



Village of Oak Park

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

Meeting Minutes

President and Board of Trustees

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

6:00 PM

Village Hall

I. Call to Order

Village President Vicki Scaman called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Trustee Wesley joined the meeting at 6:05 P.M. during Executive Session via remote participation per Village policy.

Trustee Straw joined the meeting at 6:10 P.M. during Executive Session.

Trustee Buchanan left the meeting at 7:12 P.M. during Executive Session.

Present: 5 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, and Village Trustee Robinson

Absent: 2 - Village Trustee Straw, and Village Trustee Wesley

III. Consideration of a Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session to Meet with an External Auditor to Discuss Internal Control Weaknesses and Identification of Potential Fraud Risk Areas.

It was moved by Trustee Robinson, seconded by Trustee Enyia, to adjourn into Executive Session. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 5 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Buchanan, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, and Village Trustee Robinson

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 2 - Village Trustee Straw, and Village Trustee Wesley

V. Reconvene to Regular Meeting in Council Chambers and Call to Order

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:59 P.M.

VI. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, Village Trustee Robinson, Village Trustee Straw, and Village Trustee Wesley

Absent: 1 - Village Trustee Buchanan

VII. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Trustee Enyia, seconded by Trustee Robinson, to approve the Agenda. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

IX. Non-Agenda Public Comment

There was no Non-Agenda Public Comment.

XI. Village Manager Reports

- A. [ID 24-123](#) Update on the Status of the Pete's Fresh Market Development on Madison Street

Overview

Village Manager Kevin Jackson and Assistant Director of Development Customer Services Cam Davis introduced the Item. Project Manager Eugene Grzynkowicz presented the Item.

President Scaman requested a timeline. Manager Grzynkowicz responded that once they receive their permit from the Village, it is about 30 days for sheeting and about 60 days for excavation.

Trustee Robinson asked if another extension will be needed beyond June 2024. Manager Grzynkowicz said they meet with the architects twice a week and things are going very well so another extension may not be needed. Trustee Robinson asked how building permits fit into the timeline. Assistant Director Davis said the original RDA has the occupancy permit happening in June 2024 which is not going to happen. The building permits were received just this week and had an administrative error. The Village is committed to issuing permits as quickly as possible. Pete's is aware they are subject to the new electrification ordinance.

Trustee Parakkat requested an estimated occupancy date. Manager Grzynkowicz said he won't know that until they send the building drawings into the Village for permitting in March. Manager Jackson said an update can be provided to the Village Board in March. Trustee Parakkat asked how much Pete's has invested so far. Manager Grzynkowicz estimated \$6.5M with another \$2M by April.

Trustee Straw inquired about the last time work occurred at the site. Manager Grzynkowicz said the power poles were decommissioned just before winter. Trustee Straw expressed the extreme frustration by residents driving by and not seeing any progress.

President Scaman said she hopes the owners can attend next time.

Manager Jackson introduced new Assistant to the Village Manager Erin Baynes.

XII. Village Board Committees & Trustee Liaison Commission Reports

There were no comments.

XIII. Citizen Commission Vacancies

- B.** [ID 24-124](#) Board & Commission Vacancy Report for January 30, 2024.

There were no comments.

XV. Consent Agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

AYES: 6 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, Village Trustee Robinson, Village Trustee Straw, and Village Trustee Wesley

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 - Village Trustee Buchanan

- C.** [RES 24-107](#) A Resolution Approving the Purchase and Planting of Parkways Trees through Contracts Secured by the Suburban Tree Consortium in an Amount Not to Exceed \$131,000.00 for the 2024 Tree Planting Program and Waiving the Village's Bid Process for said Purchase

This Resolution was approved.

- D.** [RES 24-108](#) A Resolution Approving the Renewal of the Independent Contractor Agreement with Everest Snow Management, Inc. for Village Wide Parkway Tree Watering Services in an Amount not to Exceed \$65,000.00 and Authorizing its Execution

This Resolution was adopted.

- E.** [RES 24-109](#) A Resolution Approving A Purchase Price Agreement with Ferguson Enterprises LLC, d/b/a Ferguson Waterworks for Water Meters and Water Meter Parts in an Amount Not to Exceed \$100,000.00, Authorizing its Execution and Waiving the Village's Bid Process for the Agreement

This Resolution was adopted.

- F.** [RES 24-110](#) A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Independent Contractor with J.L. Adler Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc. for the South Fire Station Roof

Replacement Project to Change the Project Completion Date and Increase the Not to Exceed Amount from \$185,720.00 to \$226,920.00, Authorizing its Execution and Directing Staff to Prepare the Necessary Budget Amendment for the Project

This Resolution was adopted.

- G. [MOT 24-002](#) A Motion to Approve the November 2023 Monthly Treasurer's Report for All Funds

This Motion was approved.

