. He also pointed out that the projected zoning timeline extended to 2027, making it important not to postpone IHO reforms that long.

Village Trustee Cory Wesley cautioned that IHO decisions must account for current economic conditions, particularly high interest rates that make development harder to finance. He praised Oak Park's existing IHO for generating significant affordable units and funding, noting it was among the region's most effective. He urged the board to decide whether to prioritize onsite or offsite affordable units and to avoid strengthening the ordinance in a way that unintentionally halted development. He shared data demonstrating the IHO's impact, including nearly $5 million collected and over 10,000 months of affordable rent funded. He noted that the ordinance had supported 86 existing affordable units with 64 more potentially forthcoming. He emphasized that any revised ordinance should at least match this level of effectiveness.

Village Trustee Chibuike Enyia thanked staff for the update and discussed how limited land availability and development opportunities posed challenges for adding affordable housing. He emphasized the value of onsite affordable units and the need for deeper community conversations to address misconceptions. He supported acting quickly while still coordinating with zoning work and partners like Opticos.

Village Trustee Derek Eder supported pairing zoning changes with IHO reforms, saying the two must be aligned to avoid generating only luxury housing. He acknowledged community concerns about affordability and stressed that timeliness was essential, since developers might attempt to avoid requirements by proposing projects just below IHO thresholds. He said he looked forward to continuing work and improving on the strong results achieved so far.

Village Trustee Jim Taglia said he heard both the urgency and the caution expressed by others and believed a balanced approach was necessary. He reflected on the creation of the original IHO, noting early fears it might stall development but pointing out that the ordinance ultimately proved successful. He expressed confidence that the new reforms would also be well-crafted and effective.

Village Manager Kevin Jackson clarified the timeline, noting that staff had made rapid progress after 2024 but intentionally paused updates to ensure alignment with broader housing and zoning initiatives. He emphasized that urgency remained important and that the board could proceed sooner if it chose, though staff recommended coordinating the processes strategically. He reiterated that the pause was deliberate, not due to inaction.

Village President Vicki Scaman expressed confidence in the board's ability to hold thoughtful, intentional discussions about the IHO and zoning. She said the update helped clarify shared goals and stressed the importance of community engagement, especially given the variety of housing needs from seniors to families to people with disabilities. She noted that incentives might be necessary for smaller, more affordable projects and that development types varied widely in the community, making balanced policy crucial.

VIII. Village Board Committees

This section is intended to be informational. If there are approved *minutes from a recent Committee meeting of the Village Board, the minutes will be posted in this section.*

Pending Committee Meeting Minutes
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes from May 21, 2026

Village Trustee Cory Wesley announced that the Civics Information Commission would be organizing a fall Civic Hackathon, planned to engage village departments and local high school computer science students, and said he would continue promoting it regularly until the event occurred.

IX. Citizen Commission Vacancies

C. ID 26-392 **Board and Commission Vacancy Report for June 16, 2026**

X. Citizen Commission Appointments, Reappointments and Chair Appointments

D. MOT 26-182 **A Motion to Consent to the Village President's Appointment of:**
Civic Information Systems Commission - Derek Arguello, Appoint as Commissioner
Civic Information Systems Commission - Daniel Fargano, Appoint as Commissioner

Village Clerk Waters read the names aloud.

It was moved by Village Trustee Straw, seconded by Village Trustee Wesley, that this Motion be approved. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

XI. Public Hearing

XII. First Reading

XIII. Second Reading

XIV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Village President Scaman announced that Item F will be moved from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda.

It was moved by Village Trustee Wesleyand seconded by Village Trustee Straw to approve the items under the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Eder, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Leving Jacobson, Village Trustee Straw, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Wesley

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

E. RES 26-201 **A Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Village of Oak Park and the Oak Park Township to Participate in the Township's Youth Engagement Program**

This Resolution was adopted.

G. RES 26-225 **A Resolution Authorizing the Release of Certain Closed Session Minutes**

This Resolution was adopted.

XV. Regular Agenda

F. RES 26-222 **A Resolution Amending the Professional Services Agreement between the Village of Oak Park and Opticos Design, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $128,000 for Additional Services**

Development Services Director Craig Failor outlined the amendment requesting economic feasibility work, additional outreach, and creation of a zoning comparison tool. He described how the first phase of engagement had centered on listening, and the second phase would focus on educating residents and gathering feedback in a more neighborhood based format. He detailed plans for postcards to all households, multiple neighborhood meetings, and greater involvement from Neighborhood Services and the Communications team. He clarified that the feasibility study would examine the financial viability of missing middle housing and whether incentives might be required. He also emphasized that the zoning recommendations were nearly complete, that public engagement would continue, and that the July 28 vote would set the policy direction before the legal hearing process began.

Village Trustee Leving Jacobson asked for more detail on how community outreach meetings would be conducted. She noted that the Village had received negative feedback about the first engagement phase and asked for clarity on how the next phase would be more intentional and reach uninformed residents. She questioned logistics, such as whether outreach targeted only single family households. She stressed the importance of planning outreach methods carefully and transparently.

Village Trustee Eder asked for clarity on when deliverables, especially recommendations and feasibility results, would be ready. He also questioned why feasibility work was being added now rather than included from the beginning, noting that community concern had been predictable. He supported the new work but emphasized the need to clearly communicate long term expectations and avoid public misconceptions.

Village Trustee Wesley expressed frustration about the multi year process and concern that delays could push a final decision into 2027. He strongly argued that continued delays perpetuated inequities within the current zoning code, which he characterized as exclusionary.

Village Trustee Taglia expressed concern that the new work seemed unbudgeted, though he supported increased outreach, especially traditional communication like postcards. He worried that residents still misunderstood the proposal and argued that major decisions should not be rushed. He also introduced the idea of a referendum, saying it could enhance education and debate.

Village Trustee Straw agreed with concerns about timing but supported the additional outreach as long as it did not slow the overall process. He said the Village had already engaged the public extensively since 2023 and believed a public hearing should be held before the end of the current year. He supported pairing public engagement with the legal process so both could progress at the same time. He also supported feasibility testing and communication enhancements.

Village President Vicki Scaman emphasized that public engagement was not a formality but a way for the Board to understand impacts before making decisions. She also acknowledged the Board's evolving positions and stressed the importance of giving residents clarity about what was under consideration.

Public Comment

Resident Frank S. stated that he had been unaware of the earlier outreach efforts and believed many residents had similar experiences. He supported sending postcards and conducting more visible, accessible engagement. He warned that residents might feel the decision was already made if broad outreach occurred only after the Board set a direction. He urged the Board to ensure residents were reached before major votes.

It was moved by Village Trustee Wesley, seconded by Village Trustee Leving Jacobson, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Eder, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Leving Jacobson, Village Trustee Straw, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Wesley

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

H. RES 26-213 **A Resolution Approving an Extension of an Independent Agreement with**

Thrive Counseling Center for an Additional Six-Month Term Through December 31, 2026, in an Amount Not to Exceed $83,000 and Authorizing its Execution

Director/ Asst. Village Manager Jonathan Burch explained that the item extended the existing police contract with Thrive for six months to align with the next agenda item, which proposed a new one year contract beginning January 1, 2027 to ensure uninterrupted service.

It was moved by Village Trustee Enyia, seconded by Village Trustee Straw, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Eder, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Leving Jacobson, Village Trustee Straw, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Wesley

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

I. MOT 26-176 **A Motion To Direct The Finance Committee To Identify Funding Sources Through The 2027 Budget Process To Implement The Staff Recommendation For Phase Two Of An Alternative Response Model And Direct Staff To Further Study The Expansion of The ECHO Program**

Director/ Asst. Village Manager Jonathan Burch explained the current 911 triage process, the very small number of calls diverted through CESSA to 988, and how police currently determined when to involve Thrive. He outlined how the recommended model would integrate the BerryDunn report and Mental Health Task Force recommendations by expanding Thrive into proactive co-response for mental health crises and potentially positioning ECHO for future social service call response. He walked the Board through call types, system design, dispatch limitations, and the phased plan to build alternative response capability through West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center by 2027. He also detailed timelines, costs, and performance measures, explaining that staff recommended delaying an expanded ECHO program until more data and the new dispatch system were in place.

Thrive Clinical Director Sarah Wiemeyer explained Thrive's current and proposed role, emphasizing a shift from police initiated involvement to proactive engagement on clearly defined mental health call types until full alternative dispatch becomes available. She described the goals of de-escalating crises, avoiding unnecessary hospitalization, and releasing police from scenes as soon as it was safe to do so. She detailed staffing requirements, safety procedures, dedicated response teams, and follow-up obligations, including 24/7 availability for assessments. She also reviewed state guidelines under CESSA, clarified how Oak Park could align with upcoming 2027 diversion protocols, and stressed the importance of integrated training with police.