- H. [RES 24-123](#) A Resolution Approving an Employee Leasing Agreement with MGT of America Consulting, LLC for an Interim Chief Financial Officer in an Amount Not to Exceed \$100,000 and Authorizing its Execution

This Resolution was adopted.

XVI. Regular Agenda

- I. [RES 24-111](#) Concur with the Community Design Commission and Adopt A Resolution Approving and Adopting the Village of Oak Park's Urban Forest Management Plan

Manager Jackson and Public Works Director Rob Sproule introduced the Item. Forestry Superintendent Grant Jones presented the Item.

Trustee Parakkat inquired about the reduction of trees getting cut and removed over time. Superintendent Jones said it depends on what new pests appear in the area. By diversifying our tree species, we are hedging our bets. Trustee Parakkat asked if there is an opportunity to diversify the urban forestry in a way that reduces the cost of removals. Superintendent Jones said the number of removals have been steady around 300 for the last few years so he expects it to hold steady.

Trustee Enyia said he supports diversifying the base to build up resiliency.

Trustee Straw inquired about the plan to improve tree equity scores. Superintendent Jones said the Village has planted more trees than it has removed the last couple years and is targeted open spots first. Trustee Straw inquired how long it will take to get back towards a more mature canopy. Superintendent Jones said we are headed in the right direction but it will take some time. Trustee Straw requested more information about the wood utilization program. Superintendent Jones noted one limitation is Oak Park does not have a place to store logs. Trustee Straw inquired about the plan to bring more of the staffing in-house. Superintendent Jones said the contracting prices increased substantially from three years ago so this would help offset those costs.

Trustee Robinson asked how the Village anticipates expanding its tree equity score. Superintendent Jones said it is about identifying where new trees can be planted and fosters the trees that are already there. Trustee Robinson inquired about the damage and flooding caused by tree roots in those areas in particular. Superintendent Jones said it is hard to look at sewer lines when considering where to plant a tree though they do look at all of the other infrastructure closely. Trustee Robinson inquired how the requirement to replace the lead water lines will be protective of the expensive trees that are being planted. Superintendent Jones said he is a reviewer on the permit process and they establish distances for tree and root protection. He communicates with the Water and Sewer division to minimize damage to the tree.

Trustee Wesley asked if the Village is prioritizing its border streets that have a higher proportion of black residents. Superintendent Jones confirmed those areas are being prioritized. Plantings are determined by the tree equity score map and it is easier to put in trees near apartment buildings. Trustee Wesley noted the disparity in asthma rates between black and white kids and the positive impact of trees on asthma rates. Superintendent Jones said there is also the opportunity to plant trees on private property. The Village is looking to partner with West Cook Wild Ones to see if there is an opportunity to make trees available to residents to plant on their own property. Trustee Wesley noted that tree canopies also contribute to traffic safety.

President Scaman noted the budget for trees was increased a few years back and said Oak Park is fortunate to have so many trees.

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

AYES: 6 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, Village Trustee Robinson, Village Trustee Straw, and Village Trustee Wesley

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 - Village Trustee Buchanan

- J. [ORD 24-101](#) **Concur with the Community Design Commission and Adopt an Ordinance Amending Chapter 25 ("Trees, Shrubs, and Other Plants"), Article 1 ("Planting, Maintenance, and Removal of Trees and Shrubs and Creation of Forestry Commission") of the Oak Park Village Code Regarding the Village of Oak Park's Urban Forest Management Plan**

Director Sproule presented the Item.

There was no discussion from the Village Board.

It was moved by Trustee Enyia, seconded by Trustee Straw, that this Ordinance

be adopted. The motion was approved. The roll call on the vote was as follows:

AYES: 6 - Village President Scaman, Village Trustee Enyia, Village Trustee Parakkat, Village Trustee Robinson, Village Trustee Straw, and Village Trustee Wesley

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1 - Village Trustee Buchanan

XVII. Call to Board and Clerk

Clerk Waters announced that early voting begins March 4. Should residents need assistance with voter registration, early voting hours, polling locations, or to verify registration, please contact the Clerk's Office at 708-358-5670 or clerk@oak-park.us.

Trustee Enyia congratulated his next door neighbors Nikki and Larry Merrick on 50 years of marriage. He noted the Oak Park Public Library was invited to the Cook County Board's meeting last week where the resolution was read for Dr. Percy Julian.

President Scaman will visit the White House as part of Communities in Action: Building a Better Illinois and Indiana.

Trustee Wesley highlighted the new business Comedy Plex and noted his friend Sean Flannery will be headlining this weekend.

XVIII. Adjourn

It was moved by Trustee Straw, seconded by Trustee Robinson, to Adjourn. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 P.M., Tuesday, January 30, 2024.

**Respectfully submitted,
Deputy Clerk Hansen**