Community Mental Health Board Executive Director Cheryl Potts explained that the Task Force's earlier memo had responded to an outdated staff proposal, and she noted that the revised presentation addressed many of their previous concerns. She emphasized that the Task Force had always prioritized reducing police involvement in mental health crises and strengthening post crisis follow-up as part of trauma informed care. She expressed optimism about the improved collaboration between the Village, Thrive, and ECHO, as well as the clearer separation between mental health and social service call types. She also stressed the need for strong coordination between Thrive and ECHO and clear referral pathways to ensure seamless care.

Village Trustee Wesley asked detailed operational questions about dispatch, co-response, and the distinctions between Thrive and ECHO call types. He strongly supported expanded alternative response and pressed for faster implementation, including preparing ECHO for direct dispatch once technically feasible. He also raised concerns about relying on co-response and emphasized the importance of reducing police involvement in non-police matters.

Village Trustee Eder asked questions about call volume data, inter-agency coordination, and the declining number of police referrals to Thrive. He emphasized the need for better integration between Thrive, ECHO, and police, and noted public facing gaps in understanding roles and responsibilities. He expressed conditional interest in expanded ECHO but wanted clearer definitions of “social service calls” before supporting 2027 implementation.

Village Trustee Leving Jacobson highlighted the need for clearer timelines, particularly around when alternative dispatch would reduce police involvement on mental health calls. She expressed appreciation for improved collaboration between staff, Thrive, and the task force, and sought clarity on how the transition from co-response to alternative response would unfold. She also stressed distinguishing maintenance of current ECHO services from any future expansion.

Village Trustee Straw framed alternative response as both a service quality improvement and a way to ease pressure on police staffing. He supported moving quickly toward police-free responses in appropriate cases and noted that 6,000 calls could eventually be diverted from police to civilian responders. He said expanded ECHO could make sense if it operated as alternative response, not co-response, and urged staff to move expeditiously.

Village Trustee Taglia raised concerns about the long-term financial impact and stressed that new programs must be sustainably funded rather than rely on fund balance drawdown. He questioned what the finance committee would be asked to evaluate and sought clarity on how expanded ECHO would or would not be included in the 2027 budget.

Village Trustee Enyia voiced strong support for alternative response, emphasizing community safety and the benefits of reducing police involvement where appropriate. He praised Thrive’s collaboration with police and valued ECHO’s role in helping residents navigate complex service systems. He encouraged continued partnership building and said he felt more confident after hearing the task force’s improved alignment with staff.

Chief Financial Officer Kevin Bueso explained that the Village had not yet begun the 2027 budget process and that internal and Board level budget planning would begin soon. He noted that approximately $472,000 would be needed if the Board chose to expand the ECHO program, but no funding source had been identified yet due to rising costs and competing priorities. He emphasized that only the Board’s direction would determine whether expanded ECHO was included in the proposed 2027 budget, and that the Finance Committee would be tasked with identifying sustainable long term funding options.

Village Manager Jackson stated the Finance Committee still needed to discuss how to fund the initiatives. He explained that the main question was whether to implement expanded ECHO now or wait until the Thrive alternative response system was fully in place. He also clarified that the Village already had the technical capability to use ECHO for alternative dispatch, since West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center could dispatch Village staff without issue.

Village President Vicki Scaman stressed the need for clear roles between Thrive as the clinical responder and ECHO as the connector, along with maintaining strong collaboration. She supported moving toward an alternative response model that reduces police involvement and expressed optimism about improved coordination with West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center. She noted the importance of sustainable budgeting and suggested exploring phased options for any ECHO expansion during the upcoming budget season. She added that she trusted the Village Manager to bring the issue back at the right time once more questions were resolved.

It was Motioned by Village Trustee Eder, seconded by Village Trustee Leving Jacobson, to extend the meeting beyond 10P.M.

It was moved by Village Trustee Wesley, seconded by Village Trustee Leving Jacobson, that this Motion be approved. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 7 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Eder, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Leving Jacobson, Village Trustee Straw, Village Trustee Taglia, and Village Trustee Wesley

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

XVI. Call to Board and Clerk

Village Clerk Christina Waters No Comments.

Village Trustee Chibuike Enyia wished his brother a happy birthday.

Village Trustee Cory Wesley wished his wife a happy birthday.

Village Trustee Jim Taglia No Comments.

Village Trustee Brian Straw No Comments.

Village Trustee Jenna Leving Jacobson wished her son a happy birthday.

Village Trustee Derek Eder marked his one year anniversary on the board.

Village President Vicki Scaman No Comments.

XVII. Adjourn

It was moved by Village Trustee Wesley, seconded by Village Trustee Leving Jacobson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Deputy Clerk Carswell